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SWISS COURT STOOD FIRM.

In connection with the recent warning to neutral countries not to hide Axis leaders, it is interesting to learn how Switzerland lately gave proof of its high spirit of justice.

A German decree of Nov. 25, 1941, denationalized all German Jews abroad and forfeited their property to the Reich. Two Jewish residents of England, one of them having become a British subject by marriage, thus were unable under German law to acquire anything from the estate of their father, who had died in Germany.

Berlin representatives of the estate refused the children their legitimate portion out of assets in the estate, which were located in Switzerland. The children succeeded in Swiss courts in preventing the transfer of assets to Germany and in getting their portion.

The Court of Appeals in Zurich pointed out that such provision of German inheritance laws connected with the confiscation of Jewish property in favour of the Reich is "diametrically opposed to the Swiss ordre public.... To recognize the restriction of the capacity to inherit under German law would constitute an 'intolerable violation of our native sense of justice' (Reports of the Federal Court 641, 198) and is therefore not open to the Swiss court."

It is noteworthy that judges of a country which is surrounded by Axis-controlled neighbors have not lost the high courage indispensable for any administration of justice.

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

It is announced that Federal Councillor, Dr. Ernst Wetter, head of the Department of Finance & Customs, tendered his resignation for the end of the current year.

According to an official communique, Mr. Wetter, Federal Councillor, in a letter addressed to the Federal Assembly, gives the reasons for his retirement. At the time of his election in 1938, Mr. Wetter considered that his true task was to carry out a final settlement of the financial relationship between the Cantons and the Confederation. With the outbreak of the war, the immediate financial requirements took first place and the head of the federal department of finance had to give most of his time to the working out of an emergency financial program. This task can now be considered as finished. Therefore, Mr. Wetter who is 66 years of age is of the opinion that he should leave the work concerning the Confederation's financial regime to a younger man.

M. Pilet-Golaz, head of the Political Department, received the following message from Mr. Richard M. Law, minister of state in the British Cabinet with regard to the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners: "Now, that the repatriation from Germany of sick and wounded prisoners and medical personnel attending them has become an accomplished fact, I should like in the name of the Secretary of State to express to you and through you to the Swiss representatives and their collaborators to whose efforts we owe so much our sincere and grateful thanks. Without the help of Switzerland this work which has been welcomed with such profound satisfaction and relief here and throughout the Commonwealth, would have been impossible."

In October, income from customs duties amounted to 6,400,000 francs, which is a drop of 4 million as compared with October, 1942. During the first ten months of 1943 this drop has reached a total of 18 millions. The figures show, that the decrease has a tendency to become more rapid as the month passes.

A ceremony marked the completion of the correction work of the river Dünern in the Canton of Solothurn. This work included the construction of an 18.5 km Tunnel and took 10 years to build. The cost amounting to 8 million francs, was shared by the Confederation, the Canton and the Communes concerned.