

HOLLYWOOD IN THE

By GEOFFREY BOCCA

(Switzerland has become an international refuge for the tax-oppressed celebrities of the world. American, British, and German movie stars, producers, and writers have learned it is possible to work out painless individual tax programs with Swiss cantons (states). Because the countries involved recognize each other's tax laws, celebrities are legally free of the far heavier taxation in their home lands. But there is a rotten apple in this paradise, as you'll see in this concluding installment of a two-part series.)

SHORTLY AFTER he moved into the Villa les Avants, near Montreux, Noel Coward was observed filling his lungs with Swiss mountain air and thumping his chest. "Ah!" he cried. "Aahh! This is the life for me."

Coward was primed for his new life in the almost tax-free paradise that American and British stars have found in Switzerland. He had decided to leave England after discovering that despite a lifetime of work and having earned a fortune, he was thousands of pounds overdrawn, thanks to the crushing burden of English income tax. In Switzerland, all he paid was 5 percent of the rentable value of his chalet.

Something, however, went wrong. A few months after he arrived, he was seen in his villa playing solitaire with his secretary. Heaven had not arrived on earth, after all. Coward was bored to the top of his immaculate and receding hairline. To stave off loneliness, he desperately filled the house with friends. When they ceased to come, he himself escaped to London, Jamaica, or New York.

Coward had come face to face with the problem found by most Hollywood stars who have decided to move to Switzerland: once you get there, what do you do with your time?

Switzerland, after all, is not the most exciting country in the world. As Orson Welles said: after centuries of peace, prosperity, and democracy, Switzerland is principally famous for inventing the cuckoo clock.

Switzerland also has a rainy, misty climate, a solid, bourgeois people, indifferent restaurants, and an almost nonexistent theater. It is obvious why this is not a country an actor would live in if he did not have to find tax relief—particularly as Hollywood stars, since World War II, have explored beyond Beverly Hills and dis-

covered the more sophisticated delights of New York, Paris, and Rome.

Some, of course, have learned to like Switzerland, notably Yul Brynner, who has a strong civic conscience and has always interested himself in the affairs of the United Nations. Switzerland, the home of dozens of international agencies, was just right for him. As soon as he arrived, he offered his services at a dollar a year to the World Refugee Organization, which has its headquarters in Geneva.

He told the directors: "I can't write, I can't organize, but I can take pictures." They sent him to the Middle East, where he photographed the plight of refugees; then, returning to Switzerland, he called on Anatole Litvak to help him produce a documentary movie, also without fee.

As a result, Brynner has become perhaps the most popular of all the movie stars in Switzerland. When his small son was run over and seriously hurt by a street car in Lausanne, the Swiss felt they had let Brynner down, and he received telegrams of sympathy and best wishes from people all over the country.

OTHER STARS have adjusted themselves to Switzerland by deliberately adopting the simple life. Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer, who have lived at Burgenstock since 1955, return faithfully after each picture.

"We just love the mountain countryside and the sound of cowbells in the morning," they say.

They have no telephone and make and receive their calls at the village inn. This is not necessarily an indication that the Ferrers are going primitive. The country which offers secret-number bank accounts will not permit secret-number telephones. All numbers are listed, and the stars have to adopt various devices to avoid being pestered by cranks, of whom Switzerland has more than her share. Other stars manage it by listing the names of their villas, or apartment addresses, instead of their own names.

Burgenstock has another notable couple—Carlo Ponti and Sophia Loren, who were lured to the remote area by the Ferrers.

Paulette Goddard and Erich Maria Remarque lead a simple life in the Italian-Swiss village of Porto Ronco, near Ascona. When the Nazis kicked



Sophia Loren's untamed beauty contrasts vividly with the serenity of Lake Lucerne, seen from the window of the star's Swiss chalet.

Alps

Movie stars can legally escape heavy taxes by living