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cacies as well as cheeses, found their way to the housewives' baskets, and would be very welcome at the present time. Why the Government does not see to it that high-grade groceries as well as wines are imported, one does not know.

LEMBO TICINESE.

Notte di Natale. Notte Santa. Sulla terra, uscita sanguinante dalla tremenda prova, scende la benedizione divina. Tutta l'accarezza, lievemente. Perdonandole i terribili errori. Promettendole aiuto. Additandole quale via seguire, per la pace futura . . .

In cielo brillano tutte le stelle. In tutte le case brillano i lumi. Siano case umili, siano case sontuose. Le vie delle città sono animate da vita insolita. Le stradine dei paesi montani, portano, sulla neve recentemente caduta, orme fresche. In un tripudio di luci e canti si celebra la nascita del Redentore. Nelle cattedrali come nelle chiesette. Le mistiche note si fondono, si elevano, fanno meditare, involontariamente, anche gli increduli.

I solenni rintocchi delle campane chiamano alla preghiera e sul nostro animo scende una dolce mestizia che commuove, facendoci del bene! Rendendoci migliori, tanta potenza hanno queste campane nostre!

. . . Suon di chiesa, suon di chiostro, suon di Culla, suon di Mamma, di casa . . .

Per i nostri emigranti lontani dalla madre patria, la radio della Svizzera Italiana, ha avuto un pensiero gentile. Li ha raggiunti, sulle onde sonore, durante il mese di dicembre, la sera, con il suono delle diverse campane ticinesi, ben comprendendo che nulla, forse, poteva recare loro maggior piacere, come il sentire il suono della "loro" chiesetta natia. Nostalgicamente avranno vissuto, sentendole, gli anni loro primi, sarà sorto in loro il ricordo stringente del dolce passato, della casa avita . . .

Questo il saluto che sergò, sincero, dal Ticino, per i suoi figli lontani, che mai dimenticò, per i quali tanto tremò e pregò durante i tremendi anni di guerra. E attraverso lo "Swiss Observer" desidero io farmi interprete di tutti i ticinesi in patria e porgere, in modo specialmente cordiale, un augurio e un saluto ai "ticinesi-inglesi" . . .

Noi, che qui siamo ora diventati "inglesi-ticinesi" — dopo l'affluenza dei soldati americani in congedo, che ci visitarono continuamente per oltre un anno, e che fecero conoscere, un po' almeno, le caratteristiche loro, e invogliarono tutti allo studio della lingua inglese . . . tanto che si nota, nel Ticino, quasi una inglesemania! giovani e anziani, commercianti, professionisti, impiegati, dedicano con passione ore serali ai diversi corsi d'inglese, sorti come funghi! Fui non poco meravigliata, un giorno di mercato, sentire una modesta contadina, che mai varcò il Gottardo, rispondere in inglese alle richieste, fatte in francese, da una giovane miss! Nei negozi, accanto alle diciture nelle tre lingue nazionali sempre spicca la dicitura in perfetto inglese. Negli alberghi, sulle liste delle vivande, fanno misteriosa pompa piatti inglesi . . .

Fratellanza di lingua . . . fratellanza di popoli. Fosse questo un buon auspicio per una futura sereno e ricco di promesse. Come il suono delle campane!

Elena Ghiringhelli Lunghi.

SWISS WONDER IF THEIR BOOM WILL LAST.

(*"New York Herald Tribune," 15th Dec. 1946.*)

The industries of Switzerland are booming along to-day at such a pace that the more conservative Swiss can't believe it is healthy. They say the boom can't last. They talk of "over-industrialization," and "over-employment." They say that because of the collapse of German industry, enterprising Swiss industrialists have leaped into fields which aren't natural to the nation's economy, and are producing all kinds of goods which some day will be produced as they used to be, better and more cheaply elsewhere.

Whether the croakings of these Cassandras are true or not, there is no doubt that Switzerland's factories are enjoying to-day one of the most prosperous periods in their history. Export is easy. The whole world, it seems, is clamouring for the goods which Switzerland is making — textiles, fine precision tools, watches, Diesel engines and chemicals — and the Swiss manufacturing plant unharmed through two wars, is pouring them out. Production is limited only by a growing shortage of labour, limitations on available coal, and some difficulty in getting deliveries of raw materials abroad which the Swiss would like to buy, but can't, though they have plenty of money.

In point of monetary value, Swiss exports to-day are at an all-time high. Industrial employment is at 94 per cent. of its 1929 level. So great is Switzerland's need of workers that she has granted 45,000 immigration permits this year — 90 per cent. to Italians — who are taking the place of the Swiss in the farms, on the roads, in the mines and forests, while the Swiss themselves set free from these war-time tasks, go flocking into the better paying factories.

Wages are up, and are being felt in manufacturing costs. But the cost of living, which has advanced about 53 per cent. since 1938, has not yet struck the Swiss worker so grievously that his unions are making trouble. There have been a few strikes, or threats of strikes, this year in the textile and clothing industries, where there is radical union leadership with political as well as economic objectives. But Switzerland, on the whole, has enjoyed industrial peace.

Just now the Swiss National Bank and the Federal Government are engaged in putting the brakes on the export boom — although very gently. A fair share of that trade abroad has been done through trade agree-

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