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THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

To the Editor, *Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,

As a personal friend of Mr. P. Brun, President of the Union Helvetia and Birmingham Club, who has just made me a subscriber to your paper, I take this opportunity of thanking him on behalf of the Birmingham section for his excellent organization of the Swiss Rally at Whipsnade. His courtesy and good humour to all, whether compatriots or not, and his attention to every minute detail deserve the highest praise.

It was also very gratifying to see the London and Leicester patriots, not forgetting our esteemed Minister, Mr. Paravicini and his daughter who helped to make the rally a success.

As the meeting was so successful in bringing together the various Swiss, who live in this country, let us hope that next year more will avail themselves of the opportunity of meeting their compatriots.

Trusting you will find space in your paper for my remarks.

Yours faithfully,

Stoke-on-Trent

"A. Schwyzer."

NEWS FROM THE BERNINA DISTRICT.

Poschiavo and the district, is once again in the limelight. The "Grigione Italiano," our only official paper, has been lately teeming with news, partly small news, it is true, but nevertheless interesting for those, like myself, who know the town, its inhabitants and leaders.

But there is also big news, and unfortunately serious news, which affects the inhabitants of the valley in a most vital manner, I am speaking in relation to the Bernina Railway affairs. Your readers might perhaps remember, that about nine months ago, I wrote about the serious state of affairs of this railway, and how the Swiss Government came to the aid of this institution.

Since then, I am sorry to say, things have not improved at Poschiavo, as a matter of fact they have taken very much the same turn as everywhere else. The grant made from the federal authorities at Berne, in order to maintain a service throughout the winter has been exhausted, and the B. R. finds itself again in low waters. The tourist season has not come up to expectations, and the goods traffic alone could not make up for the deficiency, as the running expenses for maintaining an efficient service are necessarily high. In spite of an extensive propaganda either through advertising or through personal efforts by M. Zimmermann, the enterprising Managing Director of the B. R. Railway, who toured Switzerland and Italy, giving lectures and showing by lantern slides the beauties through which the Bernina Railway travels. As a possible closing down of this railway would not only affect the shareholders, but also the whole population of the valley of Poschiavo, the matter has been brought before the cantonal government, and Dr. Lardelli as well as M. G. Berti, both members of the executive have sponsored this cause, with the result that the authorities have decided that the service of the Bernina Railway must be maintained throughout the year, a commission has been appointed to find ways and means to find a satisfactory solution. After lengthy deliberations this body has put various alternatives before those who are principally interested in this matter.

Both the cantonal as well as the federal authorities are to be asked for financial help. No taxes should be levied for the time being. An amalgamation with the Rhätische Bahn is also under consideration. Another proposal is to sell the railway to the canton of Grisons for an amount of approximately 9½ million francs, (the costs for building this railway were 22½ million francs.) But even should the last mentioned deal come off, the government would be quite unable to run the railway on their own, without financial help from the communities and the federal authorities.

For the time being nothing has yet been decided, but news from Chur intimate that a satisfactory solution might be found in the near future.

Permit me to mention a few individuals who have made untiring efforts in order to assure that this railway, which is so vital to the town and the valley of Poschiavo should not cease to exist, there is, first of all, M. G. Berti, who has, only recently been elected Vice-President of the Grand Council, M. Lardelli, a member of the cantonal government, and late commander of the 36th Mountain Infantry regiment. There are to be added the names of M. Semadini and Dr. Fanconi both ardent supporters to a cause which should once again bring prosperity to the people of Poschiavo, and last, but by no means least, M. Taromelli, editor of the Grigione Italiano, who has recently been made an honorary citizen of the town of Poschiavo.

The old saying, "Every dog has its day," might be applied to the little town of Poschiavo. Bravo! Evviva Poschiavo!

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Swiss Rifle Association: Shooting Practice every Saturday and Sunday at the Range, (opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon).

Sunday, July 24th — "Picnic by Car" — to Farley Heath and Blackheath (Surrey) Meeting place: Ham Common at 10 o'clock sharp. (See announcement).

Sunday, July 24th — Annual Outing to Ranmore Common, Surrey — Swiss Hotel — Start 9.30 a.m. sharp at Swiss Hotel, 53, Old Compton Street, W.1. (See Advert).

Bank Holiday Monday, August 1st — Swiss Rifle Association — "Bundesfeier" — Fête Nationale, at Hendon Shooting ground. (Official start at 3 o'clock p.m.)

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8. — Répétition du Choeur.

BAPTEME.

Sidney Jack Hobson, né le 26/5/32, fils d'Albert Edward et de Suzanne Mathilde née Bobillier de Londres et La Chaux-de-Fonds le 10.7.32.

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Während der Monate Juli & August fallen die Abendgottesdienste aus.

Alle Anfragen sind während der Ferien des Gemeindepfarrers an Herrn Pfarrer W. Dietsche, c/o Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. zu richten, bis zum 28. Juli.

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