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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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OUR HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS.

By THE EDITOR.

What about the promised enrichment of contents? Many readers may be asking this on turning over the customary four pages of this issue of the *Swiss Observer*, the first number published under the new régime. "The title, indeed, has been enriched, but as to the rest, it remains pretty much the same."

It is unfortunately quite impossible for the new management to mark the beginning of its functioning with a bumper-number such as might be expected of an ordinary commercial venture with lots of shareholders' money to throw about, heading for a sensational success or utter ruin. We have no Gilbert Frankaus at our command, nor any cash to inspire the imagination of might-be contributors. Nor do we think we need all this to make the *Swiss Observer* a success in its own modest sphere, which might, perhaps, prove to be considerably wider than seems probable at first sight.

As has been explained in the last issue, our primary aim is to carry on the very useful rôle of the *Swiss Observer* as a living link between the members of our colony. In this rôle we have a solid, if at the same time somewhat stolid, reputation and tradition to base our efforts on. The various regular features of the *Swiss Observer*, as edited by Mr. Boehringer, have all—apart, perhaps, from the thrilling list of publications of the "Verein für Verbreitung Guter Schriften"—proved their worth. They have filled a decided need in our Colony, and they must therefore continue to fill a large part of our paper, the "Home News," the "Notes and Gleanings," with quotations from the English Press on Swiss affairs, and the reports on the social and other events in the Colony.

But it cannot be denied that some of these features could be improved upon, and that is the first thing we mean to do. The society reports are in this respect perhaps *hors concours*—beyond criticism, as certainly are the impressive titles of the lectures rashly embarked on by ardent students of the S.M.S. But these society reports can, ought to and will be considerably extended—not in details, we hasten to assure the reader, but in the field they cover. We want to hear, also, from our compatriots in the Midlands and the North, and possibly from other parts of the Empire. In this respect the *Swiss Observer* has been sadly lacking up to the present. We do not want to remain merely a local newspaper. We have Imperial ambitions! And even if we can only hope to reach, say, half our compatriots in the British Isles, the Dominions and Colonies, this seems to us an important enough mission.

But for this purpose we feel we must try to provide other reading matter apart from the regular features already mentioned. And not being in possession of large funds, which might permit us to compete in the art of entertaining with *Tit-Bits*, *John Bull*, the *Spectator* or the *New Statesman*, there is only one hope for us for getting original reading matter likely to capture all our compatriots' interest. And that is, that everybody in our Colony who has something interesting to say to his compatriots should do so through our columns. We have been laughed at for naively hoping to get any of our shy, reticent and often secretive compatriots to commit their innermost thoughts and experiences to the publicity of the *Swiss Observer*. But we refuse to be pessimistic. There are so many things of interest to us all, that lack of a theme would be no excuse for anybody. Already one or two gentlemen have, in fact, promised their contribution of an article, and we trust that others will follow soon.

Amongst other articles we hope to be able to get, for example, accounts of the activities and development of some branches of Swiss commerce and industry in this country, as well as of individual firms and personalities of importance. Very interesting it would be to hear of the work and difficulties of the Swiss employment agencies in England. The relations of our home industries to present-day England with her Protectionist tendencies could usefully be discussed in our columns. The possibilities of collective advertising in emulation of the "Buy British Goods" campaign might be explored.

But we trust that also the cultural merits and, maybe, shortcomings of our nation may find their reflection in the *Swiss Observer*. The question, previously touched on in our columns by various correspondents (most recently by our charming "compatriot by adoption" Captain Gyde), of the better propagation of the very high merits of some Swiss men of letters, painters, sculptors and musicians in the Anglo-Saxon world, we hope may be discussed to some practical effect. Perhaps we may be in the position to publish collections of views on Switzerland, as expressed by well-known English authors, appreciative and flattering ones as well as, by way of a wholesome corrective, critical and even rude ones. On occasions we might also find it interesting to compare conditions prevailing in England and Switzerland, comparisons not invariably, though, we fondly hope, mostly, favourable to our own country.

But will nobody, please, mistake this alluring list of themes for articles as a promise. They are suggestions, thrown out at random in the hope of stimulating some readers to go and try out their writing talents—hitherto unexpected, maybe—on any one of them, or better still, to go and discourse on something much more interesting! And please do it soon. Let us know what you propose to write on and by what time we may hope to receive your contribution (the literary one, *bien entendu*, as the financial contributions and subscriptions, we trust, will come rolling in without any such delay). Any article submitted should preferably be in English, understood by all of us. But we shall naturally also be grateful for contributions in any of our home languages, although their appeal will be more limited. And let no one be deterred by the fear that he cannot express himself in a perfect literary manner. The Editor and his collaborators will gladly try to correct any such short-comings as best they can.

As a first improvement we have already succeeded in considerably enlarging the "Home News" column, thanks to the efforts of the following gentlemen, who will regularly compile the news from the German, French and Italian part of Switzerland: Mr. Boehringer, Mr. Dupraz and Mr. Braga. But if readers would now and then send cuttings from their own local papers it would be a great help. Mr. Bretscher has generously undertaken to continue to prepare the "Notes and Gleanings" whenever he can. But as to any extra articles we entirely rely and depend on other members of the Swiss Colony to supply them voluntarily and lavishly.

The Provisional Committee who have, for the coming months, taken over the administration and publication of the *Swiss Observer*, have asked me to contribute a few lines of encouragement to the first number published under their auspices.

I am with pleasure that I comply with this request. I am thus given a new opportunity of expressing my gratification at knowing the *Swiss Observer* is safely in the best of care at the moment when a crisis was threatening its very existence; for it was by no means certain, after the retirement of the former Editor, Mr. Boehringer, whether efficient arrangements could be made for its continuation.

Owing to the readiness and the patriotic gesture of the new Members of the Committee, this precious aim has now been reached. Surely, there is no reason to doubt that their efforts and devotion will find the full support of the members of our Swiss Colony.

As for the Legation, the Committee may rest assured of its assistance and goodwill, and I am glad to say that the Swiss Consulates in Great Britain have also given proof of their and their provincial Colonies' interest in the new enterprise.

C. R. PARAVICINI.

Swiss Legation, 26th Feb., 1929.

HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

Persistent statements in the Italian Press and some Swiss papers that the Swiss Minister in Rome, M. Wagnière, is about to be changed for a diplomat of the Catholic faith, are officially contradicted. It is added that it is not the intention of the Federal Council to accredit a diplomatic representative at the Vatican.

LOCAL.

Die offiziellen Mitteilungen über die Bevölkerungsbewegung in Winterthur im vergangenen Jahre ergeben einen Zuwachs von 1551 und eine Gesamtbevölkerung von 54,725 Seelen. Davon sind 15,720 Stadtbürger, 14,027 Kantonsbürger, 20,603 Bürger anderer Kantone und 4375 Ausländer. Die Staatszugehörigkeit der letzteren verteilt sich wie folgt: Deutschland 2691, Italien 1121, Oesterreich 309, Tschechoslowakei 64, Frankreich 61, Niederlande 25, übrige europäische Staaten 99, Asien 3, und heimatlos 2. Z.Z.

Der Stadtrat in Zürich beantragt dem Grossen Stadtrat zur dringlichen Beschlussfassung einen Kredit von 47,000 Franken zur bewilligten zur Ausrichtung einer ausserordentlichen Kältebeihilfe an alle versicherten Arbeitslosen, die seit mindestens 14 Tagen arbeitslos sind. Die Beihilfe soll für Alleinstehende 15 Fr., für Verheiratete ohne Kinder 30 Fr. und für verheiratete mit Kindern 50 Fr. betragen. N.Z.

Der Urner Landrat genehmigte die Verbreiterung der Strasse Altdorf-Flüelen um zwei Meter im Kostenvoranschlag von 45,000 Fr. und wählte an Stelle des verstorbenen Majors Tresch als Mitglied des Bankrates der Urner Kantonalbank Landrat Karl Muheim in Altdorf. Ferner genehmigte er die Jahresrechnung der Urner Kantonalbank für 1927, aus deren Reingewinn 40,000 Fr. der Staatskasse zugeführt werden. Angenommen wurde die neue Vollziehungsverordnung betreffend Motorfahrzeuge, welche die Fahrbewilligung, die Taxen und die Geschwindigkeiten genau regelt. Am Nachtfahrverbot für Lastwagen wurde mehrheitlich festgehalten. Z.Z.

Ein seit einigen Jahren in Luzern wohnhaftes Ehepaar stellte der Stadt Luzern für den Erhaltung eines Kunst- und Konzerthauses den Betrag von zwei Millionen Franken als Schenkung zur Verfügung. Der Betrag ist bis zum Ableben des Gönners und seiner Gemahlin angemessen zu verzinsen. Das Kunst- und Konzerthaus ist östlich des Bahnhofes anstelle der jetzigen Festhalle zu errichten. Es wird damit das mehrjährige Postulat des Baues eines grösseren Saales erfüllt. Mit den Bauarbeiten soll im Frühjahr 1930 begonnen und der Bau auf die Luzerner Zentenarfeier von 1932 vollendet werden. N.Z.

Die Eisschicht war in der letzten Woche auf dem Untersee überall so dick, dass die ganze Seefläche von Ermatingen bis Radolfzell und von der Insel Reichenau bis Mammern mit den schwersten Lastautos passiert werden konnte. Von Allenspach nach der Insel Reichenau führen täglich schwere vierspännige Holzfahrwerke über den See. N.Z.

Zwischen Steckborn und Hemmenhofen brach am Sonntag ein Auto im See ein und sank. Der Wagen, in dem sich ein deutsches Ehepaar mit seinem Sohne befand, kam von der Reichenau her. Die drei Personen, die in Oehlingen wohnen, konnten gerettet werden. Z.Z.

Büchsenmacher Daubenmeier von Dietikon besitzt eigene Schiessanlagen und Apparate eigener modernster Konstruktion für das Einschiessen von Waffen aller Art. Am Samstag morgen erschien bei ihm der in der Kaserne Zürich stationierte, 1895 geborene Kantonspolizist Heinrich Greutert, ein in Schützenkreisen bekanntes Mitglied des Revolvers- und Pistolenschießvereins dieses Korps sowie der Standschützengesellschaft Neumünster. Greutert wollte eine erst kürzlich gekaufte neue Matchpistole einschiessen lassen. Die Waffe wurde von Daubenmeier in die Maschine eingespannt und bedient. Greutert überwachte im Scheibenstand den Einschlag der einzelnen Schüsse und nummerierte diese. Es war abgemacht, dass in einem gewissen Intervall 10 Schüsse auf die gleiche Scheibe abgegeben werden sollten, worauf die Kontrolle für die Regulierung der Pistole vorgesehen war. Aus noch nicht festgestellter Ursache kam Greutert aber bereits vorher aus dem gesicherten Scheibenstande