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Schwures. Mit sehnsüchtigen Blicken schauen wir aus weiter Ferne die Bergspitzen mit ewigem Schnee herniederleuchten auf unser Land und die ganze Welt. Sie rufen uns zu: Schweizer, vergiss deine Heimat nicht. Viele haben die Heimat verlassen, sind ausgewandert in alle Welt, die Not der Arbeitslosigkeit, der Drang nach der grossen Welt, Fehler und Schwächen der menschlichen Seele, haben sie sogar in die Fremden-Legion getrieben. Mutter Helvetia, auch diese Söhne gedenken Deiner an diesem Jahrestage; viele sind nicht mehr unter uns, sind gefallen auf Frankreichs Erde und in den Bergen von Norwegen für die Freiheit des Geisteslebens der Völker und die Freiheit der Demokratien der Welt. Nun ist die Legion aufgehoben; der Verrat und Betrug an der französischen Nation hat auch uns in eine schwierige Situation gebracht. Wir geniessen zur Zeit die Gastfreundschaft Englands sowie viel Sympathie und Entgegenkommen einer guten Bevölkerung, was wir an dieser Stelle herzlich verdanken. Viele sind zurück nach Frankreich, andere sind in Konzentrations-Lagern, der Rest ist Volontair. Die neue Formierung einer franz. Legion gibt uns allen zu denken. Nicht alles was glänzt ist Gold und wir sehen die grossen Gefahren, denen unser eigenes Land ausgesetzt ist. Wir appellieren deshalb an die Vertreter unseres Landes uns in unserer Verlassenheit beizustehen mit Rat und Tat. Gott schütze die Schweiz, Gott schütze England, Gott schütze den König.

* * *

Eglise Suisse. — Dimanche 28 juillet, l'Eglise Suisse était comble pour le culte patriotique célébré à l'occasion de la Fête nationale. Les membres des deux communautés s'étaient joints pour cette occasion, et le culte fut célébré en français et en allemand. C'était émouvant d'entendre chanter nos cantiques en des langues différentes, mais dans un même esprit.

Ce culte a non seulement permis aux Suisses de Londres de prier pour leur patrie, en ces temps sérieux. Il a affirmé l'unité spirituelle de notre colonie, unité plus nécessaire que jamais.

THE THOUSANDTH CLIMB.

(“The Times,” 6.8.1940.)

A well-known Swiss guide, M. Fritz Steuri, yesterday climbed the Jungfrau for the thousandth time. Many a yet active and able-bodied traveller, looking up at that mountain from even so high as the upper end of the Jungfrau railway, once and perhaps still the highest railway station in the world, must have vowed that so pure a maiden could never be overcome, so terrible a mountain never climbed. And, though it was as long ago as 1811 that the two Meyer brothers, of Aarau, first climbed the Jungfrau, the ascent was only made four times in the next forty years. The most beautiful mountain in the world, in the opinion of Mr. Ruskin, was not, he felt, properly appreciated by the travellers of his time. Its beauty may not yet be properly appreciated by the many to whom those three monarchs of the Bernese Oberland — the Mönch, the Eiger, and the Jungfrau — are made more than familiar by the coloured picture postcards. But no lover of beauty has failed to worship; no climber has

ever found the Jungfrau easy. Fifteen years ago Mr. F. S. Smythe, young and rash, nearly cut short his promising career on the quest. M. Fritz Steuri has climbed the Jungfrau a thousand times in thirty-six years — for one reason because he never underrated the difficulty of climbing her once.

In countries where active men, even in middle life, have other things to do just now M. Steuri's persistence in climbing the Jungfrau may suggest the activities which roused Kipling's fury at the flannelled fool and the muddied oaf. How nice to be able to go on climbing the Jungfrau and coming down again! But so long as our own people are urged to strenuous P.T. in the cause of Fitness for Service, so long will it be wise to consider whether the prudent and energetic people of Switzerland see in mountain climbing nothing but an exciting sport and a not unprofitable industry. Switzerland is said to have the finest H.G. in the world, a Citizen Army in which the whole nation is enrolled. And mountaineers to a man are the voluntary officers and men of the skier patrols, masters of snow and ice, at home in great altitudes and like chamois for mobility and physical fitness. In the land of William Tell, moreover, it is only natural that the tradition of straight shooting should be kept up. A Swiss *Schützenfest* is not an annual Bisley for the few; it is a recurrent and truly popular competition, because every man is a marksman, and the rivalry is as keen as it is widespread. Doubtless when M. Steuri is tired of climbing the Jungfrau he takes his rifle and scores bulls-eyes; and he and his fellow-climbers and fellow-shooters are doing more, as we shall do well to remember, than practise substitutes for cricket and football.

CORRESPONDENCE.

5th August, 1940.

The Editor,

The Swiss Observer,

23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

In your last issue, you gave amongst the names of Swiss pilots lost, Lieut. Homberger. I am in the happy position to say that Lieut. Homberger, although at the time very severely wounded, is now recovering. A wire received some little time ago mentioned that he was making good progress and was considered out of danger. The “Times” on June 10th reported on the engagement between Swiss and German aircraft and mentioning his name said that, although he was hit in the lungs by two bullets, he succeeded in landing his plane.

Some of your readers will remember Lieut. Homberger as one of the crew that won the famous victory for the Swiss colours at Henley a few years ago. He is a son of Mr. Ernst Homberger who is the Chairman of our Company (Britannia Iron & Steel Works Ltd.), as well as President of the well-known George Fischer Steelworks, Schaffhausen.

Perhaps you will be good enough to correct your last week's statement for the benefit of Mr. Homberger's friends in the Swiss Colony here.

Yours faithfully,

P. BUCHER.