

# Swiss National day collection

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the financial situation of the churches. The Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches had continued to help the material life of the church at Endell Street and offered to pay the salaries of the assistant pastors. The main expense which the parishes will have to face in the near future will be the modernisation of the kitchen. At well attended youth evenings there are sometimes as many as fifty youths who come to have supper together in the Church hall. The preparation of such large meals and the ensuing washing-up will be made much easier and expeditious when the facilities will have been improved. But the matter rests with the Consistoire where some prolonged discussions can be expected.

On the spiritual side of the life of the Swiss churches, the highlights of the year had been their increased ecumenical gatherings and services. These were most encouraging and were to continue particularly in the French-speaking Church. It was noted however that although Catholic and Orthodox priests were permitted to come to speak to us (the French-Swiss) from the pulpit, our own pastors were not at present allowed to speak in Catholic and Orthodox churches. The exchange was therefore rather unidirectional. The French-speaking parish assembly opted to have Communion on every Sunday. The motion was by no means unanimously adopted and some members felt that Communion would be somewhat desecrated if it were celebrated too frequently.

The Parish magazine "Die Stimme" is not paying for itself. This is another point which the Consistoire

will have to examine. Also to be discussed will be a proposal put forward at the end of the Church Assembly to change the order of these three meetings so that they can be terminated earlier.

The Church Assembly 1970 was closed with a short prayer by Pfarrer Dietler.

(PMB)

## MESSAGE BY A READER

"Her Pfarrer Spoerri hat recht. In London is ein Wunder geschehen und unser Dank geht an Alle, die dieses Wunder vollbracht haben. Wie beglueckend ist es, dass nun endlich auch die deutschsprachige Gemeinde in unserer schoenen Kirche in Endell Street die Gottesdienste halten kann.

Und als Folge der Sonntagspredigt von Herrn Pfarrer Dietler moechte auch ich seinen Appell an die Gemeinde unterstuetzen. Lasst diesem Wunder noch weitere Wunder folgen! Besucht den Gottesdienst und bringt jedes Mal Freunde mit. Wie wuerdet Ihr Euch fuehlen, wenn Ihr eine gute Predigt vorbereitet haettet und dann fast zu leeren Baenken predigen muesset? Ihr werdet viel Schoene und Neues in unserer Kirche finden. Jedes Sonntag ist fast wie eine Familien Reunion und je oeffter Ihr kommt, desto vertrauter und groesser wird der Familienkreis. Ich war auch eine von denen, die jahrelang immer Ausreden fand fuer das Nichtgehen in die Kirche, aber von jeher habe ich gesagt, dass, wenn es

einmal so weit kommt, dass auch wir in Endell Street unseren Gottesdienst halten duerften, ich regemaessige Kirchenbesucherin werden wuerde. Es ist nun fast zu spaet dafuer, denn mein Mann und ich sind oft abwesend ueber des Weekend, aber ich freue mich ueber jede Gelegenheit eines Kirchenbesuches in Endell Street. Man hat Gelegenheit zu einem "Schwatz" nach dem Gottesdienst mit einer Tasse Tee und die Kinder unserer Sonntagschule sind eifrig beschaeftigt, einem Biscuits anzubieten. Ja, sogar die Sonntagschule ist wieder lebendig und die Kinder gehen mit der grossten Freude zu ihrer Sonntagschule, nachdem sie uns in unserem Gottesdienst ein Lied gesungen haben.

Wir schulden Herrn und Frau Pfarrer Dietler und Herrn Pfarrer Stefan einen gossen Dank fuer die rastlose Arbeit, mit der sie unsere Kirche so lebendig gemacht haben".

(H.S.)

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY COLLECTION

*"Is there in the whole world another country which has a finer name than Switzerland?: Swiss Confederation by Oath — to be exact. Nobody can think about this name without realising the great significance, the serious implication which it contains. It reminds us that Switzerland has grown into a State by federations and oaths and thus by the liability of all members to mutual loyalty . . ."*

This is a free translation of some-



1872

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thing the late historian Gottfried Guggenbuehl said over a quarter of a century ago, at a time of great stress and decision. But they could serve just as well as the *Leitmotiv* for this year's National Day. For they contain all our important thoughts and feelings. They express the sense of our National Day Celebration which every year finds its greatest fulfillment in the *Bundesfeiersspende*, the collection taken on the 1st of August.

This year, the collection is in aid of women's work under the motto of "*Woman in the service of the People*".

Our times demand more and more of all women. They have a difficult job as mothers and homemakers, as working women in all fields and as citizens. The women's organisations have as their aim to help to train and educate women and to enable them to face the problems of today and of the future. They do this by running advice and training centres in domestic, legal and cultural matters, etc., as well as by thorough professional training. The great responsibilities which the woman of today has to face is not only strange, but it demands special training for independent thinking and acting. The dangers of mass media, but also their positive sides, force responsible women to make their influence felt. Women's organisations relieve the State to a considerable extent of its tasks in welfare and other activities for the common good. This is one of the reasons why these organisations should be supported to further women's voluntary work.

In order to prevent the breaking up of the collection into too many small amounts, it was decided that the five umbrella organisations should be given the money to further their activities each in its own special field. Thus every kind of woman's work will benefit. The five are "The Alliance of Women's Associations" (*Bund Schweizerischer Frauenvereine*), the Union of Women's Societies of Public Utility (*Schweizerischer Gemeinnütziger Frauenverein*), the "Swiss League of Catholic Women" (*Schweizerischer Katholischer Frauenbund*), the "Swiss Federation of Protestant Women" (*Evangelischer Frauenbund der Schweiz*), and the "Swiss Association for Home Service" (*Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für den Hausdienst*).

It is a wonderful task for the individual to support these worthwhile activities by buying special stamps and postcards and above all by purchasing the badge. We Swiss abroad can at least do the latter. The attractive badges will be on sale with Swiss societies and Consulates and Embassies. Perhaps we Swiss in Great Britain should remember that several of the women's organisations which will benefit from our support regularly subsidise the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain and two of them were instrumental at the time in getting the

Swiss Hostel for Girls established in London.

Please give as much help as possible — it is worth it.

(M.M.)

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday from 6 to 7.30 p.m. Discussion Circle in English.

Young men especially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Room, Y.M.C.A., Gt. Russell St., W.C.1.

Secours Mutuels des Suisses a Londres. No meetings until October.

JUNE

Sunday 28th. SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION "WALDFEST" at the Long Siberia Range, Bisley, Surrey. Starting at 12 a.m.

Sunday 28th. Swiss Mercantile Society's family outing. Details from Secretary, 01 636 2892-2894.

Tuesday 30th. Swiss Club Edinburgh. Barbecue on the shores of the Forth. 7.30 p.m. at Binn's Corner. CULTURAL EVENTS

Institute of Contemporary Art. Exhibition of the artistic effects of vibration by the Swiss physicist Hans Jenny, till July 23rd.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

English Gent would like to meet **Swiss friend**, female, 40 to 50 years of age. Must be able to speak English. Please reply to Mr. A. Cox., 19 Glen Ave. Ashford, Middx.

Young Englishman of Swiss extraction who is learning German seeks Swiss person for help in **Conversation practice** in German. Middx.-London area. Please reply to Mr. Portmann, 8 Highfield Ave. Wembley Park, Middx.

Mrs. Metford-Sewell gives lessons in **French and French conversation**. Telephone 995 0083

#### MR. PAUL BUCHER — 70

Mr. Paul Bucher, of Bedford, well-known to many of the older generation of Swiss Observer readers, has now fully retired from business life. Born in Oerlikon, he first came to this country in 1920, holding several positions in the City of London and also in Bradford. After 18 months in Spain, in 1925 he returned to Switzerland, but came to England again in 1929 working in the West End of London.

In 1933 he was given the position as first Company Secretary and Commercial Manager of the newly formed Britannia Iron & Steel Works Ltd. in Bedford, a subsidiary of George Fischer Limited, Schaffhausen. He later also became Chairman and Director of Le Bas Tube Co. Ltd., London, and Director of the Holding Company,

George Fischer (Great Britain) Ltd. He retired as Managing Director of Britannia at the end of 1965, but stayed on the Boards of the three Companies until the beginning of June this year. During the last five years he has travelled extensively overseas in the U.S.A., Canada, Africa and the Continent.

Mr. Bucher will celebrate his 70th birthday on 27th June 1970, not at his home in Bedford, but somewhere in Spain on yet another short holiday tour.

We wish him continued good health and many more years of happy retirement.

(W.H.)

#### COMMUNIQUE BY THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT IN BERNE CONCERNING THE FORUM OF SWITZERLAND

On June 5th 1970, the "Forum of Switzerland London" Foundation was created in Berne. The aim of this institution is to equip existing premises in the "Swiss Centre" in London with a view to organising cultural, social and economic events. In accordance with the Federal order of 18th December 1969, the Confederation will contribute 2.2 million francs to the creation of the "Forum". The remainder of the expense will be assured by contributions from the Swiss Colony in London, from private business and other interested parties.

Mr. Willy Spühler, former federal councillor, has been nominated as President of the Foundation. All the interested parties will be represented at the Council of the Foundation. These will include the Confederation, Pro Helvetia, the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K., the Swiss Bank Corporation, Swiss Fair Ltd., La Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the Swiss National Tourist Office and the Swiss Economic Council.

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