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A German-speaking Swiss will greet his French- or Italian-speaking countrymen in French or Italian. It brings greater respect for each other and the country also is able to command respect all over the world for its uniqueness, despite so many diverse factors.

Hardest currency in the world

Its economy is equally interesting. It imports more than it exports, yet its currency is the hardest in the world. It makes its loss good in two other ways. Situated in the heart of Europe as it is, it makes good money by transporting goods of neighbouring countries through its frontiers and by making money from tourists who come from various parts of the world. Tourism is a very big industry employing over 150,000 persons. Switzerland has numerous hotels, and great efforts have been made to make it more and more attractive. You can reach the highest peak easily by aerial cableway. Its highest railway station in Europe is situated at 11,203 feet above sea level, and you can go there by electric train.

The Swiss have spared no pains, no efforts, no labour to develop their export industry and tourist trade. It is a manufacturing country importing raw materials or semi-manufactured goods from other countries to be given final touches here before being re-exported. Its precision industry is of a very high order and is supplied to the world. Watches, chemicals, dairy products, electric goods, Diesel engines, etc., are amongst its chief exports.

Similarly, great attention is paid to the proper and full development of the tourist industry. Mountain resorts have modern facilities. All beautiful places are made accessible by public transportation, and the cities and resorts have been laid out with parks, fountains and many other attractions to impress and please the tourists who come from all corners of the globe.

If the Swiss had not planned and used their intelligence and put in hard labour their country would not have been occupying its present position in the world.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

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