

Tennis

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of the armament report in order to remain indefinitely on the Rhine. A great revulsion of bitter feeling passed over Germany. To the surprise of us all, Dr. Luther, the Imperial Chancellor, who is adopting a middle course, and has got into power largely by the nationalists, made what was called a great offer to recognize the final and permanent loss of Alsace-Lorraine—an extraordinary thing to do, but an offer which carries with it the security for France, security for Belgium, and security for England. The only reason that would make England inclined to take part in another war would be an unprovoked attack on either France or Belgium. Now, a German Government of the right sort is recognizing that Alsace-Lorraine is gone for ever. Now, I cannot help saying that the offer is a matter of historic significance. If it were only the undertaking of recognizing frontiers between Germany and France, it would be a good thing; that is only part of the offer. Here again I am speaking to some extent in the dark, as it has never been printed. I know people who have seen it, but it has not appeared in the Press, but we do know that it exists in reference to the free recognition of frontiers of Germany in the west; but Germany will not give the same assurances as to the problems on the Polish side. As regards her eastern frontier, the German offer appears to say two things. The first is that they solemnly undertake not to attempt to alter the Polish-German frontiers by force. The second is the desire to preserve to themselves the right of bringing these frontiers, or some of them, before the League of Nations. I daresay you all know that Article 19 of the League of Nations allows, and indeed encourages, members to bring before the League, Treaties which are obsolete or require modification. Mr. Chamberlain is anxious to accept their offer to recognize the existing frontiers of France and Belgium. The difficult point arises as to what is to happen as regards the frontiers between Germany and Poland. Some people say Poland must keep the frontiers which she has. She has the same right to them as anyone else. Other countries believe Poland would do well to try and win the friendship, or, if this be too much, to try and disarm the hostility of Germany by some territorial sacrifice. Poland is all right now, because she is supported by France, the strongest military country in Europe, but she knows very well that Great Britain refuses to guarantee her frontiers. We have refused this definitely again and again, and if Germany and Russia ever recover their strength, which they are sure to do, it may make her position very difficult and dangerous.

I leave the position of European security in the most interesting condition. I do hope when you see a German Government coming forward without pressure to recognize that Alsace-Lorraine is gone for ever, but in return to reserve for themselves the right to attempt later on, by passive means, to get some modification or ratification of their new frontiers on the east, you will treat their proposals with every consideration and sympathy.

I have given you a very long lecture, and hope I shall send you away in a mood neither unduly enthusiastic, nor unduly depressed. The worst service than anyone can render to his own country or the world is to despair, and however difficult and however dark the European situation may be, there is no need for anyone to despair. There are so many people in other countries trying to improve things and longing to live at peace with their fellow-citizens within their countries, that I think there is a reasonable chance of bringing Europe into a more passive, prosperous and contented position than that which she occupies to-day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—We have been very pleased to read that the proposed Military Tax Bill, which had been submitted by the Federal Council to the Federal Assembly over two years ago, has now been definitely abandoned.

We take this opportunity of thanking the good number of Swiss, from all parts of Switzerland, who signed the petition drawn up by Mr. O. Braga, in conjunction with us, and addressed to the National Council and the States Council. The proposed law, as far as the Swiss abroad were concerned, endeavoured to raise the provisions of the famous *ordonnance* to the status of Federal law. The fundamental principles of that measure are, however, so radically opposed to the sentiments of the Ticinesi—and, no doubt, also to those of the good old Swiss—that we felt it was essential that the proposed law should be routed.

The main points of the petition were, briefly:

(a) That the Federal Council, in drawing up the Bill, had not respected the constitutional rights of the Swiss abroad, nor the competence of the Cantons, and that the Federal Assembly was, therefore, bound to summarily reject the Bill;

(b) That the proposed law, if applied, would, in our mind, infringe rules of International Law, and the sovereign rights of foreign nations, and

could only lead to friction, with consequent loss of honour for Switzerland and the Swiss abroad;

(c) That the proposed law was in effect reducing Swiss citizenship, as far as the Swiss abroad were concerned, to the level of a club membership, with yearly subscription, and would only drive the Swiss away.

With Mr. Braga and other Ticinesi we also submitted a copy of the petition to our Cantonal Government, and asked them to submit a motion, as a Government, to the Federal Assembly, for the rejection of the Bill, independent of the action which might be taken by the members of the Ticino.

From within the ranks of the Federal Assembly we were promised substantial support when the measure came up for discussion, but early in February the Federal Council wrote to the Commission of the National Council, which had examined the Bill, that they were prepared to accept a motion for total rejection. The Last Post was thereby sounded on the proposed law.

It is true that the criticism levelled from other quarters influenced the decision, although it was mostly directed towards an amendment of the money provisions, but we are glad that we shall be safe, for some time at any rate. Yours faithfully,
W. NOTARI, S. BIANCHI.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—With all respect for the idealism underlying the report and the letter from "A. D." in the last issue of the *S.O.*, regarding the Concert at Caxton Hall, I feel that the writers have not done our Colony justice. In order to show my philanthropy or appreciation for the splendid work of the Swiss Benevolent Society, it is not necessary to make the pilgrimage to Caxton Hall: I need simply respond to a personal appeal, contribute my mite to one of the collections of the numerous dinners, or pay for some Concert tickets.

From the bad attendance further no deduction can reasonably be made as to a penury of understanding for good music in our Colony. The great many opportunities in London for seeking musical inspiration must not be overlooked; if Queen's Hall or Albert Hall are nearer to our homes than Caxton Hall, nobody can blame us for giving preference to the former. But need we go out at all in the evening for the enjoyment of high-class music? Can we not simply turn on the wireless or the gramophone, sit in a comfortable armchair and listen to all the best music that has ever been produced, and to all the great stars?

I am sure Mr. A. F. S. and Mr. A. D. do not expect their compatriots to attend a Swiss Concert solely in fulfilment of a patriotic duty. The whole problem should be viewed from the angle of a simple business proposition: how can the programme be made so attractive as to fill the concert hall? The first and foremost condition seems to me to be that the concert must be totally different from any other concert in London; the Swiss stamp should be written all over it. In one word, it must be Swiss—Swiss! For me—and probably for a good many of my compatriots—a pot-pourri of Swiss tunes, a few jodels and some of our homely folk-songs are worth a long string of classical items—at a Swiss Concert. Not highbrow music, but national music, that revives old memories and pictures patriotic fantasies, is what the great majority of London Swiss expect on such an occasion.

The last concert of the N.S.H. may have been Swiss from A to Z—previous concerts were far from it—but nobody except the committee knew beforehand, because no programme was printed on the invitations sent out. This, I consider, was the primary cause of the failure, because not many of us like to sacrifice a comfortable evening at home without knowing what compensation is in store for us. The organisers of the Fête Suisse make the same mistake; for the Colony at large the programme is of more importance than the names of the gentlemen constituting the committee.

Yours faithfully,
F. BEYLI.

(We have an interesting letter on this topic from another correspondent, which, for lack of space, we are compelled to hold over till next week.—Ed.)

SWISS SPORTS.

The Committee of the Swiss Sports have been making full preparation for the forthcoming Swiss Sports Day on Saturday, May 23rd, at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

There will be all the usual races, and entry forms have to be sent without delay to Mr. C. Mayr, Swiss Bank Corporation, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, by the 9th May at the latest.

Given a fine day, there should be fine sport to be seen at Herne Hill.

TENNIS.

As announced in our last issue, the final of the London Parks Singles Winter Tournament will be played to-day between our compatriot, Mr. E. Flury (Highbury Fields) and Mr. Mattocks (Ashburton-Croydon). The match, which will start at 2.30 p.m., takes place on the Courts of the British Legion, 204, Upper Clapton Road, E.5, and the public is admitted free of charge.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

By arrangement with the Swiss Postal Authorities, TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES, which can be cashed at any Post Office in Switzerland, are obtainable at the Offices of the Bank.

The WEST END BRANCH open Savings Bank Accounts on which interest will be credited at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI, 5 MAI au Restaurant GATTI, 436, Strand, W.C.2, et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h. (5/6 par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour:

Procès-verbal.	Election du Comité
Admissions.	des Fêtes.
Démotions.	Divers.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of "The Swiss Observer" to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2
(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 3 Mai, 11h. et 6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Jeudi, 7 Mai.—Visite des Asiles Barnardo. Rendez-vous, Liverpool Street Station, plateforme 18. Départ 2.45. Invitation cordiale aux jeunes filles.

MARIAGE.

Joseph Anton MULLER, d'Emmensee (Lucerne) et Hedwig HAEBERLI, d'Amerswyl (St. Gall)—le 22 Avril 1925.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Mountview 1798.) Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 3. Mai, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.

Am Ausgang wird eine Sammlung veranstaltet werden für die Obdachlosen und Brandgeschädigten in Suis (Engadin).

6.30 nachm.—Gesangsgottesdienst in der Kirche St. Anne.

Dienstag, 5. Mai, 3 Uhr nachm.—Frauenverein im Foyer Suisse.

GETAUFT.

Norman Max Heinrich WEISS, Sohn des Max Jakob Weiss, von Aeugst a. Albis (Zürich) und der verstorbenen Elise geb. Weidmann, von Horgen.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1 Uhr, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2 (St. Anne's Church);

Mittwoch, 12—2 Uhr, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, May 8th.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by J. T. Mustard, Esq., on "Robberies through the Ages."

Tuesday, May 12th, at 8 p.m.—DELEGATES' MEETING of the "SWISS SPORTS" at the Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, May 15th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Reading and discussion of a Lecture by Monsieur Ed. Recordon on "La N.S.H. et le problème de l'éducation nationale" at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, May 23rd, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Thursday, June 25th, from 6 to 10.30 p.m.—"FETE SUISSE" at Caxton Hall.