

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: - (1948)
Heft: 1103

Artikel: Xmas thoughts and wishes
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695234>

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XMAS THOUGHTS AND WISHES.

The year 1948, with its tribulations, disappointments and often bitter experiences, is shortly to fade into history, and few will be the tears shed over its passing away. It has left the world little better, if not worse off, than at its commencement, and a tired world is still longing and waiting for that betterment, which has been so often promised and yet seems so slow to arrive.

There are people who have almost given up hope, and have predicted that the seven lean years will be doubled — if not trebled. Although there is little cause to be optimistic, whilst there is so much unrest, misunderstanding and illfeeling amongst the various nations; yet it would be a sad outlook indeed if not one glimmer of hope was left in our hearts, that things must ultimately take a turn for the better. Does it not largely depend on each member of the community themselves hastening the turning of the tide? We all, each of us, some in a smaller, some in a larger degree can help to make our earthly abode a fitter and better place; by trying to foster that spirit of goodwill towards mankind. Let us start at home, or amongst our countrymen here and in our homeland; let us make an effort to understand each other more, to forgive and forget some of the things which have vexed or annoyed us in the past, to live more up to the maxim that "to err is human, but to forgive divine." —

It behoves the Editor of the *Swiss Observer* to pass a parting glance at the outgoing year. Whilst we have been able to increase our circulation in appreciable numbers, we feel that there are still many of our

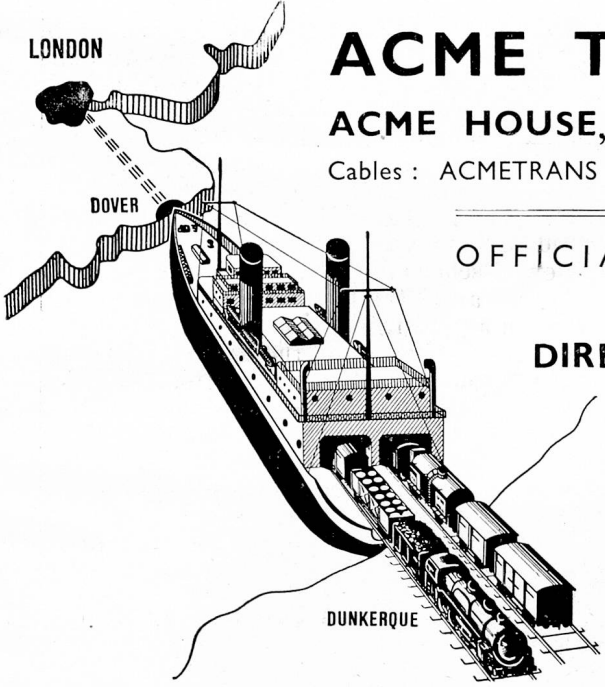
compatriots who deny us their support, which is so essential in order to enable us to carry on this paper in a worthy and dignified manner. Although, a considerable number of our faithful readers have, on different occasions, suggested to us an increase in the subscription rate, which is still the same as when the paper first appeared in 1920, notwithstanding a considerable increase in costs of production owing to higher wages and higher charges for paper; we have so far adhered to the policy of the founder, the late lamented P. F. Boehringer, whose recent passing away has been an immeasurable loss to our paper, namely to give the younger members of the Colony a chance to subscribe to it.

The Editor, therefore, makes a sincere appeal for additional support; if each one of our present subscribers would make it a duty to induce *only one* friend of theirs to become a regular supporter, *all our troubles and anxieties would be at an end*, and we could then carry on our work with more confidence. The charge of 12/- p.a., which represents the cost of about three packets of cigarettes, is surely not excessive.

At the eventide of the present year, the Editor wishes to thank his collaborators for their great and never failing help, without which it would have been almost impossible to carry on.

He wishes to thank the Swiss Minister and the Swiss Consuls in Manchester, Liverpool and Scotland for their valuable co-operation. The Publisher for his constant and useful advice.

Sincere thanks are due to all those subscribers, who have so kindly sent us donations over and above



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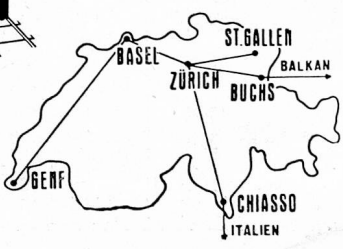
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their subscription, and especially to our faithful advertisers whose support enables us to carry on this paper.

May he be forgiven, if he strikes at this hour, a personal note. The renewed activity in the Colony makes greater demands on his time and work, and some of the duties he had undertaken in the past, should in future be confined to other quarters. Whilst willing to attend some of the more important functions, he finds it impossible to attend all of the many events which are now taking place, and which could be reported by members of the respective Societies and institutions.

In conclusion, the Editor wishes to thank most humbly another of his collaborators, who has served him well and faithfully, who has shared with an unfaltering spirit his anxieties and disappointments connected with this paper, who has sat at his side listening to often never-ending speeches and discussions at innumerable functions, who has kindly cut out all or most of the *sob stuff* from his articles, thus deserving the thanks from all those, who would have been inflicted with it, and who has kindled in him the flame of enthusiasm for a work which is not always as easy as it looks, he means,

His Wife.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Monthly Meeting

AND

Xmas Dinner

ON

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1948

(6.30 for 7 p.m.)

AT

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

18, Montagu Place,
Bryanston Square, W.1.
London, den 9. Dezember 1948.

Herrn A. Stauffer,
Redaktor,
Swiss Observer,
London.

Lieber Herr Stauffer,

Wie Sie wahrscheinlich bereits der Presse entnommen haben werden, hat das Internationale Komitee vom Roten Kreuz in Genf mir die Leitung einer neu zu organisierenden Hilfe für die Flüchtlinge in Palästina übertragen. Das Eidgenössische Politische Departement hat mich für die Dauer dieser Mission von seinem Dienst beurlaubt.

In Anbetracht der ausserordentlichen Dringlichkeit dieser Flüchtlingshilfe sehe ich mich gezwungen, London von einem Tag auf den andern zu verlassen und bin daher nicht in der Lage, mich persönlich von den vielen Freunden zu verabschieden, die ich während den 3½ Jahren meiner Tätigkeit in London kennen und schätzen gelernt habe.

Dürfte ich daher Ihre Freundlichkeit in Anspruch nehmen und Sie bitten, im Swiss Observer, durch den ich den allergrössten Teil unserer Landsleute erreichen kann, ein paar Zeilen erscheinen zu lassen, um Ihren Lesern die Umstände meiner überstürzten Abreise zu erklären.

Vielleicht würden Sie noch so gut sein und beifügen, dass die ausserordentlich freundschaftliche Haltung, die die gesamte Schweizerkolonie während all diesen Jahren der Gesandtschaft und mir persönlich gegenüber stets gezeigt hat und die reiche Gastfreundschaft, die ich von Seiten der Schweizervereine erfahren habe, stets zu den schönsten Erinnerungen meines Aufenthaltes in dem gastlichen Grossbritannien gehören werden.

Indem ich Ihnen im voraus verbindlichst für die Erfüllung meines Wunsches danke, benütze ich gerne auch die Gelegenheit, Ihnen persönlich für die stets freundschaftliche und wohlwollende Haltung der Gesandtschaft gegenüber zu danken und verbleibe, mit dem Ausdruck meiner vorzüglichsten Hochachtung und freundschaftlichen Grüßen

Ihr,
Sig. A. ESCHER.

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