

a brilliant firework display starts from the ramparts of the castle. What a setting! Vaduz appears to be a mere village of four thousand souls to the stranger but, in effect, is the capital of a country lying in the peaceful Rhine valley and dominated by the oldworld castle of its Ruling Monarch.

The friendly Liechtensteiners acknowledge everyone with a "Grüß Gott" (God's greetings) and although visitors are welcomed and greeted with a ready smile, most of the inhabitants go about their own business and cows wander through the main streets of the villages and are never hurried to make way for cars, whilst the whole country resounds with the tinkling of cowbells.

Liechtenstein is no more Walt-Disney land. The percentage of the population working in industry is the highest of the world. Before World War I, 800 persons worked in industry, today 4375. 65 % of industry is metal processing. There are some big factories in Liechtenstein.

- "Hoval" produces central heatings, and is represented in six European countries.
- "Balzers AG" makes very specialised products used mainly in physics.
- "Hilti AG" is famous for their system in fixings.
- "Spoerry & Cie." is the oldest factory in Liechtenstein. Under this name cotton-cloth are put into work.
- "Elastin AG" sausage-skins are made.
- "Scana AG" sells canned food.
- "Contina AG" is world known for the smallest calculating machine.

The local "Pink wine" is called

"Vaduzer" and about 7000 gallons are produced yearly. During the wineharvest in early October whole families go to the vineyards to help with the picking of the dark-red grapes. But tourists should not be worried by the early morning sounds of shots ringing through the still air a fortnight or so before the harvest takes place... this is only the work of a small band of men specially employed with ancient muzzle-loaders and instructions to fire at half-hourly intervals to frighten the birds off the near-ripe grapes; One of the most colourful vineyards belongs to the privately owned "Rotes Haus", once a Benedictine monastery, and where still in the cellars the wine is pressed by the "Torkel" which is an enormous oak beam dating back to the 14th century.

Liechtensteiners over twenty-one years have the right to vote for members of Parliament. They are represented by fifteen members for the whole country, and elections take place every four years. However, as in Switzerland, the women hold no vote. There are three political parties but so similar that the natives say that you have to be born in the Principality to know the difference between them.

Liechtenstein postage stamps are some of the most beautiful in the world and two or three sets are issued each year. This brings in substantial revenue as do the corporations registered in Vaduz. Nearly 10 000 are based there as the personal property and corporation taxes are the lowest in Europe. Income tax is 4 to 12 % and property tax only 2 per thousand.

There are no trade unions and, in consequence, no strikes and Liech-

tentseiners hold their own passports. Most of the country's income is used for improving the land in general, for schools and for road building. The highways are in excellent condition and the topmost village, Malbun, is easily reached by car or omnibus. The valley main road, running the whole length of the country, compares very favourably with foreign autoroutes.

The Ruling Prince has the largest private art collection in the world, the treasures of which were previously housed in the Liechtenstein Palace in Vienna. Masterpieces include Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Frans Hals, Botticelli, Ruysdael, Memling etc. There are also fabulous tapestries, and in a magnificent armoury, weapons ranging from sword and pike to blunderbusses and delicately hand-carved female forms on the ivory stocks of princely guns. There is an Exhibition or "Kunstaustellung" in Vaduz where several of these priceless treasures can be seen. The other Museums of interest are situated in Vaduz also. They are the Historical Museum (where many Roman relics can be seen) and the Postal Stamp Museum.

*Other attractions:* Mini-Golf, Tennis courts, a super modern swimm-pool and a riding-school.