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POTATO CONSUMPTION IN SWITZERLAND

Although potato crops in Switzerland have increased considerably of recent years, consumption has fallen off. Whereas, the *per capita* consumption of this crop in Switzerland averaged 200 lb. after the war and 269 lb. for the rest of Europe, it dropped to 154 lb. for Switzerland and 230 lb. for the rest of Europe during the period from 1957 to 1960.

Wairakei In Italy?

TWO THOUSAND MILLION KILOWATTS—ALL FREE

Hot steam issuing from the earth at Larderello (near Leghorn) provides two thousand million kilowatts of free power—more than is generated by Italy's largest hydraulic and thermal power stations.

The steam wells of Larderello, which often envelop the entire countryside in enormous clouds, were already known in ancient times, but in those days were regarded as the work of the devil rather than a source of wealth.

Their boron content was discovered towards the end of the 18th century and the first factory was set up, soon to be followed by bigger more efficient plant. Generation of electricity started in 1905 and today it supplies the power for, among other things, the Bologna-Rome railway line.

But Larderello is also famous for another reason. It is Italy's most modern town. Very advanced from both planning and social points of view, it could serve as a model for the town of the future. Its residential districts are laid out in terraces, one above the other, with large sports grounds, shopping centres, schools, parks and cassinos in between.

Everything is perfect except that you first have to get used to the pipelines that creep over the mountains like giant silver snakes, the enormous cooling towers and the clouds of steam.

—SWISSAIR GAZETTE

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