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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Summer Meeting at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon, on Tuesday, June 15th.

We wish to direct the attention of the members of the City Swiss Club and their friends, to the summer meeting, which will take place on the 15th of this month (Tuesday) at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See advert. Front page).

As already mentioned, the committee of the Club has made arrangements to secure artistes and it is hoped that a large number of members and their friends will attend this gathering, which promises to be a most enjoyable one.

The Committee would greatly appreciate, if those, who wish to attend, would send in their names as early as possible, so as to avoid any disappointment.

FETE SUISSE.

Am Donnerstag, den 17. Juni feiern wir in der Central Hall, Westminster zum 68. Male das Familienfest unserer Colonie. Dazu sind alle lieben Landsleute dringend und herzlich eingeladen. Trägt auch der Einzelne die Liebe zur Heimat tief und unauslöschlich in seinem Herzen, so kann ihn dieses Für-sich-Alleinsein und-fühlen nie ganz befriedigen. Kinder eines und desselben Landes wollen dieser Freude am gemeinsamen Besitz miteinander Ausdruck geben. Erst "wo der Scheiter viel in einer Flamme brennen, wird das Gefühl es an vermehrter Glut erkennen." Und wir hoffen, dass diese paar Stunden des Beisammenseins den Willen zu festem Zusammenstehen beleben möchten.

Das Programm wollen wir nicht verraten. Ansprachen, Einzel und Chorgesang, Instrumentalmusik klassischer und volkstümlicher Art werden uns erfreuen. — Di eAlpen schicken uns ihren warm leuchtenden Blumengruss. — Hunger und Durst zu stillen haben wir reichlich Gelegenheit von 6-7 Uhr und in der Grossen Pause zwischen 8 und 9 Uhr. Die "Festküche" trägt wie immer in verständnisvoller Weise den Liebhabereien Rechnung. Deswegen "Auf zum heimatlichen Fest am 17. Juni!"

THE NARCISSUS.

Yearly at the end of May Switzerland celebrates the festival of the narcissus, which grows in such abundance that it whitens the meadows known as sub-Alpine, higher up than the topmost peak of England, but easily reached by the special railways. Such a vision of flowers seems to a Londoner like the snow-capped mountains on the other side of the great lake, an unsubstantial pageant doomed to fade after a moment of beauty. But the thousands of blossoms picked for local vases and sent to all parts of the world do not sensibly reduce the supply. The narcissus flourishes like a weed, drooping gracefully at slightly different heights in massed groups of Nature's cunning arrangement. The charming white petals with their yellow centres neatly fringed with red are more familiar in some meadows above Glion than buttercups. Here, if anywhere, even a gloomy solitary like Matthew Arnold's Obermann might grow cheerful.

The plant, once known as Primrose-peerless, is called *poeticus* and is enshrined in great poetry. Sapphoes more than 2,000 years ago, in the wonderful play of his old age, *Oedipus at Colonus*, and the famous chorus praising his native township, introduces "the fair clusters of the narcissus, ever from day to day freshened by heavenly dew, the ancient crown of the great goddesses." According to legend the narcissus was the last flower plucked by Persephone before she was torn away below by Dis. Bacon in his curious search for allegories in the Greek mythology, "The Wisdom of the Ancients," includes "Proserpine, or Spirit," and suggests the derivation still accepted from the Greek *narke* :—

It is elegantly added, that Proserpine was ravished while she gathered Narcissus flowers which have their name from numbness or stupefaction.

The meadows, which must be a trial to cut, since they are seldom on a level and often precipitous, are more brilliant in their combination of colour than anything in England. The main effect is not the usual yellow; the white of the narcissus is varied by the purple stains of a geranium not common with us, though I have seen it in the Lakes. These are the two main colours, but at the edge of the pasture yellow is prominent in masses of the Kidney Vetch, flower-heads closely packed in a bunch which fade off to pale green. A closer view here shows the prevalence of blue and purple. The blue includes a scabious out before late summer, campanulas, speedwells, and milkwort. These flowers appear in species like ours but larger and deeper in colour. Both on the heights and at a lower level

the meadow salvia with its abundant purple spikes cannot be missed. The columbine is blue or dark purple and well contrasted with the rounded spires of the bistort, a delicate pink which rises above the general level of the mead. The sainfoin and clover larger than ours show a note of red. The *Centaurea* is a glorified knapweed with a red centre and blue florets. Orchises vary from light mauve to red, reddish-purple, green, and the brown of the Bird's-nest orchis, which helps to subdue the brighter colours, like the grey-pink blossoms of the *Astrantia*, Buttercups, white keeksies, and hawkweeds grow in plenty, but they do not dominate the pasture as in England. The nettles are red and yellow; the green plague so frequent with us is comparatively quiescent, reduced, perhaps, by the Swiss feeling for neatness and order. Here, too, is none of the litter which disfigures ground opened to our public by the National Trust.

Except where the narcissus has, like our English fritillaries at Strathfieldsaye, occupied the ground with the steady insistence of a trade union and dwarfed rival plants, a rich variety is the feature of the scene. Everything seems to hurry out, plants of spring with those of summer. I suppose that seed-time must come as soon as possible before the bleak weather which often threatens to tear and shatter the plants. That same weather can come in June and spoil the photographer's hopes of recording snow-capped mountains, wooden chalets, and dark pine-trees. Clouds have a way of capping the hills and Lowell's "What is so rare as a day in June?" can take on a bitter sense of seldom sun and frequent rain. A visitor cannot wait for brighter prospects and serener skies. He has to return to London, where Swiss Cottage is only a railway station and travelling underground seems for a brief while a mad business.

T.

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger. Berne, le 5 Juin, 1937. Bundesgasse 40.

Aux Légations et Consuls de Suisse à l'Etranger,

Aux Groupes et Membres correspondants de l'Organisation des Suisses à l'Etranger et aux autres Sociétés suisses de l'Europe et de l'Afrique du Nord.

Messieurs et chers Compatriotes, Nous avons le plaisir de vous annoncer que le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger s'est mis d'accord avec la Pro Juventute pour organiser de nouveau cette année des

Voyages Collectifs Destinés à la Jeunesse Suisse à l'Etranger.

Pour le détail de nos plans, nous vous renvoyons au prospectus ci-inclus que nous vous prions de distribuer aux intéressés. Les conditions du change étant pour nombre d'entre vous plus favorables que l'an dernier, nous espérons pouvoir donner cette fois-ci à notre effort un développement plus grand, bien que les moyens limités mis à notre disposition nous forcent à rester modestes.

Comme nous vous l'avions déjà dit précédemment, la situation matérielle des participants ne doit pas entrer en ligne de compte. Ce que nous voulons, ce sont des jeunes gens à l'esprit ouvert et réceptif, qui portent de l'intérêt à leur patrie, et qui jouissent en plus de cela d'une bonne santé et d'une résistance suffisante. Dans la règle, l'âge requis ne doit pas être inférieur à 17 ans et ne pas dépasser 21 ans. Les frais s'élèveront à 120 francs suisses par personne. (frais de voyage et d'organisation compris), mais nous ne demanderons que 85 francs à chaque participant: le reste sera couvert par un fonds spécial et par des dons que nous espérons obtenir d'autre part.

Afin de maintenir notre budget en équilibre, nous ne voudrions descendre que tout à fait exceptionnellement au-dessous de ce montant. Nous sommes cependant disposés, moyennant une requête pressante et motivée de votre part, d'accorder une plus forte réduction dans certains cas particuliers; nous pensions notamment aux jeunes gens qui auraient de grands frais de voyage pour venir en Suisse ou qui bénéficieraient moins que d'autres de la dévaluation du franc suisse. Dans tous les cas, nous vous saurions gré de bien vouloir nous donner, en plus d'une recommandation, des informations — qui resteront confidentielles — sur tout ce qui pourra nous permettre de prendre une décision en connaissance de cause. De même, nous vous serions reconnaissants de nous faire connaître les possibilités qu'aurait votre colonie d'accorder elle aussi un subside aux intéressés.

Nous vous prions instamment de bien vouloir attirer l'attention des jeunes gens de votre entourage sur la magnifique occasion que nous leur offrons d'apprendre à connaître leur pays. Cette année-ci, toutes les demandes de participation devront être adressées au Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger. Elles doivent

être rédigées de manière personnelle et renseigner notamment sur l'âge, sur la formation reçue par le requérant et sur sa profession. Elles seront accompagnées d'un certificat médical et de votre recommandation. Comme il est probable que le nombre des requérants dépassera celui des admissions possibles, nous devons nous réserver de faire un choix. Les non admis pourront participer éventuellement à un groupe qui serait organisé pour une date ultérieure.

Nous remercierons directement ceux qui se seront annoncés sur toutes les questions de détail: départ, horaires, équipement, argent de poche, etc.

En vous remerciant sincèrement d'avance de la peine que vous voudrez bien prendre en nous aidant de votre collaboration, nous vous prions d'agréer, Messieurs et chers Compatriotes, l'expression de nos sentiments les meilleurs.

Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger: A. Briod. G. Schürch.

MONSIEUR NEWS THEATRE. Piccadilly Circus.

This theatre is showing a series of short films of topical interest. Amongst them is a Swiss film, entitled "Snow Water" dealing with the irrigation system of the Valais. This picture will interest all lovers of Switzerland, as the photography is exceedingly good. It would perhaps have been better if the "human story" as the programme describes it, had been omitted, and the reel shown purely as a travel film.

The other films deal with such subjects as Norway, the polish frontier, and gliding.

Ein Musikalischer Ferienkurs in Braunwald. (Kt. Glarus) unter dem Protektorat der Regierung d. Kts. Glarus.

Ein musikalischer Ferienkurs, der zweifellos auch unsere Schweizer in England interessieren dürfte, wird vom 12.—19. Juli in Braunwald abgehalten über das Thema: "Die Romantik in der Musik." Mitwirken werden dabei *Ria Ginster* (Sopran), *Paul Baumgartner* (Klavier) und *Emanuel Feuermann* (Violoncello), lauter Künstler von internationaler Bedeutung. — Die einleitenden Vorträge hält Prof. Dr. A.-E. Cherbuliez von der Universität Zürich. — Der eigentliche Kurs dauert nur Vormittags von 9 - 11 Uhr, während der übrige Tag frei ist. — Es besteht dagegen die Möglichkeit, sich in privaten Kursen (kleinen Arbeitsgruppen) weiterzubilden in musikhistorischen Fragen, oder in Gesang, Klavier und Violoncello. — Daneben sind eine Reihe *gesellschaftlicher Anlässe* vorgesehen: z. B. ein offizielles Bankett in Gegenwart eines Vertreters der Regierung, ferner zwei öffentliche Konzerte am Abend und ein heimatlicher Sonntagnachmittag. — Der Kurs wendet sich an alle Musikfreunde und verlangt keinerlei musikalische Vorbildung. — Eine Kurskarte kostet 30.— Fr. — Während des Kurses sind versuchsweise *Uebertragungen von Braunwald* durch einen privaten *Kurzwellsender* (41,08 m) vorgesehen, sodass auswärtige Kursmitglieder z. B. die Möglichkeit haben, Abends Grüsse an ihre Angehörigen in England oder sonst in Europa aufzugeben. Gewiss eine Neuerung, die begeistert Aufnahme finden wird!

Prospekte erhältlich. Anmeldungen und Anfragen sind zu richten an die Leitung des Kurses: Dr. N. Schmid, Kurs Braunwald, Postfach Fraumünster 254, Zürich, (Schweiz).

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH. (By Leu & Co.'s Bank Limited, Zurich.)

Zurich, June 7th, 1937.

The past month was of a decidedly unfavourable character. Too many disturbing factors influenced business at the stock exchange which suffered besides considerable shrinkage in turnovers also marked declines in prices. Capital seemed very cautious for investments, not knowing how the political situation in Europe would turn out. Would it be possible to localise war in Spain, or was the bombardment of Almeria just the sign for the outbreak of greater disturbances? Furthermore rumours about alteration of the gold price caused considerable anxiety and though the Swiss markets never were directly pressed by abnormal liquidations, the excessive shipments of gold to the U.S.A. were watched closely and discouraged new commitments. All this was reason enough for smaller activity, and

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since speculation has not quite recovered from the sharp reaction in April, all stock exchanges are waiting for more definite signs about the future trend.

With regard to the different groups of stocks, banking shares showed least nervousness. While the majority changed little, a small number were extremely firm, especially in the last few days.

Among the Swiss trust companies Motor-Columbus viewed the biggest turnovers. Starting with a price of 354 they rose as high as 358. After considerable oscillation the lowest price was 341. Presently they are traded again at about 345. Continentale Linoleum Union after deduction of a 14% dividend declined to 208 against 230 and show now less activity. Holding Brown Boverie suffered a drop of almost 40 points upon publication of the main company's not too favourable annual report. Other stocks such as Elektrobank, Indelec, Italo-Suisse, etc., went with the trend and daily gains were lost as quickly as they came.

Also insurance stocks ranged weaker, mostly because of the detachment of the coupons called for smaller demands.

Decidedly lower was the tendency for industrial securities. While Aluminium after a short lasting increase to 2755 fell back to 2720, its beginning price, Nestlé, Sulzer, Lonza sell now 5 - 10 Frs. lower. Losses of 20 - 25 points registered Saurer and Brown Boverie, the latter having been able to make a very small benefit only for the past year, which was disappointing.

American railway stocks were offered considerably and though they registered sometimes slightly over parity with New York, it never was for long. One of the few shares with substantial gains were Hispano. In May they sagged below the 1675 mark. Now they are looked for again at 1730, as the dividend increase was up to expectation. A fairly steady market encountered also Italo-Argentina, another South-American electric stock. Somewhat nervous was the trend of Royal Dutch. Evidently expectations for a higher final dividend and a possible bonus, as was distributed with other affiliated companies within the Royal Dutch-Shell concern, were not fully satisfied. The stock was fluttering for a while, but since informations from the oil industry sound still promising same gained ground again.

Also the bond market was influenced by the general inactivity. The Swiss gilt-edged bonds made a very good showing and recovered fully from their early weakness. Their average yield is around 3.47%. A small market exists only for Cantonal securities, with bids mostly and no offers. Several Cantonal Governments took advantage of this situation and are selling new 3½% bond issues to the public with success. Among the foreign bonds German securities met with some interest, especially funding bonds, as the Swiss German clearing arrangement is expected to bring some betterment to financial creditors. French bonds still are uncertain and are looked upon with great hesitancy.

A STROLL THROUGH THREE CANTONS.

"Of all ways of living," says Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "the most agreeable, to my mind, is to journey on foot in fine weather, through a beautiful country, and without the necessity of arriving anywhere..." Most of us are bound, alas! to arrive somewhere, but while our holidays last, we can still, if we look for them, find beautiful countries in which to endorse Jean-Jacques' opinion.

The Alps abound in bridle paths and tracks unmentioned in the guide books, waiting to be explored, offering rich treasures to walkers who do not mind skirting round the places with famous names. One such adventure starts at Martigny, in the Rhône Valley, and takes you among some of Valais' wildest and most beautiful mountains, shows you what Vaud can do in the way of rugged desolation, and then leads you over the grandeur of the Santesch Pass into the Oberland.

At Martigny you step into the little mountain railway which takes you to Sembrancher, on the road to the Great St. Bernard Pass, where motor charabancs thunder all day long. But our way lies to the left, under the Crèveasse de Sembrancher, where you may find stone rings in the rock at 5,000 feet above sea level, which, they will tell you, were used by prehistoric men as anchorage for their boats! By now you have left all motor traffic behind, and are climbing the tortuous old mule-track to Verbier.

Picturesque as this village is, if you are wise you will not sleep here, but push on to Montzeur, on its flower-starred plateau. It is only lately that Montzeur has leapt into popularity as a skiing resort with the youth of the Rhône Valley. It still remains practically solitary in summer, but the result of its winter season has been the mushroom growth of two or three excellent hotels.

If you can tear yourself away from the acres and acres of sulphur anemones, paradise lilies and bell gentians which make Montzeur a heavenly scented garden, then you should con-

tinue on your way, early in the morning, to the Cabane de Montfort, passing by Clambin. This is no village, but a handful of sun-bronzed chalets on the outskirts of a forest, the Grand Combin's dazzling whiteness seemingly only a stone-throw across the valley, and the bells of Châble, 3,000 feet below, coming up through the greenery like the ringing of Debussy's underwater Cathedral. Some of these chalets are to let during the summer months.

The Cabane Montfort is at 8,125 feet, and from it energetic walkers can climb the Rosa Blanche, the Montfort, and the Beac des Roxes before turning eastwards along the ridge of the Becca de la Grande Journée, to drop down past the old silver mines to the Col des Etablons. This pass is at 7,000 feet, and if you cross it in that most perfect of Alpine summer months, June, you may find snow there, and for a good way down on the other side.

The picturesque event of the season on these high pastures is the Battle of the Herd, and it is well worth seeing. For centuries the proud position of Queen of the Herd has been fought for by the sturdy little brown cows which are driven up to graze the sweet grass as the snow melts. The rivalry is as intense between the cows as it is between the owners, and all the scattered hamlets turn out to cheer the winner, proud in her wide embroidered collar with its great clanging bell.

(To be continued.)

SOME ADVERTISEMENT.

The following advertisement has appeared in the "Anzeiger" of the town of Berne:

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Our contemporary "Das Aufgebot" makes the following adequate remarks:

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PERSONAL.

We express our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier, on the arrival of a daughter, both mother and baby are doing well. M. Meier is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

STREATHAM COMMON. Lady will receive in private house, paying guest, (Lady or Gentleman), electric light and electric fires. Near Station. Good service City and West-end. (15 minutes). Good food, no restrictions. Terms moderate. Write: Mrs. S. 97, Abercain Road, Streatham, S.W.16.

YOUNG SWISS GENTLEMAN wishes to spend his holiday (three weeks, beginning July 10th) in England. Parents would be prepared to take young Lady or Gentleman of Swiss parentage in exchange for same period. First class reference. Write to: Box No. 10, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

April 22nd — June 20th — The Swiss Exhibition — at Union House, Lower Regent Street, S.W.1. Open 10.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive. Saturday 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission free.

June — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — No Meeting.

Tuesday, June 15th, at 7.15 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Réunion d'été, at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

Thursday, June 17th — 68th Fête Suisse, at Central Hall, Westminster.

July 19th-31st — Haslemere Festival — under the direction of Arnold Dolmetsch, at the Haslemere Hall — Haslemere (Surrey.)

Wednesday, August 4th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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Dimanche, Juin 13.—11h.—Culte et prédication.

11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

7h. — Culte et prédication.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 13. Juni 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst. Confirmation und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

Sontagschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.