

obtains in St. Gall, where the Roman Catholics almost double the Protestants in number." This is certainly a common-sense arrangement.

Primary education is compulsory throughout Switzerland, and no mercy is shown to people who attempt to keep their children away from school. In Solothurn parents are not even allowed the option of having their offspring educated at home or in private institutions. Considerable trouble is taken, however, to arrange the school hours with due regard to general convenience. In summer the classes begin at seven o'clock in the morning; thus, when the children have done working with their heads, they still have time enough to work with their hands. They have their holidays, too, in the autumn, so that they may be able during the harvest to help in the fields. Not only is primary education free, but in poor districts food and clothing are distributed at public expense among such of the children as need them.

In the opinion of experts, the Swiss schools are among the best, if they are not the very best, in Europe. And this is evidently the result not of a lavish expenditure of money, but of careful organization and good management; for the cost per head in the primary schools is only £2 a year, and the educational budget for the whole nation amounts to £1,500,160. Of this sum, £660,200 is paid by the State and £839,960 by the communes. The minimum salary of a teacher in a primary school is £48 a year, and in a secondary school £72. It is, however, of her technical schools that Switzerland has most reason to be proud, for they are perfect models of what such schools should be. The teaching given in them is both thoroughly good and practical. The pupils are not only shown how to do things, but are made to do them. This is especially the case in the "Ecoles menageres,"

where girls are taught housekeeping on the most economical principles; and in the Rubigen School, where domestic servants are in a five months' course of training—and at a cost of £4 12s.—rendered capable and deft. Then there are commercial schools, where boys are put in the way of becoming successful traders; watch-making schools; and, above all, agricultural schools of every sort and kind.

It is owing in a great measure to the existence of these schools that farmers are able to struggle more successfully in Switzerland than elsewhere against the present agricultural depression. These institutions are organized by the State in conjunction with the local authorities, for the Government holds strongly that the only effectual way of helping the agricultural classes to ward off the ruin that threatens them is by bringing technical teaching of the best kind within their reach, and thus enabling them to become experts in their calling. There even peasants who have only an acre or two of land to farm are regularly trained for their work, and are taught all the latest scientific devices for turning their soil to good account. Laboratories, experiment stations, and trial fields are maintained for their benefit; they are provided with professional advice gratis as to the best methods of managing their land, and are put in the way of obtaining manures, seeds, and labor-saving implements of the best quality at the lowest possible price. Infinite trouble is taken, too, in keeping them well informed as to which are the best markets for their produce, and helping them in every possible way; for both the State and the communal authorities are keenly alive to the fact that, whatever it may be elsewhere, in their country the prosperity of the whole nation is bound up with that of the farmers.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.