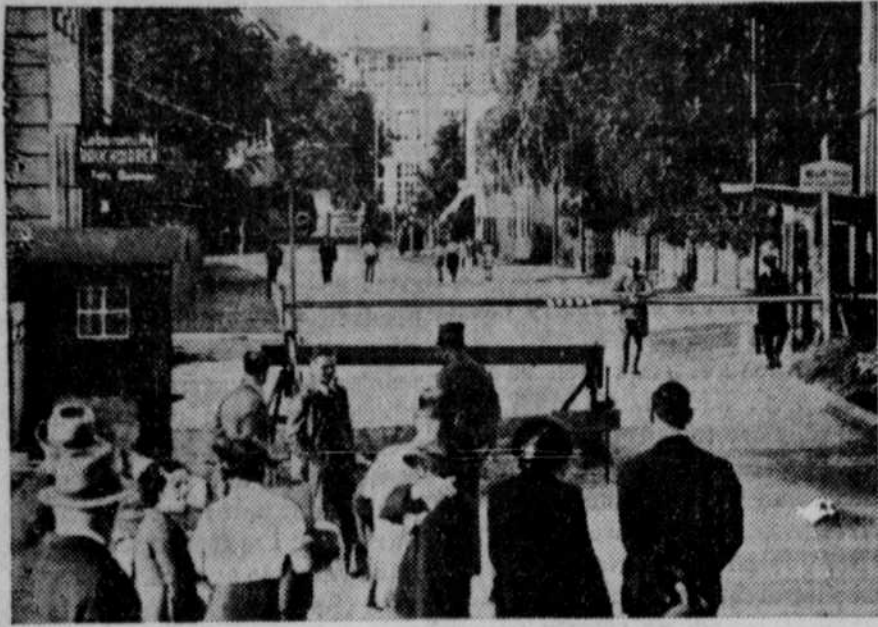


## Switzerland Eyes Its Border, Protecting Age-Old Freedom



Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

**BEHIND** Swiss border troops, which recently mobilized for possible emergency, is one of the world's oldest republics. In 1291, the first three of Switzerland's cantons (or states) joined in a defensive league against the house of Hapsburg. "In view of the malice of the time," they swore to have no ruler other than their own and to maintain their independence by their own armed strength. Later other provinces were added, until today the nation is made up of 22 largely autonomous cantons.

Of Switzerland's population, amounting to something over four millions, more than 70 per cent speak German, about 22 per cent speak French, and the rest Italian and other tongues. The official languages are these three, plus Romansch, a Latin derivative added last year as a fourth.

**State Small but Important.** Surrounded by Germany, former Austria, France, Italy, and the little principality of Liechtenstein, Switzerland has a geographic position that is at once an asset and a liability. Traditionally a buffer state, she is also an important trade link between powerful neighbors. Though she has no seaboard of her own (either to defend or to use), she controls mountain passes over which rides the commerce of some of the most populous regions of south and central Europe. Nearly half of her domestic imports in 1938 came from neighboring countries; some 34 per cent of her exports were sold in near-by markets.

## Patagonia, Argentine Territory, Named 'Land of the Big Feet'

Patagonia—a little-known region with a familiar name—came into the international picture recently, as Argentina reported the investigation of an alleged German plot to annex this South American territory.

Long contested between Chile and Argentina, the so-called Patagonian area, constituting the tail of the continent, was finally divided between the two countries in 1881, its permanent boundaries set in 1902. The Argentine section, lying roughly east of the Andes and south of the great central plains, now includes the three continental territories of Rio Negro, Chubut, and Santa Cruz.

**Name Means Big Feet.** Occupying some 250,000 square miles, or about one-quarter of all Argentina, this region is almost as large as Texas. Its name, translated "Land of the Big Feet," was first given it, according to some authorities, by early explorers, amazed at the size of footprints found there. Largely a plateau land of high

## Rumania Is Younger Than United States

Rumania, modern battleground of Old world tradesmen, is one of Europe's newer nations. Younger than the United States, having been formed in 1859 by the union of the two principalities of Walachia and Moldavia, Rumania gained more than half of her present area and population after the World war.

Roughly oval-shaped and about the size of Arizona, she is ringed about by six nations, stretching in counter-clockwise order from the Soviet Ukraine on the northeast to Poland, former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria on the south. The eastern frontier faces the Black sea. Rumania has a population of more than 19,000,000 inhabitants, of whom about one-fourth are Hungarians, Germans, Russians, Turks, Bulgars, Gypsies, or Jews. Hungarians make up a large minority, with an estimated million and a half. There are some 750,000 Germans.

**Visitors to Switzerland find it interesting to visit frontier posts where they watch the guards on duty at both frontiers. Along the Swiss frontier all roads and railways were mined last autumn by Swiss authorities.**

played by industries, many of which their early beginnings in handicrafts carried on at home during the long, winter evenings.

**Make 'Quality' Products.** Because of domestic lack of raw materials and fuel, and the high cost of transport, Switzerland has specialized in quality products. Such articles as Swiss watches, chocolate, cheese, embroideries, and toys are known around the world. For in addition to Europe, Switzerland has valuable commercial relations with the United States, South America, and the Far East.

Germany continues to hold the No. 1 position in Swiss trade, both as customer and vendor, although in 1938 purchases of German goods declined considerably. Soviet Russia was the only important trader who sold more to Switzerland last year than during 1937.

With a high average income and standard of living, Switzerland is one of Europe's richest countries. Her gold reserve is estimated at about \$675,000,000.

**Millions for Defense.** From now on, however, much more of the national income will be diverted to military preparedness, according to recent news dispatches from the Swiss capital. One report sets proposed expenditures for defense and public works at more than \$240,000,000.

Perpetual neutrality was guaranteed Switzerland in 1815 at the Congress of Vienna by Prussia, Austria, France, Great Britain, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Russia; but the Swiss army was maintained on a war basis all during the World war. For defense Switzerland has relied for centuries on a national militia, based on compulsory universal service. It has been estimated that Switzerland today could raise an army of nearly 300,000 men between the ages of 20 and 48.

winds and little rain, Patagonia supports, on the whole, sparse natural vegetation and few people. Its very name has come to be associated with the distant, untraveled ends of the earth.

On the other hand, irrigation, particularly in the northern sections, has transformed much of the once desert area into blooming communities, producing fruits and grains. Families have settled in recent years all along the banks of the Rio Negro, near the northern boundary of the territory of the same name.

In the scenic west of lakes and mountains, toward the Chilean boundary, a tourist trade is being developed, aided by the government's reported program for new rail communications, hotels, and improved facilities for fishing and other sports. Along the east coast, air service already links the southern extremity of the continent with Argentina's capital of Buenos Aires, thence branching out into a network of lines stretching west, north and east.

**Sheep Raising Chief Occupation.** Patagonia is rich in natural resources of timber and oil. One oil field, in Chubut, is reported to yield more than 80 per cent of Argentina's total production.

Sheep raising, the chief occupation of the region, accounts for a large proportion of the country's exportable supply of wool, sent largely to England, France, and Germany. Although in certain sections of the plains the constant wind-blown dust makes for dirty, dry and rough fleece, Patagonia's vast flocks in general contribute to the world market some of South America's best quality product.

Yet despite the potential wealth of a still undeveloped region in a world of vanishing frontiers, Patagonia is thinly peopled, especially in the southernmost territory of Santa Cruz. The entire population is estimated to be only about 80,000 people in an area of more than three times as many square miles. Of these, according to an old census, less than 1,000 were Germans; about 3,500 were Italians.

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

**New Dealers disappointed, in Representative Smith's debating abilities . . . Democratic politicians erred in appraising Taft as weak speaker . . . Hurried recalculations in order for Republican leaders.**

WASHINGTON.—New Dealers are tremendously disappointed in the popular reaction to the debates between Senator Robert A. Taft and Representative T. V. Smith of Illinois, as shown by recent polls. In the first place Smith is a prime favorite with the New Deal. It was common gossip that the New Dealers wanted Governor Henry Horner of Illinois to appoint Mr. Smith to the senate vacancy caused by the death of J. Hamilton Lewis, though the governor didn't oblige.

Whereas Senator Taft is simply anathema to the New Deal. He is stoutly expressing views which seem to the administration a turning back to the Grand Old Party in the days of Boise Penrose and Reed Smoot.

But there is another angle. After the Gridiron dinner, followed by the editors' convention here, most observers in Washington had virtually wiped Senator Taft off the slate of Republican possibilities for the presidential nomination next year.



ROBERT A. TAFT

This was manna from heaven for the New Dealers. They do not want the Republican candidate to be hitting from the shoulder next year. They want a Republican nominee who will be a pussyfoot on most of the "reform," one who will give a great deal of credit for accomplishments to the Roosevelt administration, and thus narrow the area of the campaign debate to a very narrow field.

In appraising Taft as a weak speaker, however, they are now afraid they were counting their chickens prematurely. Taft is certainly not in Dewey's class as a speaker, but apparently he puts his points over on the radio. Worse, from the New Deal standpoint, he wins a 66 to 34 per cent division of listeners polled on his long series of debates with Representative Smith.

**Believed Taft Too Reactionary.** This has caused some hurried recalculations on the part of Republican leaders too. Many of them had been saying, especially after the Taft flasco—in his most of them regarded it, as his speeches before the Gridiron diners and before the editors—that Taft was too much of a reactionary—that he opposed too many of the things the New Deal had done—that the people would never follow him.

To appreciate this, it must be remembered that the Republican leader of the senate is Charles L. McNary of Oregon. Now McNary is one of the shrewdest politicians in the business, but he certainly has never been numbered among the devastating critics of the New Deal.

In his own political career McNary has been so successful, as contrasted with such a hard hitter as L. J. Dickinson, of Iowa, for example, that there is quite a cult among the Republicans in favor of pussyfooting.

Hence the importance of this surprising showing that Taft has made as a result of his debates with Smith.

### New Deal Earns Thanks Of Canned Milk Industry

In almost every city and town of the country, statistics show, the amount of canned milk has increased by leaps and bounds in the last few years, while the sales of fresh milk have declined. More and more families are finding that their household budgets are balanced more easily by using canned milk instead of paying present prices for fresh milk.

Without in the slightest degree intending any such thing, the New Deal in general, and the milk agreements in particular, have earned the gratitude of the canned milk industry by so increasing the spread in cost between fresh milk and canned milk that they have overcome the

preference for fresh milk in hundreds of thousands of homes.

Back in the early days of the fumbling attempts of AAA to regulate the milk industry, a substantial start toward this consummation—although it was never an objective—was made. At that time the Triple A frowned on chain stores cutting prices on milk and cream. The Triple A didn't like anything about the system which made this cutting possible.

When Triple A clamped down on the New England chain stores for cutting cream prices, the sales went down in terms of thousands of gallons. Which resulted, of course, in the co-operatives having to make a great deal more butter, which, in turn, complicated the butter surplus problem. Mind you, the chain stores were commanded to charge higher prices for this cream—to make bigger profits on the amount handled than they wanted to.

**Turnover Profits.** This is not a defense of the morals of the chain store operators. No one thought anything else than that the operators thought they would make more money by selling a lot of cream at a smaller profit. And they were right. Presumably the AAA executives thought that if the chain stores stopped cutting cream prices, the concerns delivering fresh milk and cream would get more business. Maybe the Triple A executives even thought eventually they could reduce cream prices to everybody.

But that was not what happened. When the price was put up in the chain stores, people stopped buying so much. In fact chain store sales of cream approached the vanishing point, while sales of cream by the delivery companies remained precisely as they were.

There was no attack on the delivery price of cream as being unreasonable. The profit was not exorbitant. But the chain stores were able to sell more cheaply because they had no delivery expense, and no loss on bad debts.

Result: Poorer people, to whom a few cents on a bottle of cream is important, turned to canned milk, not because they wanted to, but because it was that or no cream at all.

### Tax Changes Await End of Waiting Game

Tax changes to aid business recovery are long on lip service and short on action, with President Roosevelt, the treasury and congress all playing a waiting game. Congress is willing to act, but is not willing to stick its neck out. The treasury is eager to act but its first real move toward action—an inspired story given to the Associated Press outlining four important proposals—is promptly brushed aside by the President as referring to mere "estimates" supplied on request from congressmen. The President sticks to his announced plan: Congress can do anything it wants to do to encourage business in the way of tax revision but in the estimated cash returns to the treasury from business must not be reduced.

The President leaves it to congress to take the initiative but doesn't like any setup for tax revision that he has seen.

The treasury knows just what it wants and finds itself in rather surprising agreement with the conservative Democrats on Capitol Hill, headed by Pat Harrison, chairman of the senate finance committee, and Robert L. Doughton, chairman of the house ways and means committee. Most important of the treasury's proposals are:

Elimination of present undistributed profits, capital stock and excess profits taxes. Substitution of a flat rate corporation income levy of not more than 22 per cent, with special treatment for incomes under \$25,000.

**Higher-Bracket Tax Reduction.** Reduction in higher-bracket personal income taxes from a maximum of 75 per cent to a maximum of 60 per cent. (Actually, treasury experts have believed for several administrations that 50 per cent provides the maximum revenue.)

Authorization for corporations to carry over tax credits for losses for three years instead of one.

Modification of the capital gains tax to encourage investment.

Under Secretary John W. Hanes, leading agitator for tax revision as a business aid, now has 100 items in his "little black book," from which he quotes freely to legislators and officials. But nothing the treasury says or thinks is "official" until the President approves. If the house ways and means committee should summon Hanes he would say just what he thinks. If it summoned Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. he would stammer unhappily unless he had the "Go" sign from the White House.

Meanwhile plenty of conservative Democrats on Capitol Hill are taking private satisfaction in evidence that the President will not support action. The result, they think, will be the nomination of a conservative by the Democratic convention next year. By the same token Republican leaders on Capitol Hill are placing the responsibility squarely on the Democrats, figuring that if no action comes a G. O. P. President next time is a cinch.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

## WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

**NEW YORK.**—An ecstatic young newspaper woman, reporting on Dr. Herbert Feis of the state department, averred that his dream-lit eyes "reflected the soul of a young Shelley." He may look that way, but the chances are that he is thinking of rubber and tin.

John Masefield had some such thoughts in mind when he wrote "Cargoes." This poet, however, scans only trade balances, and his dreams are precise and statistical. Dr. Feis is economic adviser to the state department, and it was he who schemed the barter deal by which we would acquire needed rubber and tin and get rid of the necklace of millstones hung around Uncle Sam's neck in the form of that government-owned surplus of 11,000,000 bales of cotton.

**His Eyes Reflect Poetry; Mind on Rubber and Tin** The news from London is that the barter deal is under way. Prime Minister Chamberlain having informed parliament that negotiations have been opened. Wheat also will be included in the bargaining, as England needs both wheat and cotton as much as we need rubber and tin. Here may be a working commodity axis, which Machiavelli so vehemently declared was always more important in the long run than any political axis. And, incidentally, Dr. Feis has read Machiavelli.

He is a hold-over from the Hoover regime, appointed to his present post by Secretary Stimson, who was impressed with the insight and information in Dr. Feis' book, "Europe the World's Banker." He has been used by the department in clarifying confusion and in boiling down vague policies to definite procedure.

**Dr. Feis is a New Yorker with a Harvard Ph. D.** He was professor of economics at the University of Kansas and the University of Cincinnati and director of research for the council of foreign relations. Like many men given to meditation, he smokes a pipe, blows rings and comes out of the haze with an idea or hunch as sharply defined as if it had been cut by a lapidary.

**PHILOSOPHERS** getting on in life are apt to think in T-time, as contrasted with our workaday Tau time, both of which are currently explained by E. A. Milne, the distinguished British mathematician. T-time, like tea-time, is stretchable, unlike the swingtime or springtime of youth—all of which was expounded in different terms by the aging Montaigne—and in this time zone there may be written off, or at least discounted, much imminent disaster; and somehow in this temporal king's-x irresistible bodies may meet immovable masses without any bystanders getting hurt. I have known wise old gentlemen who carried their T-time in one pocket and their Tau-time in the other.

**Hopes to Bring Human Variables Into Uniformity** Such is the 80-year-old (in Tau time) Lucius N. Littauer, whose \$3,000,000 Littauer center is dedicated at Harvard. His foundation was established to "bring about a better understanding among mankind."

It was Mr. Littauer who, as a congressman from New York, sponsored and established the United States bureau of standards. It worked out nicely. Uniformity in machine appliances and spare parts was easily attained. Moving from machines into social adaptations and adjustments, Mr. Littauer found human variables could not — as yet — be calculated like metal variables. Hence his new bureau of human standards at Harvard.

Like the late Chauncey M. Depew, he has been honored by a statue in his own town, during his lifetime. His town is Gloversville, N. Y., where, after his graduation from Harvard, he picked up his father's glove manufacturing business. His later years have been absorbed in his manifold philanthropies, to which he has given many millions of dollars. Thinking in Mr. Milne's long stretch of time, he is calmly assured that, in due time, all will be well with the world, but that "we must oppose absolutism in any guise, from any source."

His father, a native of Breslau, Germany, passed on to him a heritage of Carl Schurz liberalism—which perhaps could be fittingly measured against Fritz Kuhn's importation. Just in passing, he played on Harvard's first football team and rowed on its first crew—back in his Tau-time days.

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

## Floyd Gibbons' ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!



### "Fog of Death"

**HELLO EVERYBODY:** Well, sir, the Vikings of old used to sail the seas in oared galleys that were hardly bigger than the motor cruisers in which we plough through our lakes and rivers today. I'll give them a lot of credit for their nerve. But they had oars to row with and sails to carry them along. They knew where they were going and they had a pretty good chance of getting there. I'm betting a lot that there wasn't a Viking in any age who would have put himself in the spot Peter Gear of Sunnyside, L. I., found himself in. Not for any amount of money.

It happened in September, 1927—and here's how. Pete got a job on a coal barge. And one of the first trips that barge was sent on after Pete joined the crew, was a tow out to sea with a load of coal for a ship that was to meet them a hundred and ninety-five miles out in the Atlantic.

The rendezvous at which they were to meet was southeast of Block island. A tug was to take the barge out. Five men composed the barge's crew. Four of those fellows—Pete included—had never been out to sea before. The fifth man was a regular seagoing bargeman.

### Trip Was Like a Moonlight Excursion.

On the afternoon of the day appointed, the tug came along and the barge was hooked on behind it. Pete says the trip up Long Island sound was like a moonlight excursion. But after they passed Montauk Point, the sea was mighty rough. The four landlubbers immediately got seasick.

It was a hard night for those lads—but it was going to be a lot harder before they got back. The next day, when they arrived at the appointed spot, there was no sign of the boat they had come to meet. The tugboat captain told the bargeman to drop anchor and he would circle around and see if he could find the other boat. He cast off the tow line and the tug steamed away. Soon it was out of sight. There was nothing in sight, as a matter of fact, but water and more water. They were nearly two hundred miles from the nearest land. Then, half an hour later, a thick fog settled down over the anchored barge.

Says Pete: "We were lying in our bunks, too sick to move, when the regular bargeman came in and told us about the fog. He explained that we were anchored in the shipping lane, and that was a dangerous position. We would have to keep the fog bell ringing as long as the fog lasted. Otherwise we would most likely be run down by one of the liners which were continually passing through that part of the ocean."

And that was only the beginning. The troubles crowded thick and fast after that. It was night now, and the bargeman went aloft to hang



Pete went out and started ringing the fog bell.

a riding light. He was hardly up there when he fell to the deck and lay still, his leg broken. "Then," says Pete, "the nightmare began."

### Pete Hauls Injured Bargeman to His Bunk.

Pete picked him up and carried him to his bunk. The other three men were still lying in their bunks, the ghastly pallor of seasickness on their faces. When he had done what little he could for the injured man, Pete went out and started ringing the fog bell.

The night wore on, and the fog showed no sign of lifting. Pete yanked away rhythmically on that bell, tolling a monotonous dirge. His arm was getting tired. His hand was chafing from its constant contact with the bell rope. Every minute he expected to see the bow of an ocean liner looming over the barge. Every minute he expected to hear a thud and a crash of splintering timbers as some huge craft cut them in two.

Pete began to feel that he couldn't hold his arm up to pull on that bell rope any longer. He went into the cabin and tried to rouse one of the seasick men. Not one of them would get up. Pete was seasick himself, but these fellows felt a lot worse. In vain he told them of the dangers of leaving that bell unmanned. They didn't care whether the barge went down or not. In fact, one or two of them hoped it would.

Pete dragged himself back to the bell. He was sick—sleepy—aching. But he couldn't quit. His life depended on it. And so did the lives of those other four men in their bunks. Dawn came, and still he was jerking away on that rope. Still the fog hadn't lifted. All morning long—all afternoon—he stuck to his post. Both his hands were so raw now that he had to hook his elbow through the bell rope and pull it with his arm.

Night came—and still Pete was at it. His whole body was stiff now. He ached in every muscle and joint and bone. His arm was working mechanically now. He scarcely realized that he was pulling that cord.

### Pete Rings Bell for 36 Hours Straight.

And for two nights and a day Peter rang that bell. Never will he forget the nightmare of that experience. On the morning of the third day he couldn't take it any longer. He didn't quit. He just fell asleep—right where he was—from sheer exhaustion.

When Pete awoke again the sun was just disappearing over the western horizon. But the fog had lifted. There was no sign of the tug. When the fog came down it had been unable to find the barge—and it still hadn't found it.

All that third night they waited. On the fourth day Pete sighted a plane. It circled around in the skies and then headed back toward land again. "When it turned around," says Pete, "I thought that pilot hadn't seen us." But the plane had spotted the barge. It had been sent out from New London for that very purpose. And on the fifth day the tug boat came out and reclaimed its lost tow.

It didn't take Pete long to get over the effects of his adventure. Now he looks back on it as quite an exciting experience. There's one thing, though, that makes Pete mad. He worked himself to exhaustion trying to keep some vessel from sending that barge to the bottom. "But in all that time," he says, "I didn't see a single one of those big liners that I was in such fear of."

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## Patent Office Was Established July 4, 1836

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States provided that congress shall have power "to promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive rights to their respective writings and discoveries." The first act of congress, passed April 10, 1790, placed the granting of patents in the hands of the secretary of state, the secretary of war and the attorney general. Thomas Jefferson, as secretary of state, personally examined many petitions for patents. By act of July 4, 1836, the patent office was established under a commissioner of patents and the general outline of the patent law fixed. When the department of the interior was established by act of March 3, 1849, the patent office was transferred to its jurisdiction. On April 1, 1925, it was, by executive order of President Coolidge, transferred to the department of commerce, as secretary of state, per-