

Swiss Observer 16th birthday

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Swiss Observer 16th Birthday.

By KYBURG.

It seems a very long time since our Swiss Minister, M. Paravicini, did some of us the honour to ask us whether we would agree to do our bit to make the Swiss Observer a living link to help keeping the Swiss Colony together.

There was, I remember, Mr. Boehringer who, for some time, had spent quite a good deal of money and time on our Swiss Observer in an effort to keep it going. There was Mr. Egli who represented the *Bund* in London and who agreed to take over the Editorship for a time. There were others who agreed to help, some in the capacity of administrators, advertisement-getters, publicity Agents, subscription, i.e. new Reader hunters, or as in my case, who consented to contribute occasional copy to the paper.

Yes, we all, who were there in that small room at the Swiss Legation in Queen Anne Street, and who had listened to the remarks of our Minister, we all agreed to help. It was made quite plain to us too that, as in the past, so in the future, at least for some time to come, all such assistance would be given voluntarily. "pour la cause" as it were and "la cause" was nothing else but that solidarity which is supposed to bind all of us Swiss together in one common family, true to the famous Swiss Motto — "One for all, All for one."

That, so many years ago, was how the Swiss Observer, our beloved London Chasblättli was saved at the time and that was the spirit which animated its collaborators.

Some of the latter are getting old. Not old in spirit, but old in the sense that they feel that it was time some of the younger bloods of our Colony took over their work. After all, there must be now, some quite brilliant chaps who like us, at that time, are qualified and eager to do something for the good of our Swiss Colony in England. Surely, there must be some?

Of course, we still have our young and energetic Editor, A. Stauffer, at the helm. We still have our old friend Mr. Boehringer in the background, no doubt grumbling like anything if the revenue side of the Swiss Observer's P. and L. a/c does not come up to his most sanguine expectations, and, let me add, still watching over the Paper which, after all, was his very own child at first, like a motherly hen over her chicks. Well, and have you watched his smile when anyone says a good word about the Swiss Observer? It's almost worth paying a fee to watch that smile stealing over his face. Our friend Boehringer has

"bien mérité de la patrie" in founding the Swiss Observer and we are all grateful to him.

And what a feast the Swiss Observer provides! Not in one, not in two, but mostly in *Three languages!*

The austere German, the clean cut French, the Lingua di Dante which melts in the mouth and, occasionally, even the Romantich, all spread out before you, Reader, for your delight, your information, your pleasure and erudition.

If I had the gifts of the reporters of the English Yellow Press, I would take you behind the scenes of the Swiss Observer and give you a glimpse of how the Paper is being prepared, edited, "put to bed" and finally sent out in his saucy green wrapper. I would show you the countless reporters who toil all the week to get all the news together. I would show you the frightfully busy Editor, armed with scissors and a big blue pencil and yet managing to shout instructions into the telephone and to sack the office boy every now and again. I would show you the proof-readers, always too late with their work, nerves on edge like the sub-editors, resignations following heated altercations, but re-instatements following a cooling drink taken just round the corner to soothe the ragged nerves. I would show you the collaborators praying of an evening that they might be favoured by a telephone call from friend Stauffer asking for an article for next week's issue for which "as it is an especial issue, I must have one of your fine articles in it." In short, I would show you how the whole thing is actually done and believe me or not, the actual thing is being accomplished in a very much quieter atmosphere than the hectic reporters afore-said would make you believe.

Publishing the Swiss Observer week by week means hard work for quite a few, but mostly for friend Stauffer, and when you read his often brilliant articles you may well wonder how he does it all and still manages to smile at you when you see him.

I think not one of you Readers is still harbouring the illusion that the people behind the Swiss Observer are making a fortune out of the paper or even buying Austin Sevens out of their Dividends, what?

I am informed that Advertisements during the past year have been somewhat better than before, but that at least another

200 NEW READERS ARE WANTED

to get the Paper to the stage when a small profit may be earned and when some of the contributors may look forward to a small remuneration for their work. Even then, alas and alack and Alaska! I understand that any such remuneration would not be retrospective! Well now, dearly beloved Reader, — that is if you listen and forthwith resolve to do your bit — your task is as plain as day-light.

Instead of thinking, as you probably do, what on earth is the fellow driving at and am I not paying 12/- yearly for the little paper which, as far as paper-weight goes is certainly not worth half that money, and, instead of grumbling because you do not particularly care for this or that article or feature in the paper, in short, instead of being the opposite of *Helpful*,

You Should spread the fame of the Swiss Observer,

You Should get at least *one* new subscriber within a week,

You Should, if at all possible, send in "copy" to the Editor and not mind his blue pencil,

and, in my opinion, *You Should Do All This*, because

We are celebrating the Swiss Observer's 16th Birthday

and

WE SWISS ARE JOLLY GLAD WE HAVE SUCH A PAPER TO KEEP US IN TOUCH WITH OUR HOMELAND.

I might and probably ought to have stopped here. Let me, however, add just one more thought.

For very many of the Swiss living in England and surrounded by English friends, contact with Switzerland would be difficult to maintain, at least to keep alive so regularly and effectively, if it were not for this little weekly paper of ours, this Swiss Observer. I know, because I well remember the time before we had a Swiss Colony Paper in England.

Therefore and although I am not, as you well know, a super-Nationalist, I feel that in supporting the Swiss Observer one does one's little bit towards maintaining the relationship with the Homeland, with one's own kin and folk and, what is sweeter in our human life than to be really aware of and alive to the kinship with one's own people? Therefore, please do try and assist

THE SWISS OBSERVER!

What do they need, the Swiss?
What do they want in Switzerland,
The well-belov'd mother land,
What do they need, the Swiss?
God's peace and unity,
Man's strength and chivalry,
For our forbears mighty deeds
Inspire us with noble creeds,
That's what we need, we Swiss,
In our well-belov'd home land,
That's what we want in Switzerland,
Just what we need, we Swiss.

What do they need, the Swiss?
What do they want in Switzerland,
The well-belov'd mother land,
What do they need, the Swiss?
Not much is left beside,
Of wishes that abide;
We pray Good Health for beast and man,
God's best gift since the world began,
That's what we do, we Swiss;
In our well-belov'd home land,
That's what we do in Switzerland,
God grant it to us Swiss!

Transl.
GALLUS.

THE EMMENTAL. (Emmentaler Lied).

Nowhere is it half as jolly
As at home "im Emmentaler";
We indulge in harmless folly,
Come and join us — one and all.

Maids and girls with nice complexions,
Well-built, sturdy, ev'ry one;
There's no time for long reflexion,
Which of them shall be your own?

Ceremonial is not needed,
Each one calls the other "thee,"
Favours equally conceded,
Be he rich — or just poor me!

Transl.
GALLUS.

SONNET on the FETE SUISSE 1935.

The days are rife with pageantry and state,
A nation's grateful tribute to her King;
May all these fervent hopes and wishes bring
That sense of peace which outcasts fear and hate.

Grave are the times in which we congregate,
But faithfully to long tradition cling;
Coming old friends to greet — old songs to sing,
With our home land re-communicate.

Dear land, where hard-won freedom had
its birth,
Where toleration knew a sacred shrine
And persecuted souls asylums found —
To them your soil must have been
hallow'd ground ...
May so it e'er remain — by God's design —
The cradle of His peace upon this earth.

GALLUS.

15th June, 1935.

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