

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1941)

Heft: 988

Rubrik: Editor's post-bag

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nossenschaft. Sie will mithelfen, die Erfahrungen und Lehren, die sich aus einem Rückblick auf die Geschichte unseres Landes ergeben, für die Zukunft nutzbringend und fruchtbar zu machen und sie ins Volk hinaus tragen. Die Geschichtswissenschaften, die uns diese Kenntnis vermitteln, sollen am Erträgnis der Sammlung teilhaben. Desgleichen auch die Schuljugend. Diese soll in einem kurzen, geschichtlichen Ueberblick, der allen Schulkindern als Jubiläumsgeschenk kostenlos verabfolgt wird, darüber belehrt werden, was diese sechseinhalb Jahrhunderte unserem Vaterland an Wohl und Wehe gebracht haben, was das Gedeihen des Staates fördert, was ihm schadet.

Die Zweckbestimmung der Sammlung wird so einer reinen Kulturaufgabe dienstbar gemacht.

Das mag in einem Zeitpunkt, da die materielle Not täglich grösser wird und immer weitere Kreise zieht, überraschen. Der Vorstand des Bundesfeier-Komitees verschliesst sich dieser Erkenntnis nicht; er musste sich aber sagen, dass wir ob der Sorge um die materielle Wohlfahrt unseres Landes auch die Wahrung seiner Kulturgüter nicht übersehen dürfen; sie sind für den Bestand und die Entwicklung eines modernen Staatswesens ebenso bedeutsam, wie die Befriedigung der leiblichen Bedürfnisse seiner Bewohner.

Die zahlreichen Schwierigkeiten machen im Verkehr mit vielen Schweizerkolonien die Benützung der Luftpost notwendig. Aus diesem Grunde ist es nicht möglich, dieser Sendung wie üblich ein Musterabzeichen, das ziemlich schwer ist, beizugeben. Das Abziehen ist eine naturgetreue Wiedergabe des Schwyzer Siegels im ersten Bundesbrief von 1291. Es ist das Symbol für die vor 650 Jahren erfolgte Grundsteinlegung zu unserm Schweizerhaus. Der Preis beträgt wie gewohnt 1 Schweizerfranken.

Wenn Sie uns Ihren Bedarf an solchen Abzeichen *rechtzeitig* bekannt geben, dürfen wir wohl hoffen, dass die Sendungen ihren Bestimmungsort auch erreichen; wir werden uns angelegen sein lassen, den Versand möglichst frühzeitig vorzunehmen.

Wir sehen darum Ihrem baldigen Bericht gerne entgegen und begrüßten Sie inzwischen

mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

SCHWEIZERISCHES BUNDESFEIER-KOMITEE
Für den Geschäftsausschuss

Mario Musso Dr. J. Brandenberger
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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

Many of our readers continue to place the Editor under an obligation and we acknowledge receipt of the following letters with grateful thanks:

* * *

Johannesburg.
April 3rd, 1941.

The Editor of the "Swiss Observer."

My dear Boehringer,

We were very pleased indeed at the reappearance of the "Swiss Observer," which we missed very much. We did not know for some time if the copies had been lost through enemy actions as a good many of our letters have been lost in that way, and it was not until the last number arrived that we heard you had been bombed almost out of existence. However, the "Swiss Observer" has apparently, fortunately, a good reserve strength of recovery, and we send you our heartiest congratulations on your safe escape, and wish you the very best for the future.

I do not notice anywhere in the paper the amount of the subscription, and I have forgotten it. (I am getting old and forget things) but I am sending you herewith a cheque for £3.0.0 which you will please credit me with for future subscriptions. I take it I shall see one of these days how far that carries me.

Our son Victor is up North. About two months ago he was at Lake Rudolph, and a month ago he wrote to us from Mogadischor, so by now I should not be surprised if he was at Addis Abbaba or in Asmara. He is in the South African Engineering Corps, and has been with the units who built the bridges over the Juba River in Italian Somaliland, therefore he follows in Father's footsteps who in his younger days was a Pontonier in the Swiss Army and was in 1914 during the mobilisation of the Swiss Army misused as a Pioneer Projecteur and stationed up in the Jura Mountains — a real insult to a Pontonier.

The younger son Rudolph has just completed a course as Platoon Sergt. in the Military School near Pretoria, and as the "Marcaronis" are now pretty well beaten it will probably not be necessary for him to go up North, as they call it here.

Hoping that you and your family as well as our friend Stauffer are all in good health.

With kindest regards from house to house.

Yours sincerely,

Theophile Schaerer.

P.S. — The only News we get here from Switzerland are those contained in your famous "Swiss Observer."

* * *

(The large circle of devoted friends which the Editor's "double" left behind in the London Colony will wish to join us in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Schaerer continued health and happiness and the best of good luck to their two sons.)

* * *

11th May, 1941.

Swiss Observer,

Dear Sir,

I am always very pleased to receive the "Swiss Observer" with all its news from the Old Country and would like therefore to send a small contribution (£1.0.0) for its upkeep. This, of course, does not include the ordinary contribution which may be sent for, any time it becomes due. I should have liked to send

you some more, but had my own troubles in one of the last "Blitzes" on Birmingham, we had our roof, etc., knocked in, the wife and I escaping with shocks, still our hearts are stout and we are looking with confidence to the future. So please "Carry On" sending good News from Switzerland.

Wishing the S.O. the very best of luck.

I am, yours faithfully,
Alfred F. Frikart.

* * *

May 14th, 1941.

Dear Sir,

I also enclose £1 towards the expenses of the "Swiss Observer," I feel sure all Swiss in this country deeply appreciate your work on our behalf.

Yours faithfully,
Dr. Charles Hagenbach.

* * *

Several other subscribers when renewing remitted 20/-. We take this to mean 12/- for 52 issues and 8/- towards expenses. We are thus indebted to P. Jordi, J. Sermier, R. E. Zurbrugg and Miss Dapples.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,

I venture to encroach upon your kindness to ask you to allow me some space in the "Swiss Observer" to mention a matter which is dear to my heart.

On the first of August next it will be 650 years since the foundation of what is to-day known as the Swiss Confederation. Undoubtedly our people at home will commemorate this anniversary with the same earnest resolution as they did 50 years ago, when in every town and village in Switzerland for weeks in advance, preparations were made fittingly and solemnly to remember the historic act on the Rütli. Never had our Country more justification to celebrate the meeting of the representatives of the original three cantons in the night of the first of August 1291 as it has to-day, and openly to re-iterate the promise then made, which started with the words "In the name of the Lord, Amen." Then also was the danger threatening, when the people of the valleys of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden promised to succour each other for all times, should either of them ever be in danger or distress. To-day when the Country is surrounded by belligerents it behoves the Swiss wherever they are to stand together and to face any danger that may threaten their borders or their liberties. And never have the Swiss been more united than they are to-day and this anniversary will be commemorated with dignity and solemnity due to that great occasion.

Doubtless we Swiss, who are away from our homeland will, wherever we are, give a grateful thought to the fact that our dear Country has up to now been spared the ravages of war or invasion. For this reason I venture to make an appeal to the Swiss Colony in London through your valued paper, to endeavour to find ways and means fittingly to commemorate the

650th Anniversary of the Swiss Confederation. It is not suggested to have a showy affair, just a serious gathering of all the members of the Colony without distinction, to give thanks that our Country has been spared the trials we are passing through here, to express faithful adherence to our native land and its constitution at the same time to express our firm confidence that democracy will ultimately come forth victorious. I believe that such a demonstration by members of a democratic people, which for 650 years has proved itself true to its principles can have but an encouraging effect on the people of our adopted country in which we are voluntary exiles.

Perhaps Mr. Editor you will be good enough to grant space to other Swiss who may or may not be of my opinion.

An old Swiss.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE. (Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

In view of further extensive damage suffered by the city of London through enemy action, it is found impracticable to continue divine services at St. Anne, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2. Our compatriots and friends will be pleased to hear that through the generosity of the West London Mission, a small Hall has been placed at our disposal, where we shall find a temporary home, until such time, as a church building can be found. As a result our services, commencing on Sunday, June 1st, 1941, (Whitsun) will be held at the Oak Room, 2nd Floor, Kingsway Hall, 75, Kingsway, W.C.1. (Nearest Underground station Holborn).

We trust that many of our friends will avail themselves of the opportunity of inspecting our new place of worship by attending the Whitsunday service at 11 a.m. which will be followed by Holy communion.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. J. A. Schedler who passed away after a long illness at Ruthin Castle, near Manchester, on the 20th inst. Dr. Schedler was Swiss Consul for Manchester for a large number of years, also a director of the Clayton Aniline Co., Ltd. The funeral took place on the 22nd May, at Manchester, and Monsieur de Jenner represented the Swiss Minister.

We hope to publish further particulars in our next issue.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, June 7th, at 1 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting with Ladies — preceded by a Luncheon (6/6) at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Wednesday, June 11th, at 6.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

UNION CHRETIENNE de langue française (French speaking Y.M.C.A.), Kingsway Hall, 3me étage, Kingsway, W.C.2. Chaque mardi à 6.15 p.m.

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