

Two declarations

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TWO DECLARATIONS.

(The following two declarations discussed and approved by the Presidents Assembly have been issued to the Swiss Press and Radio both in German and French.)

The Assembly of Presidents of the Swiss Societies in Great Britain, meeting on June 1st, 1951, has approved the following declaration:

- 1) That the problem of strengthening and rejuvenating the Swiss Colonies abroad is of great and urgent importance. They therefore warmly welcome the Report of the "Commission of Experts for Problems of the Swiss abroad" submitted to the Federal Council on December 21st, 1950.
- 2) That Swiss firms can and must make the most important contribution to the solution of this problem by employing wherever possible Swiss nationals to take care of their businesses abroad. They can always be best relied upon in all situations to represent and safeguard Swiss commercial and national interests.
- 3) That the old spirit of adventure which has contributed much to Switzerland's eminent position in the field of industry, commerce and science should be encouraged as much as possible by parents, teachers, politicians and heads of firms, thus reacting against the present tendency of putting too much importance on considerations of immediate advantage and convenience or economic security.

* * *

The Presidents having unanimously agreed on the above three points appeal to the Authorities, the "Vorort" and its affiliated Associations as well as to all Swiss firms urging them to give their most earnest consideration to the necessity of placing as many Swiss citizens as possible in their branches and agencies abroad.

The strength of a Colony is largely due to the influence its members exercise in the country which offers them hospitality. It is of paramount importance therefore, that as many high executive positions as possible should be filled by Swiss. They can be trusted to safeguard the interests of their own Swiss firm as well as of our country better than anyone else. They can at the same time greatly facilitate our task by using their influence to help to find or procure employment for young Swiss who wish to emigrate or gain experience abroad.

A Colony of employees or sub-managers only is weak and Swiss industry can only lose by it. Experience proves that, contrary to what is sometimes believed, the reputation of Swiss citizens stands so high that they are not at a disadvantage when dealing with the authorities or the business world in another country. It is, however, necessary also that Swiss citizens occupying such high posts should be as fairly remunerated as native business executives in equivalent positions would be.

The importance for the future of Switzerland of renewing continually this living contact with foreign countries and of ensuring practical experience abroad can in the opinion of the Presidents not be over-estimated.

The Presidents would welcome the backing and help of the Press and the Radio in furthering this

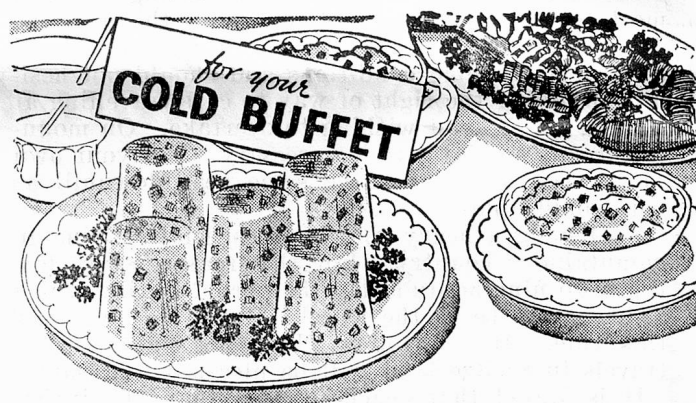
appeal by reminding the Swiss business world periodically of its paramount importance.

Finally, the Presidents appeal to all Swiss nationals in Great Britain to look out for and secure possibilities of employment of compatriots in all fields: academic, cultural and educational as well as commercial and industrial. As they are often the first to hear of such opportunities they may best be able to help in this direction.

* * *

The Assembly of Presidents of the Swiss Societies in Great Britain, meeting on June 1st, 1951, considers that it is in the best interest of Switzerland and the Swiss abroad to facilitate the latter's return to the homeland when retiring from work and with this aim in view to enable them to accumulate savings and to effect insurances in Switzerland. It therefore strongly urges the Federal Government to seek in all treaty negotiations with Great Britain and any other country the maximum facilities for Swiss nationals:

- a) to transfer current savings to Switzerland;
- b) to repatriate their savings capital on retiring to Switzerland;
- c) to take up new insurances within reasonable limits in Switzerland;
- d) to free pension transfers to Switzerland from double taxation and from being penalised (as compared with pensions payable in Great Britain) by taxation as unearned income.



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