

# Me dankt

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1944)**

Heft 1027

PDF erstellt am: **21.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688026>

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Hurden and Ufenau, which remained the property of Schwyz.

Because the canton of Schwyz was the leading party in this war the Confederates gradually came to be known as Schwyzers and this later was the foundation of the national name of the "Swiss" which in time gave rise to the universal designation of "Schweizer."

J. J. S.

### ME DÄNKT . . . .

Me dänkt mäggmol in schtillle Schtunde  
An allerhand für Sache  
Und losst im Geischt d'Vergangeheit  
Parade mache.

Viel Liebs and Guets, viel Schöns und Grosses  
Wird läbhafft neu erläbt  
Wenns nur in der Erinnerung  
Nit an no Schatte gäbt.

Me dänkt wie in de Jugendjohr  
D'Zyt fascht no ruckwärts gloffe n'isch  
Jetzt mälde sich die erschte graue Hoor  
Verby fliegt Wuche, Monet, Johr um Johr.

Me dänkt ans Eltrehuus, and d'Kinderzyt,  
Kei Wölkli wyt und breit,  
Het alles g'hah, het alles gnoh,  
Mit gröschter Sälbschtverständlichkeit.

Me dänkt an d'Lehrzyt, an d'Rekruteschuel,  
An all das jungi, schtarki Hoffe,  
Wie mänge Traum, wie mänge Plan,  
Isch doch im Sand verloffte.

Me dänkt ans erschti Rendez-vous,  
Ans warte, hoffe, blange, bange,  
Worum nur isch die säl'gi Zyt  
So schnäll vergange.

Me dänkt an d'Abfahrt in die wytti Wält,  
In Wirklichkeit so glei,  
Was hämmer welle, hämmer gsuecht?  
Was het is g'fählt deheim?

Me dänkt au oft an d'Heimet zrugg,  
So wärschafft, suber, flyssig, allersyts,  
Gott schütz Di hütte, morn und immer,  
Du liebi, liebi Schwyz.

—J. P.

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## HOW SWITZERLAND CULTIVATES HER FORESTS.

(From "The Swiss-American," June, 1944).

By MARIE WIDMER.

Switzerland, in the year 100 A.D., is described as being covered with swamps and great impenetrable forests and the latter offered indeed tremendous obstacles to colonisation. The necessary land for pastures and agriculture had thus to be taken away from the forests and the history of the colonization is consequently closely connected with that of the forests.

Not much attention was paid to the cultivation or preservation of the forests in those early days when the Alemanni, Burgundians and Franks swept through the land, but in the time of the latter, when Charlemagne was king, a general and remarkable improvement of the conditions took place. History relates that Charlemagne's grandson presented in the year 853 A.D. the now famous Sihl Forest of Zürich to the Convent of Fraumünster in that city, which indicates that the Sihl Forest is actually one of the oldest cultivated forests in Switzerland.

Gradually, as settlers began to scatter all over the country, their attention was drawn to the forestry problem and it is shown that in the 13th century there were already a number of villages which had prohibited the cutting down of certain forests, as the same provided protection against the ever threatening peril from the avalanches. Thus we find Altdorf and Andermatt in the Gotthard route each with their "Bannwald." For some time the great Vaudoise forest of Risoux in the Joux valley was also considered as a "protecting forest," as its presence could facilitate the defence of the frontier towards France, in a case of emergency.

However, only in the 13th century was there voiced a general demand for better cultivation and preservation of the forests and in this respect the cantons of Zürich, Berne and Aargau were the leaders, with the others following after a short interval.

The latest statistics of forestation in Switzerland show that 30% of the entire area of Switzerland is covered with forests; 55.6% is devoted to agriculture and pastures and 22.6% is non-productive soil (rivers, lakes, roads, railways, building sites, rocks, glaciers, etc.).

Statistics further show that about 67% of these forests belong to individual villages and 4.5% only pertain to individual cantons. The ownership by canton, village or private persons shows a remarkable variation in the case of each canton and we thus find that the cantonal governments of Valais, Ticino, Grisons and Uri possess practically no forests. The biggest percentage of forests owned by villages, i.e., 94.3% is, however, found in the Valais and the highest percentage of private-owned forests, i.e., 78.8%, is to be found in the canton of Lucerne.

The most extensive forest conservation is found in the Jura region of Switzerland, i.e., in the cantons of Schaffhausen, Aargau, Basle (Land), Soleure, Berne, Neuchâtel and Vaud, where as much as 60% of the productive soil is devoted to forestation. While the high mountain regions appear thickly wooded at first, their production is poor.

Forests, as previously indicated, are considered a safeguard against natural forces, such as avalanches, landslides and inundations, and as a consequence there are certain laws prohibiting their injudicious cutting