



THEN AND NOW: The fate of the prisoner-of-war has seldom been enviable, but contrast the above reproduction of a print showing prisoners of war of the old Russian Imperial Army with the photograph underneath, taken in the library of a prisoner-of-war camp to-day. The Red Cross provides intellectual as well as physical relief

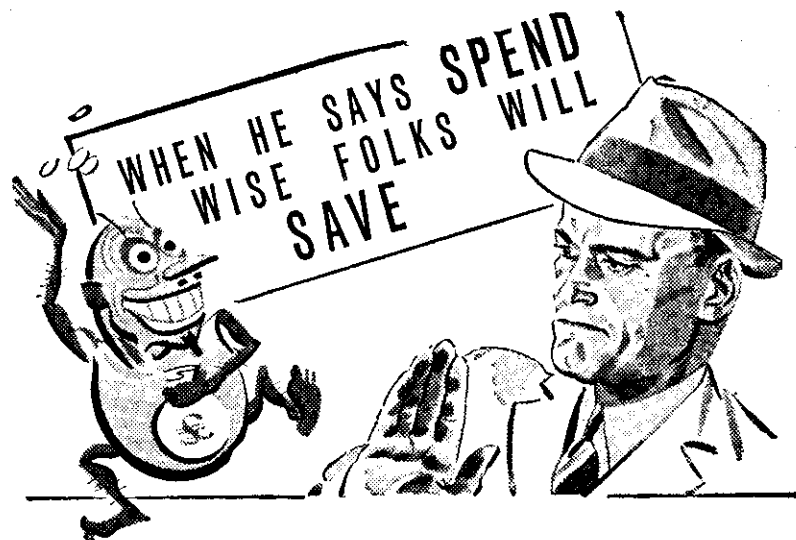
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How appropriate it is that Switzerland should be world headquarters for the Red Cross, and how seriously the people of Switzerland take their responsibilities, may be judged from this extract from a recent BBC talk by Lester Powell:

It was quite early in the war that the suggestion came, from the Swiss people themselves, that their country should be turned into a refuge home for the homeless children of Europe. During that terrible summer of 1940 this suggestion was turned into a reality. Units of the Swiss relief organisations were able to go among the pitiful streams of refugees bringing with them food and medicine, milk and clothing. And then when the terror temporarily subsided and Pétain had accepted the German terms of France's humiliation, representatives of these organisations went to the Nazi occupying authorities with a scheme for sending homeless Dutch, Belgian and French children into Switzerland to be cared for and fed. The Nazis agreed, not so completely perhaps as the Swiss had wished, for they refused to sanction anything like a regular quota. But by persistence and unceasing patience nearly

10,000 children from the Low Countries and France were brought into Switzerland during the first year after the collapse of France.

They were placed with Swiss families prepared to receive them—and few Swiss families had not volunteered. They were fed, reclothed and nothing was spared to bring happiness back into their little pinched faces. And the children which the Nazis would not allow to come to Switzerland were not forgotten either. A system of adoptions was worked out whereby families in Switzerland could adopt children who remained in Holland, Belgium and France. Each family paid ten francs monthly towards the upkeep of the child it had adopted, and in addition to this the adopters were encouraged to correspond with the child and to take a personal interest in its welfare. As Hitler's plans for the domination of Europe flourished and his New Order spread further and further across the continent, more children with thin bodies and big sad eyes appeared in the Swiss mountains: Slavs, Serbs, Greeks. To-day the Swiss Red Cross is feeding 25,000 children in Athens, and in Salonika it keeps open ten canteens where every day 2,000 children are fed.



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21

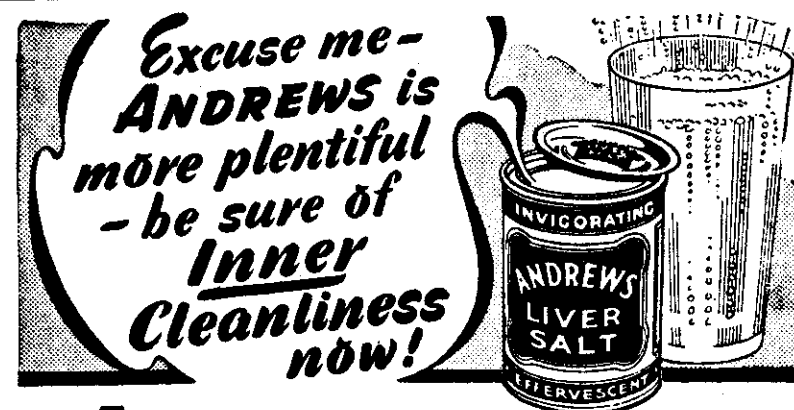
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