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AROUND THE COLONY.

Who does not still remember that "black Wednesday" of last September, when the fate of millions of people, yea of civilization itself, was at stake.

Was there to be war with all its terror and misery, or would humanity yet awhile be allowed to live in peace?

In those days one man had the courage to wave matters of prestige and conventionality aside and bring a mad world to its senses. It was only at the eleventh hour that the spectre of war could be banished and those days have since been called the days of the "great crisis."

The immediate result of those depressing days was, that people got nearer to each other. The need for concentrated action and a better understanding was felt, unity amongst all classes and denominations was considered to be a duty of each citizen, one has, as the French say "serré les rangs."

This spirit could also be found in the Swiss Colony, there too the need was felt to get nearer together, so as to be prepared against all eventualities.

Renewed activity amongst the various Swiss Societies set in, members of the Colony, who for years had taken no part in its activities, came back to the one or the other fold, in short a wave of patriotism swept through the Colony.

To a great extent the different Societies represent the Swiss Colony, and it is through them that the people of this country know its members and the work they perform, what very few can achieve single handed, concentrated action and unity of purpose can accomplish with a much better chance of success.

True enough there are still a number of our compatriots who stand aside, and let the others do the work, through which they are in the end the beneficiaries. Whatever the reason is, for this aloofness, let it be said that they render a bad service both to their country and ultimately to themselves. —

One great and shining example was given to the world by the country which extends such a generous hospitality to us, when England, some few years ago had to face one of the greatest crises in their history.

The English people heard and followed the clarion call for unity which was sounded, and the result was that England's prestige which had suffered an undeniable set back abroad, was regained, and the havoc of mismanagement created by the Government of that time, could be slowly but surely repaired.

This great and courageous rally had its effect also in our Colony. For some time a greater activity and better understanding could be noticed, although there is still plenty of room left for improvement.

The fateful days of last September have given our compatriots a greater impetus for unity which made itself felt in no unmistakable way.

Good news, it is indeed, that one Society, which for the last few years seemed to be condemned to a slow and sure death, is to be resurrected. The Swiss Choral Society which at one time enjoyed a fine reputation as a useful member of the Colony, has come into being again; this body has been reorganised and stands to-day stronger than ever, and there is not the slightest doubt that their usefulness will soon be felt again in the Colony. This remarkable feat is due to two facts, firstly a spirit of patriotism has enabled the members to find a way out of a regrettable impasse, and secondly to one member, a late President of the Society, Mr. Manzoni, who was successful in gathering around himself a number of our compatriots, who were animated by the same spirit. Things which had happened in the past were forgiven and forgotten, and our national motto: "Un pour tous, tous pour un" was remembered and acted upon accordingly.

Another Society, which stands high in the rank of Swiss Societies, for their useful work, has, according to the report at their Annual General Meeting made great strides of late. We speak of the Swiss Mercantile Society, which recently celebrated with great success their 50th Jubilee. A drive for new members has been most successful.

Two other important institutions, the Unione Ticinese, which is under the leadership of a young and energetic President, and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, (London Group) have both been able to increase their membership considerably, which speaks well for their respective leaders, and of the spirit which animates their members.

The same good news reaches us from other Societies in London and the Provinces.

★ SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION

ZURICH

MAY 6—

OCT. 29, 1939

● See our Country at Work and Play—our Arts and Crafts and Nationhood.

● This truly wonderful Exhibition, staged in a park-like setting along the shore of the Lake at Zurich itself, must not be missed.

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SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION FOLDER

INFORMATION from the Swiss Railways & State Travel Bureau, 11-B Regent Street, London, S.W.1. Phone: WHitchell 9851.

The City Swiss Club, which is perhaps the most conservative body in the Colony, too has received a new lease of life.

ck, who is the Press reporter of this leading Club, spoke in his last report of the monthly meeting, that the secretary of the Club has been successful in transfusing new blood "dans les veines d'un corps débile et anémique." It was a little unkind of him to make such a sweeping statement, if the Club had, in the past perhaps not shown greater activity, it was not due to a lack of patriotism, but principally through the circumstances prevailing throughout the world, which necessitated a certain element of hesitancy and precaution. ck having for a great many months failed to attend the monthly deliberations of the Club, and not being present at the last three splendid Annual Banquets for some reason or other, was hardly justified in writing in such a fashion about the ailments of a Society which has proved its worth time after time. Equally unjustified and unfair was the criticism voiced about the Menu which was served by Messrs. Paganis on the occasion of the last monthly meeting.

Messrs. Paganis rightly felt distressed about this statement, and the Editor of this paper unconditionally tenders his apologies for having published same. —

Even our paper, has to a certain extent, benefited by this new enthusiasm which has swept over the Colony, and with new courage and with a lighter heart we shall in future work for the benefit of the Swiss Community.

ST.

L'ALLEMAGNE ET LA NEUTRALITE DE LA SUISSE.

En ce qui concerne la question souvent discutée depuis quelque temps de la neutralité et de la presse, nous apprenons de source compétente que des pourparlers ont eu lieu à Berlin ces dernières semaines entre le ministre de Suisse et le ministère des affaires étrangères du Reich à propos d'un article paru dans un périodique national-socialiste sur la question de la neutralité, sous le plume d'un certain Dr. Bockhoff. Avant même que le Conseil fédéral l'ait chargé de s'approcher du ministre des affaires étrangères, le ministre de Suisse à Berlin en avait pris l'initiative et avait adressé un rapport.

La question de la validité de la reconnaissance de la neutralité suisse par l'Allemagne n'a jamais été en discussion. Cette question est claire et jamais les milieux allemands n'ont mis en cause cette validité. Par contre, l'entretien de Berlin a visé la portée de l'article sus-mentionné et les deux parties furent pleinement d'accord pour constater que seules les déclarations gouvernementales font foi et que des polémiques de journaux ne peuvent être mises en balance avec les déclarations d'un gouvernement.

Le point de vue suisse, qui fut souvent confirmé, n'a pas changé, à savoir que la neutralité est une notion de droit, international ne concernant que l'Etat. Du côté suisse, on n'a jamais rien dit d'autre ni laissé entendre autre chose à Berlin.

Les bruits concernant la conclusion d'une convention entreprise avec l'Allemagne sont une pure invention.

Au cours des entretiens, le droit de critique n'a jamais été contesté, même du côté allemand; par contre, on s'est plaint, du côté allemand, du fait que certains journaux — de Pavis des milieux allemands — ne se livrent pas seulement à des critiques, mais à de l'excitation.

La commission suisse de la presse a examiné lundi dernier l'attitude de différents journaux et au cours d'une de ses prochaines séances, le Conseil fédéral prendra une décision, sur proposition du département fédéral de justice et police.

On souligne dans les milieux compétents que le Conseil fédéral poursuivra avec fermeté la politique suivie jusqu'ici.

(Tribune de Genève.)

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION 1939 ZURICH.

The Sports at the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich, 1939.

Zurich is Switzerland's most sporting city. Its geographical position, its many and varied relations with the rest of the world, and its comparatively large population were factors which combined to intensify its sporting urge. To-day the city possesses numerous stadiums and grounds for the practice of every form of national and universal sport. However important the event or varied the programme, Zurich can cope with it. There are two splendid sport grounds with accommodation for large crowds of spectators, a covered stadium, an indoor swimming pool, an open velodrome, an artificial ice rink, two open-air swimming basins with artificial waves, numerous large gymnasiums and a lido.

With such extensive facilities for the practising of sport of every kind, it is not to be wondered at that every year a large number of first-class national and international sporting events are held in Zurich, and that ever and again the city produces teams and individual sportsmen whose performances win them international fame.

It is obvious that a city with such sporting traditions behind it should feel the urge to put on a worthy and comprehensive sport programme during the National Exhibition of 1939, whose organisation has been entrusted to it. Thus sport will be included in the Exhibition not only with respect to its social, economic and cultural aspect, but also as a popular attraction in itself.

In the course of this programme, numerous international events will be staged, whose most important are:

In February, the ice-hockey world's championship; during the exhibition, international regatta, horse race, motor race for the newly created Zurich Grand Prix, international football, tennis, waterpolo tournaments, etc.

CHRONIQUE TECHNIQUE ET DES NOUVEAUTES INDUSTRIELLES.

A l'Exposition nationale de Zurich 1939, les Chemins de fer suisses exposeront une locomotive électrique d'une puissance de 12,000 CV., considérée comme la plus forte du monde. La partie électrique sera fournie par les Ateliers de Construction Oerlikon et la partie mécanique par la Société Suisse pour la Construction de Locomotives et de Machines à Winterthur. La locomotive est actuellement en cours d'exécution.

Il y a quelque temps déjà, les Anglais organisèrent un grand raid Londres-Johannesburg (Transvaal). Deux jeunes sportifs énergiques, Scott et Guthrie, sortirent victorieux de l'épreuve. Leur exploit accompli ils déclarèrent qu'au cours de leur voyage ils avaient fait usage, avec profit, de l'Ovomaltine de la maison Wander SA., à Berne.

La Cia de Electricidad del Sud-Argentino à Buenos-Aires, possède, à Mar del Plata, la plus grande et la plus moderne des stations balnéaires en Argentine, une importante centrale électrique équipée de divers groupes Diesel-électriques. L'accroissement constant de la consommation d'énergie électrique a nécessité une extension de la centrale, qui fut complétée par l'installation d'un moteur Diesel-Sulzer de 2600 ch. eff. à 214 t/mn. Ce moteur, alimenté en fuel-oil lourd, est muni d'un dispositif spécial particulier à la

maison Sulzer Frères et qui donne au combustible la fluidité nécessaire. En service ininterrompu depuis quelques mois déjà, il assume la charge de base de la centrale.

La maison Courvoisier S.A., à la Chau-de-Fonds (Suisse) vient d'éditer deux nouvelles séries de timbres pour l'administration des postes de Turquie. Ces deux émissions — il s'agit de douze timbres de grand format — sont destinées à commémorer le quinzième anniversaire de la proclamation de la République turque et le dixième anniversaire de l'adoption des caractères latins en Turquie.

Le *Rotterdamsche Lloyd* a commandé un paquebot rapide à deux hélices aménagé pour le transport de 723 passagers. Huit moteurs Diesel-Sulzer développant ensemble une puissance de 27,000 ch. eff. donneront à ce paquebot une vitesse de 21 noeuds et lui permettront ainsi d'effectuer en 16 jours la traversée de Marseille à Batavia, alors qu'actuellement elle exige encore 20 jours.

Dernièrement a été inaugurée à Martigny-ville (Valais, Suisse) une nouvelle usine d'aluminium construite par l'Aluminium SA de Martigny-Bourg.

Plus de 800 machines à écrire *Hermès Standard* de la maison E. Paillard & Cie., SA., à Yverdon (Suisse) sont en service au siège principal et dans les succursales de la Banque nationale du commerce et de l'industrie à Paris.

A SPRING SONG.

Hurrah for the English husband
As pictured by a Swiss
What an "erste Klasse" fellow
What a prize for any Miss!
But Aepli sets me wondering
About the "lads" I know,
Whose homes are off the Golf Club
When the barometer is not low.
What about the football fans
Are these all "ledig" too
And at the dartsclub and billiards
Are married men taboo?
But there must be homes in England
Where the "slavey" is not Dad
For the pubs and clubs would fade away
Were it just for the single lad.
And many wives in England
Would go but poorly fed,
Should they wait for their dear hubbies
To breakfast them in bed.
But there's many an English "Frauei"
Would think her life O.K.
If "Samstig" meant her "s'Vieri"
In a "Peitz" or Restaurant gay.
Here joys of life in winter
Are not so hard to beat
And the toil of the weekly washday
Deserves the silver sheet.
"Unter em Pantoffel," to Aepli
Must be a thing unknown
Are the only wives who wear the pants
Within an English home?
But comparisons are odious
As youth must yet discover
And I end my song on the note of hope
To "Miss" and her Swiss lover.
For Englishman and "Schwiezerma"
However far they roam
Are glad to leave "Verein" and Club
For the wife and kids at home!
(*Bärner-Aengländer.*)

WO?

Wo tuet ächt der Hergott z'Wätter versorge
Die sunnige Tag, voll Freud und voll Schärz?
Im stille Chämmerli si, si verborge
Im an Eggeli, tief i Dim Härz.

Und wo versteckt är die düstere Tag
Voll Wulche, voll Weh und U'rueh?
"Sie schlafte im Chämmerli näbe dra
Und Du hesch der Schlüssel derzue."

Warum so oft git's Tage voll Sorge
So finster, so trurig? Ach lue,
Will Du hesch vergässe am früehle Morge
Die sunnige Chammer ufz'tue.

H.E.

TO OUR READERS.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer would be greatly obliged if readers would supply him with addresses of likely subscribers, so that specimen copies could be posted to them.

If such addresses supplied should be already included on our mailing list, no extra copies would be sent.

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

(While at all times we appreciate letters from subscribers on any matter of interest to the Colony, it must be clearly understood that any such correspondence does not necessarily represent the opinion of the Editor.)

14th February, 1939.

The Editor,
The Swiss Observer,
E.C.2.

Sir,

As an ardent supporter of the Swiss Observer and a member of several Swiss societies, I should like to make the following observation on a report that appeared in the last edition of this paper.

I am completely overwhelmed that a secretary of a well-known Swiss Club in London, who is a popular and much respected member of our colony, should allow an official report of his club to be turned into a medium of cheap advertisement of his wares.

If this gentleman, who has a reputation for business acumen wishes to advertise, will the Editor kindly supply him with the necessary rates.

I enclose my card and remain,
Yours sincerely,
A Square Deal.

PERSONAL.

We regret to state that Madame Veuve J. Haussauer died last Saturday the 11th inst., at Geneva, at the age of 77. The deceased was the mother of Mr. L. P. Haussauer of 26, Corringway, Ealing, W.5, to whom we wish to extend our sincere sympathy.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Please reserve
SATURDAY, MARCH 11th, 1939,
(at 7 p.m.)
for the
DINNER AND DANCE
at the
MAYFAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

SWISS aged 37 born in London, educated in England, Switzerland, France, Spain and Italy, speaking fluently and corresponding correctly in English, French, Italian, Spanish; fair German and Portuguese, seeks suitable position wholesale firm. Could supplement principal. Reply Box No. 2. Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, February 16th — Symphonic Social Choir — Annual Fancy Dress Ball — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. (Admission 2/-)

Friday, February 17th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Wednesday, February 22nd — Unione Ticinese — Annual Banquet and Ball, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

Saturday, February 25th, at 3 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show, at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2, one performance only.

Saturday, March 4th at 3 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show "Fusilier Wipf" at the Gaumont Theatre, Film House, Wardour Street, W.1.

Thursday, March 9th — Symphonic Social Choir — Annual Dinner and Ball — at the First Avenue Restaurant, High Holborn, W.C.1. (Tickets 6/-)

Saturday, March 11th, at 7 o'clock — City Swiss Club — Cinderella Dance — at the Mayfair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Wednesday, March 29th, at 8.15 p.m. *Concert* given by Swiss Orchestra and Swiss Accordion Club, Jodels by Frau Aus-der-Au, specially engaged from Switzerland, at Queen Mary Hall, Great Russell Street, W.C.1 (one minute Tottenham Court Road Tube Station)

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Dimanche 19 février 1939 :

11h. Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du dimanche.

6h30. Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

Pour l'instruction religieuse et les actes pastoraux, prière de s'adresser au pasteur, M. M. Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003) Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE (Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

Sonntag, den 19. Februar :

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst, Pfr. E. Bommeli

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst, Pfr. E. Bommeli

Mittwoch Nachmittag : Schwyzerchränzli von 2.30 an, 15, Bedford Way (Zwänglose Zusammenkunft der jungen Schweizerinnen im Foyer Suisse, wozu alle Schweizerinnen freundlich eingeladen sind).

Sprechstunden des Gemeindepfarrers :

Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.
Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse,
15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Jeden Donnerstag abend 7 Uhr Versammlung Christlicher Verein junger Männer, 28-29, Bedford Place, W. Jedermann ist freundlich eingeladen.

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