

Correspondence

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Bradford,
July 10th, 1945.

To the Editor of the "Swiss Observer,"

SIR,

May I as an English subscriber to your interesting and valuable journal, be allowed to offer my affectionate greetings to Switzerland and her people on this their first National Day of the European peace. It is with a full and grateful heart that I do so, for Switzerland has given me great happiness in the past, and a store of precious memories which have done much to make the last six years endurable.

It was in 1922 that I first made the acquaintance of your country. Travelling out with a well-known touring association, I visited Grindelwald, Wengen, and Interlaken, and fell at once under the spell of the Oberland peaks and lakes and that indescribable atmosphere which pervades them. I marvelled at the cleanliness, efficiency, and homeliness of your hotels, and was attracted by the genuine friendliness of your people. Since then, as a photographer and lecturer, many parts of Europe have come within my ken; but although I have seen much and varied beauty and have known great kindness at stranger hands, no country I have visited has ever ousted my specially warm regard for Switzerland. That regard, in fact, grew apace, and from the early 1930's until the outbreak of war annual spring and summer visits to the continent were confined almost exclusively to your country.

How the memories throng—vivid and colourful—even as I write! The glory seen from Wengernalp and the Lauberhorn, and from Mürren. Blumenthal in June. The Lauterbrunnen valley viewed from above Wengen—still my favourite vista. Peaceful Lötschenthal and Gasterthal, and exquisite Blausee—where the strawberry tart is no less delicious than the trout! That memorable week at Grindelwald when it rained solidly for six days, and when I was the only guest (a happy and esteemed guest!) at the dear old "Bear." Brienz and its colourful, carved signposts. Berne and Thun—the photographer's' paradise! The reflections in Lake Lungern as one leaves or approaches the Brünig. Ever-lovely Lucerne; and storm clouds and shafts of sunlight on the lake of Uri. Afternoon tea at Brunnen, by the lake side,—the while watching and awaiting the Lucerne steamer from Fluelen as it zig-zags to Sisikon and Rütli. The kindly monk of Engelberg who proudly escorted me around his famous church and library and school. The Narcissus fête at Montreux, and the spring enchantment of the Golden Pass. The Swiss boy, there, who interestedly watched me take photographs, and then proudly told me that he too possessed a camera, and who later sent me some of his prints—accompanied by a charming letter in English. Evening on Lake Champex, with the Combin mirrored therein; the primulas and sulphur anemones of the Val d'Arpette. The procession of cattle to the higher pastures, at Champéry. Picturesque Sion—and the red wine from that neighbourhood! Zermatt, and the scented valley of the Zmatt; and the glistening grandeur seen from Schwarzsee. Täschalp's view of the Weisshorn. Belalp with its vernal gentians, the unbelievable Marjelensee, and the Eggishorn. The Simplon carpeted with gentians. The walk from Gletsch over the Grimsel to Meiringen. Schuls Tarasp,

and the valley of the Roseg at Pontresina. And— not least among my multitude of memories— breakfast with Swiss café-au-lait and cherry jam at the station buffet at Basel, the long night journey from Paris over.

I am glad to feel that the numerous lantern slides and the colour film I secured during my visits to Switzerland have provided inspiration and comfort to many more people than myself during the war years, and that more than once, in connexion with some local Red Cross effort, they have shared in the humanitarian work with which Switzerland herself is so prominently associated.

May she long keep that proud reputation among nations. May peace and prosperity be hers; and may the time quickly come when once again people of many lands will be permitted to find health and spiritual uplift—as I have done and hope to do again— among her lakes and mountains.

I am, sir,

Yours very truly,

NORMAN V. SOWDEN, F.R.G.S.

FREIMITGLEID.

S. A. C.

I danke ne hürzlig, has grüsli in Acht',
Dass Sie mi ietz, bei zum "Freimitglied" gmacht;
Grad ietz, wo alles wieder grünt und blüht,
Schlecht eim so ne stilli Sehnsucht its Gmüet.
Die Jörli, si flüge gar schnell vorby,
Wie wärs ächt, we me wieder jung chönti sy?
Süb schoeni Zyt, wenn kei Sorge tue drücke,
Z'Läbe voll "Sing-Sang, nur gmacht, ums beglücke,
We d'Bei, no si glänckig und chäch no d'Brust
Und alls strotzt vo Gsundheit und Wanderlust,
We me mit Rucksack, frisch gnaglette Schueh,
Sorgelos cha wandere de Bärge zue,
Dür Täler und Wälder, in eim Juhee,
Ach, nume dra z'dänke, tuet eim scho weh.
Und chunt de z'Alter, seits "Halt-la, mi Schatz,
Für di, si so Toure nümme am Platz,
Chash nüm so wyt laufe, d'Füess tüe dr weh,
D'Gicht fangt Di a pläge, im grosse Zeh."

H. E.

April, 1945.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

Through the courtesy of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation we are enabled to publish the quotations of some of the leading stocks in Switzerland.

				20/6/45.	18/7/45.
Confederation 3%	1936	...	...	101.65	101.65
Confederation 3½%	1932	...	...	101.75	102.15
Confederation 4%	1931	...	...	102.50	102.50
Swiss Bank	...	...	...	516	511
Crédit Suisse	...	...	...	553	553
Industrie Aluminium	...	...	...	1745	1700
Brown Boveri	...	...	...	708	720
Chade ABC	...	...	...	895	910
Chade D	...	...	...	166	169
Industrie Chimique	...	...	...	4900	4990
Fischer	...	...	...	900ex.	925
Nestlé	...	...	...	901	912
Oerlikon	...	...	...	488	485
Suisse Réassurance	...	...	...	3775	3720
Sandoz	...	...	...	8895	9485
Saurer	...	...	...	760	770
Sulzer	...	...	...	1345	1426