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An original Christmas present for the whole family:

Joining the Solidarity Fund

for Swiss Abroad

Interesting information in the June issue 1978 of this paper

Introduction and application forms for the **Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad in stable currency.**

Saving and insuring against loss of livelihood due to political events.

Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad

Gutenbergstrasse 6, 3011 **Berne**, Switzerland

Schweiz
Suisse
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Pro Juventute 1978

Gemeindewappen
Armoiries communales
Stemmi di Comuni



Aargau (AG)



Gruyères (FR)



Castasegna (GR)



Wangen a. d. A. (BE)

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Henri Dunant

The name of this Genevois is closely tied to the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose founder he was. In his work «Un souvenir de Solférino» one can read the following appeal: Would it not be desirable that the leaders of martial art, who belong to many nations, should convene a conference in order to lay down some principles in a binding agreement, which, once recognized and accepted, would form the foundation stone of relief organisations in the united countries of Europe?

Jean Henri Dunant was born in Geneva on 8th May 1828, son of a very charitable family. He was enterprising and sensitive. Already as a child, he was deeply affected at the thought of his neighbours' suffering, and in the penitentiary colony of Toulon, where his parents consoled the prisoners, he declared – at the age of 6 – «Once I have grown up, I shall write a book to defend them.»

He was full of great ideas, a missionary who wanted to improve the fate of his fellow-creatures. He

was, however, not in a position to realize all this on his own.

At the age of 21, he organized the «Réunions du jeudi» in order to pursue the spreading of the Gospel and social welfare. These reunions in turn become the «Union chrétien de jeunes gens». He was motivated by this need of general awareness, and he managed to lay the cornerstone of an international organization. Later he left this again in order to devote himself to another idea. As a commercially trained administrator of a bank, he invested considerable sums in Algeria. In order to obtain the guarantee for this undertaking from Emperor Napoléon III, he went to Italy in 1859, where the French were at war with the Austrians. On his way, he reached the town of Castiglione one day after the battle of Solferino which claimed over 40 000 casualties.

Witnessing this terrible spectacle, he had only one thought, to save the injured without regard to their nationalities and to prevent the repetition of such a massacre. He used all his strength to realize this ideal, and in 1863 a Committee for the Rescue of the War Wounded was created which then led to the diplomatic conference of Geneva. With that, the basis of the Red Cross was established, and its



symbol of neutral and international protection became a red cross on white background.

His business which was relegated to secondary importance and was badly neglected, caused a scandal and the bankruptcy of the Société du Crédit Genevois. In order not to incriminate the IKRK, he resigned. At the age of 39, he found himself in



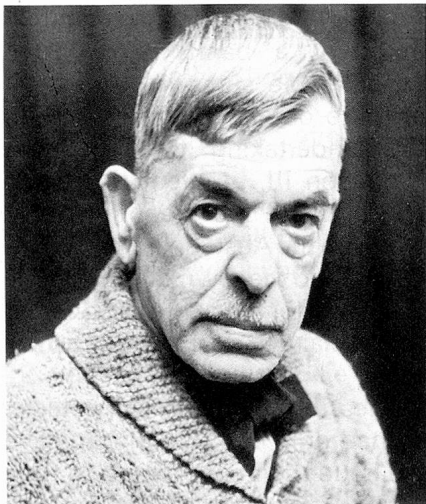
great misery, for his whole fortune was mortgaged, and the many ideas which occupied him, such as a world library and the return of the Jews to Palestine, could no longer be realized. Driven away from Geneva, he travelled throughout Europe and did not return to Switzerland until 1887 when he begged to be admitted to the

hospital at Heiden in the Canton of Appenzell. He was alone an unrecognized by anyone, although his creation, the Red Cross, already counted 23 national committees at that time. In 1895, he was discovered by a St. Gall journalist.

Immediately he was inundated by awards and distinctions, such as a Prize of the Federal Council, the Prize of Moscow and above all, in 1901, the first Nobel Prize for Peace. He never left Heiden any more and died there at the age of 82 on 30th October 1910.

On reading his last will, it was revealed that he had never used the prize moneys for himself, but had distributed them all to philanthropic organizations and had made a considerable legacy in favour of the Commune of Heiden, which enabled it to create a «free bed», always for the poorest patient of the Commune. *Lucien Paillard*

C. F. Ramuz



One hundred years ago, on 24th September 1878. Charles Ferdinand Ramuz was born, one of the greatest novelists our country has ever known. Through his father he originated from the «Gros de Vaud», mainly an agricultural area,

and through his mother from the wine-growing district of Lavaux, extending above the lake through which the Rhone flows, a typically *Romand* and Southern river which was decisive for Ramuz's aesthetics. The author died at Pully on the shore of Lake Léman on 24th May 1947. There he owned his house «La Muette» which is now the Ramuz Museum.

His death so soon after the war and the beautiful «Pages d'un neutre» had shown why he had chosen the peaceful domain. This left painful feelings with many of his admirers that this independent spirit and fastidious soul, this witness and protector of the highest values had left them as «orphans», as it were. The world events, the confusion of peoples and ideas let us – above all us Swiss – forget this irreparable loss at the time. Times had changed

suddenly, so that one rejected Ramuz's work, especially his novels, as witnesses of yesterday's world, before the great catastrophe; one even treated them as legends. It is true that the war-ravaged countries had to look after their immediate needs, and the Swiss were pleased to be able to cross the frontiers again. ... In short, Ramuz's work lost its impressiveness under such circumstances. It was looked upon a little like a beautiful landscape which glides by, reflected in the back-mirror. Undoubtedly, one will one day return there, in fact, one has already returned. Time for reflection, tranquility, introspection will again become a need for every one of us. Reading Ramuz will bring us abstractions and a kind of youth which will no longer reject natural lyric and which will rediscover the