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LONDON, DECEMBER 17, 1921.

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It is just over twelve months since the *Swiss Observer* made its first appearance and the time seems opportune to compare the actual results achieved with the hopes and anticipations which were the sponsors of our patriotic venture. Speaking briefly, we are still on the first step of the ladder of success and in stating that our anticipations have not been fully realised, we do but admit that our hopes may have been too highly pitched. The launching of a newspaper is universally regarded as one of the most difficult and uncertain propositions and demands in its first stages adequate capital resources and a liberal expenditure of energy, combined with patience and endurance. The supply at our disposal of the sinews of war is obviously limited, though we feel justified in claiming an adequate reserve of the other requisites aforesaid; these facts taken in connection with the modest though most encouraging measure of success obtained up till now, are sufficient to sustain our initial optimism for at least another twelve months. During this period we sincerely trust that the *Swiss Observer* will gradually become a self-supporting entity.

From the beginning of next year we shall publish WEEKLY instead of fortnightly, and the price will be reduced from Three-pence to TWO-PENCE per copy.

The active interest displayed and the official support accorded at all times by the Swiss Legation and the personal efforts of M. C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, and M. Henri Martin, Counsellor of Legation and Commercial Attaché, constitute a recognition and encouragement which for us have been the deciding factor.

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing on our own behalf—and we believe on behalf of the entire Swiss Colony also—the thanks due to Mr. Chas. A. Barbezat and Mr. George Dimier for their financial assistance so

readily accorded; to our regular advertisers we are also greatly indebted for a source of income without which our publication would not have been able to exist.

The thanks to our abonnés we should like to couple with the wish that they extend to us the benefit of propaganda among their friends; if they would each undertake to interest and secure one or two new subscribers, they would thereby render material service in solving the all-important problem of CIRCULATION.

THE PUBLISHERS.

17th December, 1921.

HOME NEWS

On Monday, December 5th, the Swiss National Council and the Swiss Council of States assembled at Berne for a three weeks' session which will terminate just before Christmas.

* * *

The Town Council of Geneva has requested the international news agencies to publish the following protest:—

“The authorities of the town of Geneva anxiously desire to correct the erroneous and damaging statements so widely circulated in the English and American Press to the effect that the cost of living at the seat of the League of Nations had become extortionate.

An official inquiry has established the fact that the cost of living in Geneva is no higher than in any other large European town.”

* * *

M. Allizé, the French Ambassador in Berne, has presented to the town of Geneva the Dupuis Gold Médal as a token of France's recognition of Genevese activities in the interests of humanity during the late war.

The Committee of the International Red Cross in Geneva have likewise received the Dupuis Medal in appreciation of the valuable services rendered to French refugees, internees and prisoners of war.

* * *

The outbreak of a smallpox epidemic in the Canton of Glaris is causing considerable alarm.

Various communities are infected, a total of 125 cases having been reported so far, and it is feared that notwithstanding immediate stringent precautions the disease may spread still further.

* * *

A regrettable disaster occurred at Lucerne, where the remnants of an old railway bridge, crossing the River Reuss, were being blown up.

The electric current having failed to ignite the charge of explosives in one of the bridge pillars, civil engineer M. Dreyfus, of the Federal Railways, decided to remove the charge for investigation and carried it some little distance away, when suddenly the charge exploded, killing him on the spot, as also civil engineer Fritz Steinbuch, from Zurich, and a workman named Karl Wälti, and seriously injuring four others.

* * *

Over four hundred Swiss artists from home and abroad have entered the competition for the design of a poster for the Federal Gymnastic Festival which will be held at St. Gall next year.

* * *

The Central Committee of the Swiss Aero Club has decided to invite Geneva to make the necessary arrangements for holding the start-meeting of the 1922 Gordon-Bennett Balloon Cup Race.

The town of Berne had to decline this honour on account of the heavy financial engagements involved.

The Aero Club Committee also decided to hold in Zurich during next summer an International Flying Meeting for Aeroplanes, connected with an exhibition of motor-less aeroplanes. It is hoped that this meeting will be patronised by the leading international aviators, and that it will tend to foster goodwill between the one-time enemy nations so far as the international sport of aviation is concerned.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of the *Swiss Observer* to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

FAMILIEN - WEIHNACHTSFEIER

veranstaltet vom

Gem. Chor der Schweizer-Kirsche in London

unter freundl. Mitwirkung der

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY

Mittwoch, den 21. DEZEMBER, 1921, abends 4 bis 10 Uhr

im grossen Saal der **ST. GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS SCHOOL**
(Corner Shaftesbury Avenue—Endell Street).

Kinderfeier mit Weihnachtsbaum u. "Samichlaus"
(von 4 bis 6 Uhr abends).

Gem. Chor, Männerchor, Töchterchor, Musik, Declamationen,
Ansprachen, Thee, etc.

Herzl. Iladig an alli Landslüt!

Schweizerischer Christlicher Verein Junger Männer,
28, RED LION SQUARE, W.C. 1.

Unsere **WEIHNACHTSFEIER** findet statt
DIENSTAG den 20. DEZEMBER

im City Central Y.M.C.A., 186, Aldersgate St., E.C.1
6 Uhr: THEE. Beginn der Feier: 7 Uhr.

wozu wir alle unsere lieben Landsleute, Freunde und Gönner unseres Vereins herzlich einladen. Der Vorstand.

BULLETIN CONSULAIRE.

The first number of the "Bulletin Consulaire" published by the Political Department in Berne has just come to hand; it is issued in the form of a pamphlet and is printed in French and German.

The publication has for its object to cultivate and strengthen the relations between Swiss abroad and the mother country and to supply to the former trustworthy information on economic actualities and on the conditions and prospects of our different industries. It is hoped this will not only help to create and preserve a just appreciation of Swiss aspirations, but will also assist in furthering and developing commercial intercourse with foreign countries.

The number before us enumerates all the changes which have taken place in our consular service since the beginning of this year. It contains articles on Immatriculation (emphasizing the necessity of every Swiss being registered at his respective Consulate), on the activities and purpose of the Office Fédéral du Travail and the Office Suisse du Tourisme and the first part of a review of the Swiss watch industry.

In a supplement Dr. C. Benziger, the chief of the Consular Service of the Division for Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Political Department, deals exhaustively in a remarkable article with the relations between Switzerland and Holland, and singles out the names of those compatriots who have distinguished themselves in that country.

The "Bulletin" appears monthly, and the ordinary subscription is Frs. 10.—per year; for compatriots, however, residing abroad and who have conformed to the Consulate prescriptions regarding Immatriculation, the price is reduced to Frs. 3.—per annum. Application should be made to the Chancellor, Swiss Legation, 32, Queen Anne Street, W.

The Commercial Division of the Swiss Legation in London has just established a second edition, completed and revised, of a list of the principal technical journals (Fachblätter) concerning the various branches of commerce and industry in Great Britain, a document which would be of great help to Swiss firms wishing to advertise in Great Britain or to offer their services for Switzerland. This list is divided into 28 headings, namely: Building Trades, Fittings and House Furniture, Coal, Iron, Steel, Boilers and allied Trades, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Transport, Shipbuilding, Shipping, Food-stuffs and Liquors, Drugs and Chemicals, Oils and Fats, Printing and Graphic Arts, Scientific and Surgical, Agriculture (Farming, Poultry, Gardening), Society, Sport, Touring, Aviation, Economical Publications of General Nature, Finance, Textiles, Furs and Hatters, Rubber, Leather, Leather Goods, Hardware, Glass and Clay Products, Clocks, Watches and Jewellery, Games and Toys, Music, Hotels. Those interested in this list can obtain same from the Commercial Attaché of the Swiss Legation, 32, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1. (price 3s.)

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Gros et Détail.

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