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The Swiss Observer

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ON THE FRONT PAGE

*The beautiful Abbey of St. Maurice
im Rhonetel, Valais. Read more
about it in Kathleen Watts' article
on pages 18, 19 and 20. Photo by
courtesy of SNT0.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Your July issue is particularly
interesting since we lived in Vaud. We
enjoyed the feature immensely.

MM's comments on the BBC's Swiss
evening largely match our own. The
programme did raise some interesting
points however. I wrote to M. Freymond
to enquire about the increase in the
number of strikes in Switzerland. It was
not made clear how many people were
involved, for how long or for what
reason. It seems to us to be a serious
retrograde step and not in keeping with
the Swiss approach to industrial
problems. Can any of your readers tell us
what lies behind the events?

Gottfried Keller's "Letter from
Switzerland" was interesting from two
points of view. Firstly, despite the Credit
Suisse affair (and the discovery of at least
one traitor as well as the industrial
problems which he did not mention),
nobody who knows Switzerland and the
Swiss will make the mistake of imagining
these things to be in any way typical.
Rather than Switzerland's image being
tarnished, I am sure that the way the
Swiss people handle these problems will
lead to their reputation for honesty and
justice being greatly enhanced.

Secondly, the Swiss Radio Service

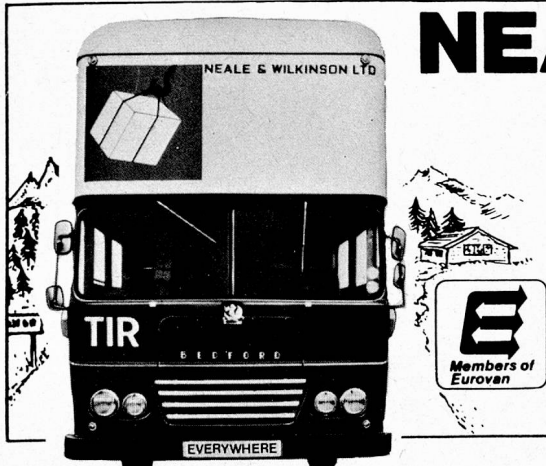
programme about the wartime activities
of some Swiss is not only praiseworthy
but deserves a wider audience. Most
people in Britain do not know that
Switzerland, too, mourns her war dead,
nor do they appreciate the very difficult
position and consequent hardship
endured by the country because of her
geographical location and her need for
imports in order to survive. Many
unfortunately believe that Switzerland
sympathised with Nazi Germany if not
actually aided it.

There is an unfortunate gap in all
the history books that I have seen
covering the war years and I have often
tried to get more information. The more I
learn, the more I wonder why there is
such reticence. Switzerland has little to
be ashamed of and much of which to be
proud. If I could get the information, I
would like to write a book to redress the
situation.

Peter E. Slater
104 Atheling Grove
South Queensferry
Scotland.

Footnote — how pleasant it is to receive a
letter like this from one of our British
friends. Thank you Mr. Slater.

Editor.



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