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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Federal Coun. Petitpierre explained on June 20th the reason why our country had not sent an official Observer to the San Francisco conference: not, because we had not been invited (we wonder how else he could have put in an appearance, Ed.) but because we had no intention of abandoning our neutrality (!). As regards the Russian allegations he repeated the former categorical repudiation but admitted that there were people in our own country who missed no opportunity of clandestinely reporting and grossly exaggerating the slightest incidents in Russian camps when disciplinary measures were applied in order to stop drunkenness. As long as Soviet officials relied solely on Leon Nicole and his consorts for information about these camps no improvement in our relations could be anticipated. In the meantime the Soviet Union had thought fit to detain as a reprisal all Swiss citizens found in Russian occupied zones. Federal Coun. Petitpierre stressed again the constant desire of our authorities to repatriate these Russians but in spite of repeated efforts negotiations had always broken down; he welcomed the suggestion that an allied commission should visit these camps and submit a report. Since this statement the Soviet Government has agreed to the establishment of such a commission, which, it is added, should assist in repatriation. Further more, according to the Swiss Radio, our Government hopes to re-establish shortly normal diplomatic relations with Russia and is already considering the appointment of a Minister in Moscow. It will be remembered that last November the Soviet Union rejected a conciliatory move in this direction by our Government; diplomatic relations were broken off as far back as 1918.

* * *

Several well-meaning but obviously impractical resolutions were passed at the socialist congress held at the beginning of this month. Mr. Bringgolf (Mayor of Schaffhausen) expounded at some length his views about the international situation and the new tasks that now befell our own people. Fresh blood was required at the head of our Government — men who were able to grasp present conditions and take contact with

other small states and thus agree on a common line of action. A resolution was also passed demanding the immediate resumption of diplomatic relations with Poland and Austria.

* * *

Our new Minister in Paris, Dr. Burckhardt, has completed one of his first tasks with the French Government in discussing, agreeing and signing an arrangement whereby the visa and permit formalities for unrestrained travel between our two countries have been simplified.

* * *

Popular indignation about the slow liquidation of Nazis still in Switzerland impelled Federal President von Steiger to make a statement in the Federal Council about the facilities accorded to Dr. Koecher, the German Minister, who was given three months to effect his departure from Berne. Our highest magistrate now says that Dr. Koecher had never desired to stay behind in Switzerland; he was originally excluded from the general decree of expulsion by order of the Federal Council.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 29th July, 1945

2.30 to 6 p.m. (Doors open 1.45 p.m.)

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It is reported that a Swiss economic mission of five members is on its way to Chungking, China, in order to prepare post-war business relations. They have not been officially invited by the Chinese Government; though no contracts may be secured reports from their hazardous journey should make good reading.

* * *

A definitely alarming assertion as regards the policy of our banks was given to the world by a U.S.A. treasury official to the effect that at the beginning of this month our banks were still inviting Germans to deposit funds with them. Mr. O. Schmidt is the name of the wiseacre and if his utterance had not appeared in the "Daily Telegraph" of July 3rd, we would have passed it over as a seasonable joke. Here is the report:

"In a statement to a Senate Military affairs Sub-Committee to-day he said that these resources were hidden mainly in Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Switzerland.

German industry still owned or controlled 650 subsidiary or affiliated organisations in neutral countries.

Swiss banks, he said, were still inviting Germans to deposit funds with them. Swiss law, he asserted, protects the identities of depositors and the banks would continue to profit by protecting, through their secrecy laws, Germany's war potential — the hidden assets of its financiers and industrialists.

Even in 1942, declared Mr. Schmidt, 372 Swiss banks held German deposits of more than £920,000,000, together with many thousands of millions of dollars' worth of investments."

The Geneva correspondent of "The Times, July 6th, 1945, seems to be better informed:

"The question of German funds in Swiss banks has again flared up after some American newspapers estimated their total at over 16 milliards of francs. To-day the Swiss Bankers' Association states that such an amount is a gross exaggeration, and that Swiss bankers emphatically deny that their members are continuing to accept under the cover of professional secrecy large amounts belonging to Germans.

German funds in Switzerland were frozen last March, and the Swiss authorities have now made the freezing more drastic, as a recent decree submits to the control of the clearing office funds of Germans residing abroad. This measure releases Swiss banks from the obligation of maintaining secrecy with respect to the clearing office, which would thus be in a position to supply definite information concerning the size of German funds still deposited in Switzerland."

Mr. Schmidt later on states that there is still a big group of German-owned companies in Switzerland and foreshadows a move by the "Big Three" to take over these companies. We hope that the Swiss authorities will resolutely reject such interference; if our Government has perhaps been slow and cautious the tempo of our proceedings is certainly not behind the slow motion in more important quarters. Any ordinary observer will have convinced himself that the Swiss people apart from the Government are resolutely bent on cleaning up our house and no directives from outside are needed to do this operation thoroughly. Mr. Schmidt does not like what is commonly called the bank-secret; this is one of the hallmarks of our neutrality and we might have dispensed with our five and a half years armed

neutrality were we now to drop one by one the liberties and privileges guaranteed by our Constitution.

The following Reuter telegram published in the English press on July 14th, 1945, shows that a temporary accommodation has been found desirable:

"The Swiss Government announced yesterday that after lengthy discussions with bankers, it has decided that all German holdings in Switzerland must be disclosed to the Swiss Compensation Bureau. This step may finally disclose whether Hitler or other Nazi officials have hidden away large holdings in Swiss Banks."

* * *

Most of the cantons or large towns have started publishing long lists of fascists and nazis expelled from their districts and whose return is definitely prohibited.

Cantonal

It is stated that a noticeable number of pilgrims from all parts of our country are visiting the Benedictine centre of Einsiedeln in order to offer thanks for our country's preservation from war.

* * *

The transport of food to centres in southern Germany is proving quite an enjoyable trip for some of the Swiss lorry drivers and is also returning good dividends. A chaffeur from Berne was recently noticed in Geneva offering for sale jewellery and trinkets, and is now awaiting the result of enquiries at the Hotel St. Antoine in Geneva.

* * *

During the construction of a silo at the Nestlé factory in Broc a large outside wall of the main building collapsed burying eleven workmen of whom seven were extricated alive.

* * *

Damage amounting to several million francs was caused by a fire which, in the night of July 6th, swept the stores and buildings in the "Dreisnitz" quarter of Basle. Large quantities of cereals and foodstuffs were destroyed and a consignment of oxygen tubes exploded. Thanks to the prompt intervention of 25 to 30 fire pumps the conflagration was mastered in a comparatively short time; there were no casualties.

* * *

Two fair members of the Basle municipal theatre staged a comedy of their own resulting in their refusal to appear or attend rehearsals together. The management vainly endeavoured to restore peace and as both

CITY SWISS CLUB

We wish to inform our Members that we were fortunate enough to get **Professor Rappard** to address the Club on **Monday, 30th July, 1945**, at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1**, on

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THE COMMITTEE.

sides had secured strong allies the dispute was brought before the "Grosse Rat" for final adjudication. After careful deliberations the "home-grown" variety was dismissed and the lady "from abroad" remained in possession of the field.

Some anxiety is caused at Basle among friends of former German residents. In the neighbouring towns of Mulhouse, St. Louis and others the French have found amongst the Gestapo archives, files or records of Balois with German leanings and the information has been passed on to the Basle police. A number of people are being questioned but it seems as if some of the expelled nazis are trying to take revenge by incriminating innocent acquaintances whom they happened to contact.

Mgr. Robert Maeder, a religious author and editor of a local weekly called the "Schildwache" died at Basle at the age of 70; Fribourg University had bestowed upon him a doctor of theology.

Semi-official negotiations are said to be in progress to rectify the whimsical frontier formation of the canton Schaffhausen on the northern side of the Rhine. What is called the Büsingen enclave, politically belonging to Germany, can only be reached by crossing Swiss territory. Büsingen, about 40 square kilometres, has been occupied by French troops which constitutes a technical violation of Swiss soil. There is a possibility of including Büsingen in the political area of the canton Schaffhausen.

The "Rhätische Bahn" is in financial difficulties again. The Confederation had already some years ago contributed over 38 million francs to re-organise this partly private and partly cantonal undertaking. Though this picturesque line carries the European elite to the most fashionable and luxurious winter and summer resorts it has remained unaffected by the apparent prosperity of its clientele. A petition addressed by the cantonal authorities to the Federal Council insist that the system should be incorporated in the Swiss Federal Railways, a proposal now quite familiar which little affects the already heavy burden of the S.F.R. It is further helpfully suggested that the existing high fares might be reduced to the level of the S.F.R. tarif. As regards the capital amortisation the Grisons treasury looks forward to the Confederation

taking over about 50% of the amount invested in the enterprise.

The townfathers of Zofingen have voted a credit of Frs. 15,000 in order to present a war-souvenir to the citizens who have served in the army during the mobilisation. There are about a thousand and each one will receive an inscribed service tray and two bottles of wine.

The Ticinese "Conseil d'Etat" were the guests of the Milan authorities on July 16th. The Prefect of Como took charge of the cantonal councillors at the Italian frontier. In Milan, where an unpretentious repast was partaken of, the president of the Liberation Committee of the North expressed sincere thanks to Switzerland and more particularly to the Ticino for the welcome and subsequent care that had been extended to Italian refugees.

The director of the "Società Bancaria Ticinese" at Bellinzona, Mario Piccinino, has been arrested pending official enquiries into charges of fraud and defalcations. He was connected with several enterprises and very large amounts are said to be involved; in the meantime his luxurious villa, valued at about Frs. 200,000, has been confiscated at the request of the bank which thereby hopes to recover about half of its loss. Piccinino is stated to have been, some time back, secretary of the local fascist section.

The Swiss Radio announced on July 16th that the president of the Cantonal Bank, J. Nosedà, was shot in his office at Chiasso.

Nat. Counc. Antoine Vodoz died in Lausanne at the age of 46. A lawyer by profession he was elected "Conseiller d'Etat" of his canton (Vaud) in 1933 and entered the National Council in 1939. He was keenly interested in a movement called "Ordre et Tradition" that aimed at a radical change in our present Constitution.

Lausanne is a candidate for taking over the Olympic Games for 1948.

The canton Valais lost a much respected leader by the death at the age of 82 of Raymond Evêquoz. He studied law and at the early age of 26 was elected a member of the cantonal Grand Conseil. He belonged to the National Council, which he presided in 1924/25, from 1902 to 1928 after which latter year he represented his canton in the States Council.

For calling a well-known Geneva deputy a "mouchard" (stool-pigeon) in his paper "Voix ouvrière" Leon Nicole had to appear before the local police court. The presiding magistrate, in a long considered judgment, declared that the word mouchard did not convey defamation of character but was merely a piece of injustice and sentenced the accused to a fine of Frs. 250 and the costs of the proceedings.

Army

The two chambers of our parliament held a joint session on June 20th with Federal President von Steiger in the chair. The only business consisted in the acceptance of General Guisan's resignation to date from August 20th next. Many speeches expressed our country's ad-

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miration and thanks for the great services rendered by the 71-year old general; with his departure his title disappears from our officers' progression, the highest rank obtainable in our army being "colonel." General Guisan is credited with the conception and creation of the so-called "redoubt plan" which the Germans are said to have copied and prepared for their final retreat.

A Swiss military plane crashed in the afternoon of June 6th near Kloten, the pilot, 31 year old Lt. Ed. Renaud and the observer, 29 year old Lt. G. Zaugg were killed.

By agreement with the Swiss authorities, French army planes are now regularly crossing our country (unarmed) in both directions between Germany and France, carrying prisoners of war (French and Russian) to the countries of their origin.

Traffic

The discussion of the Aviation plan already agreed to in principle by the Federal Council is not showing an encouraging disposition in the States Council. The representatives of the cantons not included in the scheme seem to take umbrage at the heavy Federal expenses restricted to the few privileged ones.

A regular railway service between Le Locle and Besançon is stated to have been inaugurated on July 9th. The first train carrying the prefect and deputy-prefect from the "Doubs" department was officially

welcomed by the authorities of the canton Neuchâtel. A procession through the town of Le Locle terminated with the customary speeches.

The direct train service between Paris and Basle via Belfort and Mulhouse has been resumed on July 1st; the journey takes 14½ hours.

No reliable news is obtainable about the air service between our two countries. A representative of the British Overseas Airways is stated to have gone to Zurich to negotiate with the Swissair and settle details about a joint service but until the Allied Command grants permission to fly over occupied territory no decision can be made; informed circles believe that the opening of the service will be held up for several months. In the meantime Reuter reports that a regular daily service in each direction is operating since Monday the 16th inst., between Zurich-Geneva-Paris alternately by Swissair and Air France.

The Anglo-American negotiations at Berne at the beginning of March last were stated (not officially) to have secured for us the use of the port of Toulon for discharging Swiss oversea shipments. This promise has so far not been substantiated; other ports, such as Genoa, are now freely mentioned. It looks as if our Government is made to agree to any Allied demands without the promised *quid pro quo*: we are now transporting British troops from Italy in our own fast trains to Calais in spite of the coal shortage.

The search for powerful arguments to corroborate some of the vague claims made during the election campaign has even reached Switzerland. Nationalisation propounded by some orators as the deliverance from all our worldly shortcomings elicited from Mr. Lyttelton, President of the Board of Trade, the following unkind retort (as reported in "The Times," July 3rd, 1945):

"On August 10th, 1935, and I am now turning to Switzerland, the *Economist* used these words: 'The situation of the Federal railways is catastrophic. They are losing £7 a minute'; and later: 'Truth to tell, petty politics have ruined the railways as they have ruined many State undertakings. In the meantime the situation grows worse every day, and constitutes a grave menace to the Federal Treasury, which one day or another is likely to have either to repay or take over the 3,000,000,000 Swiss francs, or £200,000,000 of railway debt'."

In order to preserve our strict neutrality even in railway matters we reproduce a correspondent's letter which appeared on July 13th, 1945, in "The Spectator" and which gives the other side a hearing:

"SIR — I know nothing of the "petty politics" which you imply has marred the development of the Swiss Railways, but I must write to defend what is surely the most efficient, the cleanest, and the most comfortable railway system in Western Europe. I travelled thousands of miles on the Swiss Railways in 1943 and 1944. It is the only railway system I know where you can be certain of catching a connection when there is only three minutes between trains. Trains in Switzerland run to the second, not to the minute. They are all electric, so that you can wear a white shirt for a four-hour journey and it will still be a white shirt at the end. The latest rolling-stock, all aluminium, especially the brilliantly designed



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new dining-cars, is far in advance of anything of its kind in this country. The stations in Switzerland are not only good to look at, they are good to have a bath in, to shave in, to telephone from, and above all to eat in. Not without reason are the station restaurants at Zürich and Geneva among the most frequented restaurants for diners-out, and if you have not time to leave the train and go to the restaurant, a specially designed trolley is wheeled to the door of your carriage, and from it you can have coffee, hot soup, hot sausages, fresh ham sandwiches, or baskets of delicious fruits wrapped in cellophane.

It is surely a false argument to say that for efficiency the railways should be run for private profit. Anyone who has anything to do with organising railways does it for fun, because he likes railways, anyone who likes railways wants them to be efficient, and anyone who really wants to make British railways efficient wants them nationalised."

Economical

States Councillor Wahlen, identified with the well-known plan of securing during war-time the largest possible measure of self-subsistence, stated that the existing scheme for increasing the normal production of agricultural products should be maintained during 1946, but that some small cultivated regions might revert to grassland. Fields originally used for sports will also be made available for this diversion.

Our coal supply for the coming winter remains a pious hope. The negotiations with the Allies to obtain deliveries with our own trucks from the Saar or Ruhr have not led to a definite agreement. It seems that France who claims the coal output for her own railways and industries is insisting on heavy compensations from Switzerland, chiefly dairy produce.

In view of the likelihood of a fuel (coal) shortage later in the year and in order to uphold employment, the Government suggests that a voluntary time lag in all orders or contracts should become operative where necessary and practicable.

Our friends in the watch trade will probably learn some interesting intelligence about this important Swiss industry from a book just published, entitled "Drive for Freedom," and written by Charles Graves. The author is a great admirer of our country and we remember him attending one or two of our annual banquets in the good old times. Here is an extract:

"In the 18th century there were no fewer than 3,000 watchmakers in Clerkenwell alone. Those were the days of Tompion and other great British clock-makers. Unfortunately, their innate jealousies enabled a Swiss named Ingold to come over here, learn our secrets, and return to his native home, where he laid the foundations of the Swiss watch and clock industry with such success that in a few years it completely eclipsed the British industry.

As it was impossible to teach English boys and girls the delicate art of watch-making without outside assistance, a leaf was taken out of history's note book, and three Swiss professors and 25 skilled operatives were imported to revive the ancient English industry. These 28 men had perhaps as much to do with the defeat of the Luftwaffe as anyone in Great Britain, with the exception of the

fighter pilots. Through their assistance, Britain was able, for the first time, to make her own all-British lever escapement. This is the nerve centre of a watch, and may be described as a control device to ensure perfect timekeeping by means of the regulation of a series of wheels. It is in fact the heart of a watch, and until 1930 the heart of every watch had to be imported from Switzerland."

Writing about watches there is a Cassandra call in "The Spectator," July 13th, which we gladly reproduce for the benefit of our many Hatton Garden friends:

"I think I have referred to the watch situation before. I refer to it now with added emphasis. I happen to be the possessor of three watches of differing quality, calibre, age and temperament; but all alike in this, that they have completely broken down and are all in the hands of the repairers, whose minimum period for salvage seems to be three months. Now it is extremely inconvenient to go about the world clutching other people's wrists to see the time, and the action is apt to be misunderstood, but it is better than not getting the time at all. The situation is temporarily relieved because, by parting with good money which I could ill spare, I have just secured a watch of the rough-and-ready order which has so far kept going for six hours. My personal troubles, of course, must be borne in silence, but multiplied by some millions they amount to something formidable. British watchmakers, I understand, have practically no men and are short of essential parts. Cannot the Board of Trade, in

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this extremity, issue licences for the import of a few thousand or hundred thousand watches from Switzerland? I presume that in that home of watches watches still exist."

Humanitarian

A relief committee to render manifold help to the suffering population of the Vorarlberg has been formed by official delegates of the cantons of St. Gall and Appenzell.

* * *

With the consent of the French occupation command Switzerland is sending regular supplies of additional rations to the Swiss living in Konstanz and other south German towns.

* * *

Legationsrat von Jenner who acted as Consul General when Vienna was stormed by the Russians refuted in a statement published from Berne the exaggerated reports about the destruction of property and the ill-treatment suffered by members of the Swiss Colony which had appeared in some of the Swiss press. He admitted that the establishments of Brown Boveri & Co. were dismantled and the plant and machinery removed to Russia while in some isolated cases Swiss of both sexes had been violated as it could hardly be expected that every Russian soldier was familiar with Swiss passports and identity papers (!).

* * *

Thanks to facilities granted by Allied military authorities a convoy of 28 lorries left Basle at the end of last month for Norway. It was organised by the "Don Suisse" and carried 265 tons of food, medicaments and shoes.

* * *

Under an agreement signed at Montreux between U.S.A. and Swiss representatives about 300,000 American troops will spend their vacation in our country. Most of them will arrive by air at Geneva and thence proceed to the hotels assigned to them; their stay will be 10 to 14 days with extensions according to the individual state of health; those afflicted with T.B. may sojourn up to four months. The much reduced hotel expenses are of course paid by the Americans. As regards the food, "The Times" says that "they will have the same food rations as the Swiss, though double the quantity of the food necessary to feed them will be brought into the country towards an improvement in the Swiss food situation." The "Daily Mail," however, asserts that "their ordinary rations are of a much higher standard than those of the Swiss army or civilian population," and adds that "most of them suffer from nostalgia after a year of non-fraternisation in Germany."

—oo—

"Whymper Week," i.e. the first ascent of the Matterhorn was celebrated at Zermatt on July 14th in the presence of a distinguished company of alpinists. Mr. Arnold Lunn, the well-known author and mountaineer, was one of a party of English visitors who in spite of travel difficulties would not miss the opportunity of attending the 80th anniversary. We reproduce the report of "The Times," July 16th, 1945, cabled by its correspondent:

"Swiss and British flags are flying together in Zermatt during the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the first ascent of the Matterhorn by Edward Whymper.

Memories of July, 1865, and of the climbers were recalled at a dinner on Saturday attended by numerous Alpinists. While M. Egmond d'Arcis, president of the Centre Alpin de Zermatt, paid tribute to the Alpine guides, the British Minister, Mr. C. J. Norton, laid stress on Anglo-Swiss friendship, a subject which was further developed by M. Valais, M. Coquoz, Mr. Joseph Seiler, and Mr. Arnold Lunn, who emphasised the humane activities of Switzerland during the war. On Sunday, wreaths of Alpine flowers were carried by four of the oldest Zermatt guides and placed in the cemetery in memory of all victims of the Alps and on Whymper's tablet. Then services were held in the parish church and the English chapel.

An exhibition has been opened which contains a collection of 50 paintings by contemporary artists, and relics of well-known visitors to Zermatt, such as de Saussure's travelling coat, shoes, field-glasses, snow-glasses, and hat, and Whymper's sextant, ice-axe, and walking stick. Among the manuscripts there is one in which de Saussure notes his impression of Zermatt and the Matterhorn, a Whymper letter to von Fellenberg, and the visitors' book of the Hôtel Monte Rosa, bearing on the date July 15, 1865, the last signature of Lord Francis Douglas before his departure for the fateful ascent. The organisers had the luck of recovering the first Zermatt visitors' book when the local curate welcomed tourists in his house and asked them to put down their names in the "Pfarrhaus Fremdenbuch," in which the first entry dates from 1834.

Messages were read from Mrs. Ethel Blandy, Whymper's daughter, and from the Alpine Club and the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club."

* * *

A great climber and unparalleled friend of our country and its mountains passed away on July 4th with Sir William Ellis, G.B.E., at the age of 85. An outstanding figure in the iron and steel industry and closely identified with some of the great enterprises in this particular branch his chief hobby through his long and busy life remained mountaineering; he spent his 75th birthday in the sublime solitude of the Jungfrau. Originally a member of the Berne Alpine Club he was an Hon. Member of the Swiss A.C. and Vice-President of the Association of British Members of the S.A.C. Sir William founded "The Sir William Ellis Trust

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for Guides of Swiss Nationality" with an endowment of £4,000 to help Swiss guides or their dependents in indigent or necessitous circumstances.

Many are the members in both the London and Birmingham Colonies who have come across Mr. George Ellison and took him for a Swiss on account of his perfect command of Schwyzerdütsch. A veteran of the Swiss A.C. (Burgdorf section) he is an old life member of the British Association and has recently been distinguished with the Honorary Membership, the 10th out of the large list of 413. May we join the felicity and delight expressed by his charming lady on another page?

A delegation of Swiss publishers and booksellers arrived in London at the beginning of this month and spent about a fortnight in discussing with English colleagues questions of mutual interest, such as the purchase of translation rights, arrangements for reciprocal payments, and so on. In charge of the eight members was Herbert Lang (Berne), the others being: Dr. Hans Zbinden, director of Editions Iris of Berne representing the Swiss Booksellers' Association; Dr. Emil Oprecht and Dr. Martin Hürlimann, both of Zurich (representing the Swiss Publishers Association); J. Jean Jehaber, publisher of Geneva, and Jean-Pierre Payot, publisher-bookseller of Lausanne (representing the Swiss Publishers and Booksellers Association); and Werner Krebser, bookseller of Thoune and Fritz Hess, bookseller of Olten (representing the Swiss Wholesale Book Company, Olten).

The main object is of course to help our people at home to acquire an unbiased knowledge of English culture and outlook, and to correct misleading impressions that pre-war German literature may have planted in their minds. It is intended to organise in the near future an exhibition of Swiss books in England, and next year, probably May, a similar display with a British lecture tour in Berne, Basle, Zurich and Geneva. It seems to us that one equally important desideratum, which might have been disposed of at the same time has been ignored; it is the fantastic price at which English papers and periodicals are being retailed in our country, particularly at the railway station book shops. We remember having been divested

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* * *

The great International match played at Berne in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Football Association on Saturday the 21st inst. ended with a three to one victory for Switzerland. The result was a surprise as both at home and in English football circles a victory for the visitors was a foregone conclusion. Excitement ran very high and days before the seats at the stadium were sold out; about 45,000 spectators were present. The English team, practically all internationals, were star players temporarily released from the services to take part in the match. The Swiss captain, Lauro Amado, was an amateur in this country belonging to the Tufnell Park F.C. a good many years ago; he was a member of the Swiss team that beat England two to one in the international match played at Zurich in June, 1938. Here is a short report published in "Reynolds News," July 22nd:

"England met their Waterloo at Berne yesterday, when 40,000 excited spectators saw Switzerland defeat the F.A. Services touring team by three goals to one.

The game was played in an electric atmosphere, under a cloudless sky, and it was a glad day for the Swiss, who were not expected to defeat the powerful tourists.

The stands were specially strengthened for the crowd — the biggest gathering that has ever tested them.

Every street near the stadium was packed, and they bore a very gay appearance with nearly everyone wearing Swiss and British flags.

The Swiss, who won the toss, elected to play with the sun. They attacked from the start, and Swift, in the tourists' goal, was quickly called upon to make four good saves to get them out of a tight corner.

The lighter and younger Swiss team were remarkably nimble, and their long, sweeping passes to the wings invariably found their man.

The British goal had a narrow shave when, with Swift far out of goal, Scott headed a possible goal over the bar.

Hunt (Sheffield Wednesday) was the best of the Services' forwards, but he did not get enough support.

The Swiss opened the scoring seven minutes before half-time when Fink netted from close in.

After the resumption the home players were very speedy on the hard ground, the British players finding it difficult to keep up with them.

They scored again through Friedlaender and Amado, and Brown netted for the visitors.

The Swiss went wild with joy as the whistle blew for their great victory. Thousands broke through the police cordon to carry high their own red jerseyed team and the British goalkeeper Swift, who had

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several times astounded the crowd by his miraculous saves.

The Swiss victory was well deserved. They played much better together as a team."

* * *

Here is a cutting from the "*Evening Standard*," July 18th, 1945, and we hope that Shakespeare will now gain further popularity at the Zurcher Stadtheater.

"I have just been looking over the report of the State Theatre in Zurich from 1941 to 1944. Shakespeare has been a steady dish with 23 performances of "*Wie es euch gefällt*" ("*As You Like It*"), sixteen of "*Othello*," five of "*Mass für Mass*" ("*Measure for Measure*"), but only two of "*Der Sturm*."

König Heinrich IV. played thirteen performances, König Johann ten, and König Richard III. twelve. Shaw's "*Major Barbara*" was played seventeen times and his "*Man kann nie wissen*" ("*You Never Can Tell*") reached the total of seven.

John Steinbeck's "*The Moon Is Down*," which failed in London, was played seventy-one times. The Swiss theatre is not an important source of revenue to foreign authors, but it is looked upon as a door which opens on the German and Austrian theatre."

1st AUGUST 1945.

From ev'ry mountain beacons laud the skies,
Symbols of brotherhood and liberty,
To mark the day on which the destiny
Of Switzerland first took its solemn rise.

All bells are ringing, to immortalise
The epic struggle against tyranny,
Fought out in years of grievous agony
And at the price of untold sacrifice.

Each heart to-day is filled with gratitude
For all the means which helped us to survive,
Above all by a Providence Divine!

Peace calls for vision, courage, fortitude;
A better world it is, for which men strive,
Where all true efforts count—both yours and mine.

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(We have often wanted to publish articles from our contemporary "*The City and East London Observer*" which of late has shown a gratifying appreciation of Swiss problems and difficulties; the following is a typical contribution which appeared in its issue of July 13th.)

Despite scant natural resources and a small population, Switzerland has gained a well-merited position among the trading nations of the world because of her specialisation in high-quality goods.

Swiss people have to work hard for their existence. She is not favoured by nature with great productivity. Out of a total surface of 15,000 square miles no less than 6,000 are covered by glaciers, snow, lakes, streams or are otherwise unproductive. Switzerland, therefore, is unable to produce enough food for her 4,000,000 inhabitants, despite the most intensive agriculture. She must import large quantities of raw materials and food and to pay for these she must export. In all spheres sane methods of economy must be followed.

Centuries of bitter struggle have transformed a poor country into a State where the tilling of the soil has been complemented by the introduction of many important industries.

In 1930 about 3,000,000 people were earning their living; 400,000 were in agriculture, while trade and industry provided a living for nearly 900,000. There were 200,000 people in business, banking and insurance, 100,000 in the hotel industry and a few more than 80,000 in transport concerns.

Public administration and the liberal professions occupied about 100,000 people, while 140,000 were working in families or as casual labourers. Some 360,000 work in factories, building machines and making textiles, about 400,000 are in the watchmaking industry and some 15,000 in chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The electro-technical industry has developed rapidly, and with astonishing success. Diesel motors have been built in Switzerland for vehicles and ships of all sizes. In 1937 Switzerland exported about Fr. 400,000,000 worth of machinery and other products of the steel industry. The chief metal export—aluminium—amounted to Fr. 55,000,000, and thanks to constant improvements in its production capacity, Switzerland is able to meet her own requirements and go a long way to meet the requirements of other lands. Swiss production of metal is most varied and adapted to home and foreign consumption.

The strength of the Swiss firms in meeting foreign competitors lies to a great extent in perfect construction. Efficient work conditions make it possible for the manual qualities of the Swiss worker to develop fully in an atmosphere of harmony. The Swiss textile industry is also in the van of progress. Watch-making is one of the best-known national industries; during the years of prosperity Switzerland exported annually more than Fr. 300,000,000 worth of watches, and even during the depression exports reached Fr. 86,000,000. Swiss chemical and pharmaceutical exports reached in 1937 nearly Fr. 200 million.