

Children's Holiday in Switzerland

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YET ANOTHER SWISS DELEGATION AT A LONDON MEETING

Within a short period, several Swiss delegations have attended world-wide meetings in London. The latest was of a slightly different character. The ACROW Group of Companies held their World Convention in England from 28th September to 10th October. The ACROW Group operates in a wide field of engineering products on a world-wide basis. The Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. W. A. de Vigier, a fellow-countryman of ours, said in his foreword to the company record published on the occasion of the 28th anniversary, that their success was due to four things, people, products, initiative and, above all, to the enthusiasm of the ACROW team.

Delegates from forty countries attended the Convention, overseas agents, company directors, managers, and others. New products were demonstrated in the works of the ACROW Group in this country, discussion groups were held, sales promotion methods were studied and general export liaison strengthened.

On Saturday, 10th October, the Convention had its climax at a Dinner and Dance held at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W.1, when 1,400 guests of the ACROW group assembled for a brilliant social occasion, the largest function of this kind in London.

Large national flags of all the countries in which ACROW operate decorated the splendid Great Room at Grosvenor House where a galaxy of elegant, charming ladies and handsome, well-turned-out gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner. The Orchestra of the Irish Guards played during the meal, to be followed by Cyril Stapleton and Edmundo Ros with their well-known bands for dancing. The Cabaret included the Leslie Roberts Silhouettes and Kathy Kirby.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Chairman's welcome and the presentation of trophies and prizes to the top salesmen, buyers and production chiefs, as well as for ten and twenty years of loyal service. In the

response to the toast of Guests and Staff by Mr. de Vigier, Mr. J. W. M. Carpenter of New Zealand said that ACROW being spread out all over the globe meant that the sun was always shining on ACROW somewhere. He also referred to the announcement by the Chairman that the company's profits had reached one million pounds last year, an excellent result indeed.

The occasion of the 28th Anniversary was celebrated in a splendid manner. As Mr. de Vigier said in the closing sentence of his address: "Success is the achievement of what you set out to do." May it long continue.

Mariann.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY IN SWITZERLAND

It was a mixed bunch meeting at Victoria Station for the journey to Switzerland on the 27th of July: five adults, twenty-seven children, the smallest a five-year-old boy, the oldest a young lady of eighteen. The "Pro Juventute" group travelled to Basle to spend five and a half weeks in Switzerland. For most of them it was not the first trip, some are lucky and come every year. It was, however, the first time abroad for one little boy who asked on stepping on to the platform at Folkestone "are we in Switzerland now?"

Three children were registered with "Pro Juventute" and had a free holiday. All the others spent the time with their own relatives and had to be met in Basle or Zurich on arrival.

Judging from the happy faces and exciting tales when meeting again for the return journey, they had all had a wonderful time. They also learned some "Schwyzerdütsch". I was amazed to hear in the same breath "Grüezi, danke schön, häscht an Vogel, spinnscht Du!"

Why not join us next year?

Please look out for an announcement in the "Swiss Observer" early next year, when all the details of the "Pro Juventute" holiday 1965 will be announced. Mrs. B. Kaluza of 152 West Hill, London S.W.15, has kindly undertaken to supervise the travelling arrangements again and the organisers would be glad to have more children taking advantage of this opportunity.

In this connection it may be interesting to know that 623 Swiss children living abroad spent between four and ten weeks of holiday in Switzerland this summer. They came from Europe (including 150 from Eastern states where a visa is required) and the Americas. Many had been invited by relatives and former "holiday parents", others spent their holiday in a home or camp. Plenty of free places were put at the disposal of deserving children. Some received medical treatment or used their stay for convalescence. Some have remained in Switzerland to continue schooling or to start vocational training. A few remained in Switzerland because their parents have lost their means of livelihood under political or economic pressure of a particular country.

The holiday section of the "Pro Juventute" and "Schweizerhilfe" wish to thank all the helpers and friends for their support. (A.T.S.)

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 13th November. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 4th November. Short news items only can be accepted later. Delays have occurred in the post recently, and it is advisable to send off articles and reports in really good time.