

Village in the Valais opened to tourists

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ERNEST MARCUS HAMILTON (VON ARX) †

We announce with deep regret the death of Mr. E. M. Hamilton, an old and faithful member of the Swiss Club in Manchester. He was born in Olten, on 22nd May 1879, second son of Constantin von Arx. As a young boy he went to his cousin in Mexico where he learnt Spanish and became proficient in horsemanship. In 1896, he returned to Switzerland to continue his education in Solothurn. Then followed his military service in the Cavalry (Corporal in the Dragoons) and a year's study in Lausanne. In 1900 he came to London where he remained for forty years. He then moved to Manchester.

His business life was spent in the photographic industry, and from 1925 until his retirement at 80, he represented the firm of Barton's of Birmingham in the North of England and Scotland.

In 1904 he got married to Miss Florence Broad of London, and they had a son and a daughter. He returned to Switzerland in 1914 to do military service in the first world war, and afterwards he became a British subject and changed his name to Hamilton. In the second world war he worked with the British censorship.

He prided himself that he had visited every County in the British Isles, but he kept his affection for the country of his birth which he visited frequently.

His life was full of interests — he specialised in collecting Swiss stamps, he loved outdoor sports (summer and winter) and he had a profound knowledge of nature. He liked to travel, and in his seventies he made several air trips to New York to visit his son.

He enjoyed life and, right to the end, interested himself in the varied activities of his family and friends who now mourn his death. Our sincere sympathy goes out to them in their bereavement.

PERSONAL

We announce with deep regret the death of Mrs. Anna Schmid-Baumann, widow of the late Mr. John Schmid, formerly of 13 Denbigh Place, S.W.1. She retired to Switzerland some time after the death of her husband and died at Grenchen (Solothurn) at the age of 79.

* * *

We wish to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Baumann, of 24 Gurney Drive, N.2, on the arrival of a second daughter, Monica, on 26th January.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations above their subscriptions, and for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions: Mrs. A. Bachofen, Mrs. R. A. Crabbe, Mrs. E. Gledhill, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur J. de Stoutz (Tel-Aviv), Monsieur E. M. Bircher, Monsieur J. Revilliod and Messrs. W. Allenspach, E. Baumann, O. Grob, G. Keller, L. W. Krucker, G. Mani, J. Manzoni, J. Müller, J. A. Seiffert, J. Weibel, C. E. Wietlisbach. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 12th March. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Tuesday, 2nd March. This is one day earlier than usual because the Editor has to attend the meeting of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad in Berne on 6th March.

THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

In the issue of 2nd February 1935, we read that Dr. Ulrico Hoepli had died at the age of 88. Born in the Thurgau, he became an eminent publisher in Milan. Already in 1901, he was awarded the Dr. h.c. by Zurich University, and he was a "Commendatore" of Italy. The former Federal Councillor Haeblerlin attended his funeral, and messages of condolence included those by the Pope, Federal Councillor Motta and the Italian Government.

It was reported that Switzerland had most suicides in Europe, 210 per million annually; the European average being 97 per million.

There was an article by Dr. Walter Schmid on "Alpine Cave Men in Switzerland" and a letter signed by Mlle Alice Briod and Dr. G. Schuerch from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne on "Pour notre défense nationale".

On 9th February, we read that the federal crisis tax had amounted to 85 million francs, 25 million more than anticipated. 51 million of these went to the Confederation, and the Cantons' share was 34 million.

Readers were reminded of the tenth anniversary of the death of General Wille (31st January), and that the daily Swissair flight between Switzerland and England would be resumed; Basle-London in three hours.

There was an article by Charles Urech "Englisch-schweizerische Beziehungen, ein Rückblick".

On 16th February it was reported that the Swiss economic policy would be modified, seeing that 1934 had been one of the worst years since the war. Other reports included the loss of two of the recently born sextuplets in the bear pit in Berne, owing to the mother devouring them. There was a "Sportsbericht aus dem Appenzellerland" and an official correction by the Swiss Legation of some wild statements regarding Switzerland in the "Sunday Express".

The last issue in February carried a report by J.Z. on no fewer than three social functions in one week-end, the N.S.H. entertaining Mlle Briod at the Foyer Suisse, an N.S.H. Film Show and a Cinderella Dance of the City Swiss Club. This was surprising since a report had appeared in a previous issue that social functions in the Colony had been curtailed owing to "still difficult times".

In the same number we read of the resignation of Federal Councillor Schulthess, of the retirement of Mr. Alexandre Duruz, Manager of the London Agency of the Swiss Federal Railways and of the appointment of his successor Mr. U. V. Cérésole.

VILLAGE IN THE VALAIS OPENED TO TOURISTS

The village of Albinen, at an altitude of 4,251 ft. in the Valais, has up to now been connected to Leukerbad only by means of wooden ladders. To-day it can be reached by postal coach in only twenty minutes from Leuk. The peaceful village enjoys a wonderful view over the Rhone Valley and the high peaks of the Valais Alps, but it is well off the beaten tourist track, since its sunny ski slopes at the foot of the Torrenhorn are not well known. The village is now awaiting the first hardy young "explorers" to discover its charms. In order to make this splendid region available to more people, both for ski-ing and summer hiking, and to create a source of income for the local population, a ski-lift has been opened this year, and accommodations have been prepared for the youth groups numbering up to 140.

[S.N.T.O.]