

Swiss wines

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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

Bournemouth.
15th March, 1949.

The Editor,
Swiss Observer,
London.

Dear Sir,

I read in your last issue a paragraph in which it is stated that the village of Köniz, near Berne, with its 19,000 inhabitants, enjoys the reputation of being the largest village in Switzerland.

Unless I am mistaken, I believe that Chaux-de-Fonds (Neuchâtel), has not relinquished its civic status as a village, and, if so, its population must, I think, be something like double that of Köniz.

When I left Switzerland for London in the early 90's, Chaux-de-Fonds claimed to be the largest village in the land, and probably still is to-day.

What its population now is I am unable to say, but a ring to the Swiss Legation will no doubt supply the information.

I always enjoy reading your paper with its recording of the chief events of the Swiss Colony in London and its home news.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
A. E. PARIS.

(The news stated was taken from a Swiss paper. Perhaps some of our readers can give the correct facts. Ed.)

DAVOS ICE HOCKEY CLUB.

The Davos Ice Hockey Club will visit England next month for a series of five matches.

On Monday, April 11th, they will represent Switzerland against England at the Empire Pool, Wembley. They will play at Brighton on the 12, at Nottingham on the 15th, Streatham on the 16th, and the Empress Hall on the 18th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

M. E. Lichtensteiger, Mrs. A. Rossier, Chas. Studer, Miss A. Borel, Dunfermline Swiss Club, W. Bosshardt, H. Caluori, E. Lucca, Mrs. H. Martin, C. Meschini, J. H. Ungricht, Miss R. Unterkircher, J. Hausermann, Miss L. De Maria, C. W. Fairbrother, H. F. Ehrensperger, F. Stauffenegger, A. P. Walliman, Mrs. J. Muller, M. Gysin, Rev. H. Blum, "Schwyzerchränzli," B. A. Tuscher, J. W. Reber, H. Rieder, Anglo-Swiss Society, W. Allenspach, G. Ferrari, M. Bezencenet, E. E. Rognon, W. F. Baer, R. Wyss, A. Jench, Mrs. E. G. Kendall-Gattiker, A. Widmer, Mrs. F. H. Reardon, M. A. Kloetzli, Mrs. M. Gerber, H. Corrodi, A. Burgisser, Miss R. Krähenbühl, Miss M. Paly, P. Moll, C. A. Aeschmann, Mrs. A. C. Muller, W. W. Landauer, G. Th. Groats, O. Rodell, Mrs. I. Nicholson, Miss A. Jaggin, R. H. Braun, V. Weingartner, S. L. L. Caraccio, H. Bingguely, W. Glauser, E. Huber, Edwin Hug.

(To be continued.)

SWISS WINES

(A Sonnet inspired by ST.'s delightful essay 25/2/49.)

Produced by nature's wondrous alchemy,
And patient toil from vineyard to the press,
The Swiss wines in their brightly-coloured dress
Call forth our praise in gladsome rhapsody.

Delectable in varying degree,
Some gay and sparkling, full of roguishness,
And some whose golden warmth is a caress,
Each vintage holds to rare delight the key.

Among the gifts of Heaven that impel
Man's gratitude, the tender grape ranks high
For the contentment and the joy it brings;
Whereof wise Omar Khayyám fondly sings,
Who often wondered what the vintners buy
One-half so precious as the ware they sell.

J.J.F.S.

THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

31, CONWAY STREET, LONDON, W.1

have pleasure in giving a few extracts of letters of thanks received recently. The warm gratitude expressed therein is however, not meant for them, but really for the kind and generous donors of the gifts.

"Je remercie infiniment toutes les personnes qui se sont occupé à me pourvoir un si bon et utile paquet de Noël. Croyez moi je l'apprécie doublement dans la situation où je me trouve, le temps d'hiver, la santé et autres . . ."

"I do want to thank you for your so generous Xmas parcel, it will all be so useful and is in itself such a cheering and comforting event. I am sitting in my attic beside the oil stove in the warm pyjamas plus dressing gown, which also comes from you. How tired you must be and weary, but how elating when it's all over it must be to you and your helpers to have cheered and helped so many."

"A merry Christmas to you and all the big Swiss family. I am so delighted to belong to it, it feels so warm and comfy and I think it is perfectly wonderful that you should think of me and send me such a beautiful present . . . the lovely nightdress which I loved at first sight . . ."

"Ringrazio infinitamente per la sua bontà, molto riconoscente. Buone feste Natalizie. Dio la benedica per tutta la sua beneficenza."

"Thank you so very much for your lovely parcel, it was just what I was in most need of . . ."

"It certainly brought tears to my eyes seeing all these lovely things, something for everyone including the house. Whatever we come up against, you are the only one that makes up for it and generously . . ."

"Dear Santa Claus, I would like to thank you for your big parcel you brought us. Now I have a lot to play with and I am very happy."

"I want to thank all of you very kindly for the parcels received on Tuesday. Everything was very, very acceptable. My family also sends their thanks."

"Je viens par ces lignes vous remercier million de fois pour mes présents de Noël qui tous m'ont fait un immense plaisir. Le manteau me va à ravir, le jumper, la taie d'oreiller et le joli tablier après le travail . . ."

Space donated by The Berkeley Arms Hotel.