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A l'Editeur du "Swiss Observer."

Mon cher Editeur,—Vous me faites l'honneur de me demander un message de Nouvelle Année! C'est bien volontiers que je me rends à votre invitation, heureux de l'occasion qui m'est ainsi offerte de vous féliciter d'abord de ce que vous avez accompli jusqu'ici, et de vous souhaiter ensuite un succès grandissant au cours de l'année prochaine et de celles à venir.

Une grande Colonie aussi unie, aussi bien organisée que celle des Suisses de Grande Bretagne avait besoin d'un journal comme le "Swiss Observer" pour lui tenir lieu de trait d'union avec la patrie et la renseigner sur tout ce qui concerne sa vie propre.

C'est ce que vous avez admirablement compris, et grâce à vous, les Suisses de Grande Bretagne peuvent désormais suivre de plus près les événements en Suisse, tout en s'associant plus intimement avec ceux de leurs compatriotes établis ici. Ils ont maintenant un organe c'est à dire une possibilité de faire entendre leur voix, d'exprimer leurs désirs, leurs aspirations, d'échanger leurs vues avec des compatriotes dont les conditions d'existence sont semblables aux leurs.

Pour ma part, j'ai donc accueilli avec une grande satisfaction la nouvelle que le "Swiss Observer" paraîtrait hebdomadairement à l'avenir, et que vous alliez entreprendre une campagne énergique pour augmenter le nombre de vos abonnés.

Je vous en félicite et souhaite de tout coeur que vos efforts, votre persévérance, votre ténacité, toute helvétique, soient couronnés de succès!

Puisse le "Swiss Observer," toujours plus à la hauteur de sa tâche, nous donner dès lors chaque semaine, le tableau d'une Colonie unie, travaillant sans relâche au bien de la patrie, et s'efforçant de maintenir le bon renom dont les Suisses à l'étranger ont toujours joui.

Bon courage, mon cher Editeur, bon succès—Bonne Année!

Bonne Année également à tous mes chers compatriotes, connus ou inconnus, et puisse 1922 resserrer toujours plus les liens qui nous unissent!

Votre très cordialement dévoué

80, Holland Park, W.

J. BAER.

le 26 Décembre 1921.

HOME NEWS

Dr. Robert Haab, vice-president of the Federal Council during 1921, has been elected President of the Swiss Confederation for the year 1922 by 154 votes out of 179.

Born at Waedenswil 56 years ago, Dr. Haab can look back on a very successful career, having since 1894 held in succession various high offices in the Government of his native Canton Zurich. In 1911 Dr. Haab was appointed to the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways, where he displayed a keen knowledge of technical and administrative railway management—abilities which strongly commended his promotion to chief of the Department of Posts and Railways, when he was elected member of the Federal Council in January, 1918, after having held the post of Swiss Minister at Berlin during the year 1917.

It is a remarkable fact that Dr. Haab has been elected to the highest office of the Swiss Confederation without ever having been a member of either the States or National

Councils, which usually provide the stepping stone for prospective members of the Federal Council.

At a dinner which was given by his parliamentary colleagues and friends in honour of the new President elect Dr. Haab expressed in simple words his fervent wish to be able to devote all his strength and energy to fostering the interests of his country, coupled with the sincere hope that the Swiss people may succeed in surmounting the present paralysing economic and industrial crisis and enter upon a peaceful and prosperous new era.

The Government of Glaris has obtained powers from the Federal Council to order compulsory vaccination throughout the canton as a precautionary measure against further spread of the smallpox epidemic.

The sixteenth victim of the factory explosion at Bodio (Tessin) has just succumbed to his injuries at the hospital of Bellinzona after four months of suffering.

The Director General of the Swiss Federal Railways, M. Otto Sand, died in Berne on the 18th instant, at the age of 65, after a brief illness.

A novel form of propaganda has been chosen by the Tourist Bureau of Bedigliora (Tessin) which is issuing a series of twelve post-cards reproducing character studies by the artist painter Pirl of Bedigliora entitled "Old People of the Tessin," accompanied by the statistical fact that the Canton of Tessin produces the largest average of aged people in Switzerland. Out of its 160,000 inhabitants 5,000 are over 70, 1,300 over 80, and 90 over 90 years of age.

NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The Swiss winter season is being successfully advertised not only at home but in the English press and although the weather is too sunny and the snow fall insufficient there is little doubt that this year's season will prove to be a boom to our hotel industry. Quite apart from those who go for the sport, pure and simple, there is likely to be a welcome influx of fashionable visitors who believe "it is the right thing to do". Amongst the large parties who have already left London are the Lord Chancellor with Lady Birkenhead and Lord and Lady Beaverbrook who are staying at St. Moritz.

Montreux, according to *The Times* (Dec. 21st) is once again beaming a special favourite of English and Americans, the villas and houses on the Bellaria estate being now almost entirely inhabited by English people.

"Several of the hotels formerly popular with English and American visitors that have been closed of recent years have now reopened, such as the Belmont, at Montreux, and the Bonivard, near Chillon. Both have a good many visitors already, and their prospects for the season are favourable, as also are those of the other hotels in the district, and especially the establishments whose prices are moderate.

There is every indication that the coming weeks in the Swiss winter sport resorts, especially as regards the Engadine, will constitute an essentially "British" season such as has not been since the winter of 1913-14. This reversion to the pre-war constituents of the holiday population will be particularly noticeable at St. Moritz, which at one time inevitably suffered in English eyes owing to its popularity with the immense Legation maintained by Germany in Switzerland during the war, whose personnel was in the habit of transferring itself almost to a man to St. Moritz for the winter months. After the Armistice the Kurverein was faced with the delicate task of eliminating this element of its clientèle in the interests of those visitors who had,