

The Swiss observer thirty years ago

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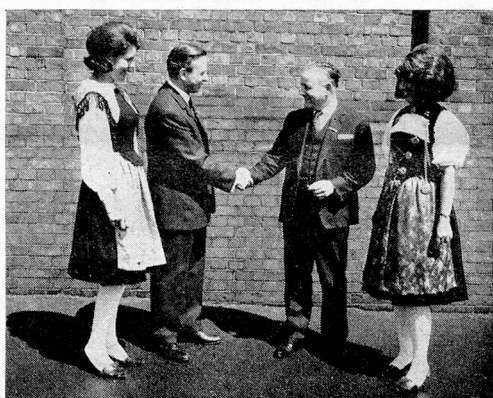
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growth of friendship between Arabs and Israelis, or Greeks and Turks, and he feels that in this ACSE can contribute at least in a small way "to the great task of promoting a happier relationship between the various countries of this sadly divided world".

MM



The Mayor of Bournemouth and Mr. F. Schillig at the Cafeteria Counter.



*1st August 1965
Mr. T. Haller
being received
by Mr. G. S.
Scheller of
ACSE.*

THE SWISS OBSERVER THIRTY YEARS AGO

In the issue of 6th July 1935 we read that owing to almost tropical heat, unduly rapid melting of the mountain snows had caused flooding in many parts of the country. There had also been a strong earthquake in Eastern and Central Switzerland. The Canton of Geneva was in financial trouble, and several Swiss banks were faced with difficulties. Switzerland banned several German newspapers. The news from the Colony included a short report on the City Swiss Club summer dance at Brent Bridge and a long description of the sixty-sixth Fête Suisse at which the Swiss Orchestral Society, the Ticinese soprano Miss Eva Cattaneo and our old friends, the yodeller E. von Bergen and the accordionist A. Gandon, had appeared, all of them "local" talent.

A week later, we were informed that the League of Nations' old home was for sale, and that Federal Councillor Minger had addressed the contestants in the Federal Singing Festival in Basle. The Zurich Rowing Club had scored three successes at Henley, and a report was published on an athletic match between the Metropolitan Police "C" Division and the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society at the former's beautiful grounds at Imber Court. The Police won by 69 : 66 points.

In the following issue there were some miniature sketches "Here and there in the Alps", and the Swiss Benevolent Society announced that a home for aged Swiss was to be established at 31 Conway Street, W.1, and with it a long-cherished hope was being realised.

The last issue in July carried an article "Les Débuts de M. Obrecht" (new Federal Councillor). Two Wengen guides had succeeded in making the traverse of the Eiger, Moench and Jungfrau for the first time in one day. There was a report on the ascent of the Piz d'Aela and an article on the Federal Arms. Our friend Ernst Kuebler from Manchester (now in Winterthur) published a poem on the occasion of the Swiss National Day. Swiss folk dancers had taken part in an international festival at the Albert Hall and had been invited to a reception at the Swiss Legation.

On 3rd August, the "appalling" figures of road accidents in Switzerland were published — 625 people had been killed in 1934. The oldest of the three hotels on the Rigi, the "Schulhaus" had been gutted by fire. The Zinal Rothorn had been climbed by a one-legged Englishman, Mr. Geoffrey Winthrop Young. A report on the farewell dinner to Monsieur Ruefenacht at Pagani's filled four long columns of the S.O.

The following issue had several articles, one on "Wie viel gilt das Schweizer Bürgerrecht?", "The Swiss National Languages" and "What is the source of Switzerland's attraction?"

On 17th August, we read that an Alpine Fund in memory of the late King Albert of the Belgians had been opened. Swiss exports had fallen, and the population of Berne stood at 120,502. A controversy with the "Sunday Express" was reported referring to that paper's statement that there was no Swiss race, and that the country was made up of Germans, Frenchmen and Italians! Unemployment in Switzerland had gone up again. Figures for the end of July were 63,497, nearly four thousand more than in June and 14,300 more than at the same time twelve months previously. The Swiss Legation announced that the old green passports would be replaced by fawn coloured ones. There was an article by Walter Mittelholzer "Die Probleme des regelmässigen Alpenfluges".

For the remainder of the month, no S.O. was published, indeed not for a full four weeks, in order to enable the Editor to have some well-deserved holidays.

MM



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