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A few days after the signing of this agreement another one was signed; this time in London. It came rather as a surprise to most political observers that England and Eire should suddenly forget their old differences, but there it was: Mr. de Valera came to London with several of his Ministers to sign a new pact which was greeted as a great success in both countries. Again it was — as Mr. de Valera very frankly stated, when he received the press — Mr. Chamberlain, who brought about this pact and who succeeded in isolating the question of partition which for such a long time proved to be the stumbling block, the new pact, which was thought to involve economic matters only, proved to be far more comprehensive than anybody anticipated. The question on the land annuities was solved, the defence of Eire was given back into her own hands and Mr. De Valera solemnly declared that he and his government would never allow the island to be used as a basis of aggression against Great Britain by anybody. Talking about Mr. De Valera I may perhaps be allowed a personal remark: When we were received at the Piccadilly Hotel, where he usually stays whilst in London, I was very much surprised to find him jovial, I would even say charming. He smiled broadly, made a number of very witty remarks, answered questions with astonishing frankness and was evidently very pleased with the result of the negotiations. I expected to see a kind of dictator, a fanatic, I expected some plain rather categorical talking with the gestures and bravado revolutionaries usually show — and found a suave, kindly, man who reminded me of a parson who is about to bless the community. I think, I was not the only one among the press representatives who had never seen or heard him before, who was completely taken by surprise by his suave mannerisms."

Mr. Keller then referred to the recent meeting in Rome of the two dictators and at length to the Czecho-Slovakian situation; as both these events have been dealt with in Dr. Gooch's lecture, which we are publishing at present, we need not enlarge on these matters, as the comments of both lecturers follow a similar trend.

As regards the Colonial aspirations of Germany the speaker said:

"Germany wants colonies. She needs them, too, — for the sake of her prestige. England, up to now, has taken up the attitude that this is not a matter for H. M. Government to decide, but for the League of Nations. This may be an excuse, it may be shirking the question at stake, for who is the League of Nations nowadays. Germany, Italy and Japan are out, the United States has never been in. The two principles of the League, the principle of its universality and the system of the collective security have been shaken very badly. Who is the League, or who leads it? England and France of course. England's action during the sanctions period proved that, and England's action a week ago when the Italian sovereignty over Abyssinia was recognised, proved it again. Germany, I said, wants colonies. And when England replies: very well, come back to Geneva, we shall talk it over there, Hitler refuses to have the colonial issue linked up with other matters of a general settlement and wants it treated in isolation. It is, I am bound to say, a hopeless mess. But there is one chance: Mr. Chamberlain having succeeded to come to terms with Mussolini, may be able to induce him to use his influence over Hitler. We can but hope that he does it and succeeds. Otherwise there will be no peace and quiet until Hitler has got what he wants, and, unfortunately one has to admit that he has what the Frenchman calls "fair" to choose the right moment for his surprises. Either he strikes when the English statesmen are in the country for a prolonged week-end or he strikes when France has no Cabinet. Germany, isolated, will be a constant danger to Europe, Germany tied up in a solid pact of non-aggression may be a good ally."

The lecturer went at length into the Spanish question and quoted Madame Geneviève Tabouis, the well informed diplomatic correspondent of the "Oeuvre" in Paris, and the author of a very interesting book, called "Blackmail or war."

It was a very interesting evening indeed, and when Mr. Suter thanked the lecturer on behalf of the audience he adequately voiced the feelings of the gathering.

QUELLE EST LA VILLE DE SUISSE LA MEILLEUR MARCHÉ ?

L'Union suisse des Coopératives de Consommation vient de publier sa statistique donnant l'état des prix du commerce de détail dans les villes suisses au 1er mars 1938. Il en résulte que *La Chaux-de-Fonds*, malgré sa situation tant soit peu excentrique, est la ville de notre pays la *meilleur marché*. *Bienna* vient en *second rang* et *Fribourg* en *troisième rang*. *Zurich* est à la *moyenne* de cherté du coût de la vie, et *Davos* est la *ville la plus chère*.

D'après les chiffres index de l'U.S.C., le coût de la vie est aujourd'hui d'environ 10% plus cher qu'avant la dévaluation. L'Office fédéral pour

l'Industrie, les Arts et Métiers et le Travail a calculé, lui, qu'à fin février, le renchérissement dit "de dévaluation" n'était que de 5.3%. La différence entre cette statistique et celle de l'U.S.C. est due à ce que le chiffre index de l'Office fédéral englobe également des groupes de dépenses concernant le coût de la vie qui n'ont pas été aussi sensibles à la dévaluation que les produits alimentaires (les loyers par exemple). Mais la différence est due aussi à une autre façon de calculer les chiffres index pour les produits alimentaires: l'Office fédéral fait par exemple rentrer le pain intégral pour 50% dans la consommation totale du pain. Il va de soi que si cette proportion a pu être exacte autrefois, elle n'est plus justifiée à l'heure actuelle, la consommation du pain intégral n'étant plus aujourd'hui, d'après les constatations générales, que de 20%, en moyenne (13%, disait même une communication venue de Berne).

SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING SWISS EVENTS, 1938.

- July 4th,
American Independence Day Celebrations will be observed at the leading resorts.
Grisons Cantonal Gymnastic Tournament at Davos.
- July 6th-October 15th,
Vacation Courses in French Language and Culture at the University of Geneva.
- July 9th,
Anniversary Celebration of Battle of Sempach Victory at Sempach near Lucerne.
Bathing Beach Festival at Geneva.
- July 9th-10th,
Annual Summer Ski Races on Jungfrauoch.
International Rowing Regatta at Zurich.
- July 9th-September 11th (on Wednesdays-Thursdays in case of rain - Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m.)
Lucerne Passion Plays on Hofkirche Square at Lucerne.
- July 10th-15th,
Eaux-Vives Festival at Geneva.
- July 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st,
Open-air "William Tell" performances at Interlaken.
- July 11th,
Bicycle race from Thusis to Davos (Parsemn Cup).
- July 11th-24th,
Summer School of European Studies (1st series) at Zurich.
- July 14th-August 7th,
Vacation Courses in Modern French at the University of Neuchâtel. (1st series).
- Middle of July,
Beginning of Conducted Tours for Visitors at Davos.
- Middle of July-Middle of August,
International Music Festival Weeks at Lucerne:
a) International Music Exhibition.
b) Gala concerts with support of eminent conductors and soloists.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

MARRIED COUPLE, young, willing to work with view to management of small modern country hotel in Worcestershire. Swiss preferred. Write Box No. 88, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- Sunday, June 12th — Symphonic Social Choir — Annual Outing to Clacton-on-Sea, Coaches leave Swiss Club 10 a.m.
- Thursday, June 16th — "Fête Suisse" at Central Hall, Westminster.
- Saturday, June 18th — from 3 to 6 p.m. — Reception at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1, to meet M. le pasteur et Madame Pradervand.
- Friday, June 24th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — to be followed by a causerie by A. Tall, Esq., of the Swiss Federal Railways, on "Swiss Alpine Guides and Mountaineering" at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
- Tuesday, June 28th, at 7.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance, at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See advert.).
- Wednesday, July 6th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
- Saturday, July 9th — Swiss Sports and Garden Party — Duke of York's Headquarters at Chelsea.

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Dimanche, 12 juin 1938.

11h. — Adieu de M. U. Emery Installation de nouveau pasteur, M. Marcel Pradervand, par le président du Consistoire, M. Alf. Brauen.

7h. — Prédication de M. Marcel Pradervand.

BAPTEME.

Le 5 juin 1938: Yvonne, Odette Hyde, née le 27 janvier 1938 à Snowdown, nr. Dover (Kent), fille de George Hyde de Salford (Cheshire) et de Mathilde, Marie, née Magnenat, de Vaulion (Vaud-Suisse).

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 12. Juni 1938. *Trinitatis.*

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst, Predigt: Herr Pfr. A. Goebel. Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst. Pfr. Hahn.
8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

CONFIRMATION.

Am Pfingstsonntag, den 5. Juni wurden confirmiert.

Victoria Adams, von Georgetown (Brit. Guiana);

Norman Henry Büchi von Sirmach (Thurgau);

Marc John Fischer von Meisterschwanden (Aargau);

Paula Marguerite Haberstich von Basel (Stadt);

Marlise von Jenner von Bern;

Dennis Hans und Gwendoline Margrit Moser von Rüederswil (Bern);

Margrit Schmid von Stammheim (Zürich);

Edith Anita Sommer von Sumiswald (Bern);

Margrit Violette Tanner von Dintikon (Aargau);

Margarethe Wydler von Ottenbach (Zürich).

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W. 4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.

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