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## EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

*(The columns of the Swiss Observer are at all times open to correspondents, but the views expressed by the latter, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor).*

1st February, 1936.

*The Editor,*
*Swiss Observer,*
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

I am very sorry indeed to see the letters in the "Swiss Observer" about Switzerland not having sent special representatives to the Funeral of the late King, as it must give English people who see these letters the impression that there was a lack of sympathy on the part of the Swiss Authorities and the Swiss people at home, which is certainly not the case. For instance, the dignified way in which the Swiss radio authorities acted made a very good impression. Furthermore, I read in an English paper that the flag on the "Palais Federal" was flown at half-mast and to-day I read a letter in the "Times" in which is mentioned that on the occasion of a memorial service in the English church at St. Moritz all the churches there rang their bells, all the shopkeepers put up the shutters of their shops spontaneously at the time the service began, and many Swiss people together with the English guests and others attended the service. These are just a few of the many expressions of sympathy on the part of the Swiss people apart from the official messages by the President of the Confederation and the Swiss Minister.

If the Swiss constitution does not provide for a special delegation to be sent to a foreign country in such circumstances, that should end the matter; in any case Switzerland could not have had a worthier representative at the Funeral than our Minister Plenipotentiary, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini.

That certain personalities from abroad who attended the Funeral were better subjects for the London journalists than the representation of Switzerland is obvious and need not be regretted. Let us see everything in its proper perspective.

I am sometimes afraid that we Swiss living here are occasionally in danger of being "plus royaliste que le roi." — "Nüt für Ungut."

Yours faithfully,
*F. von Bergen.*

---

London, February 5th, 1936.

*The Editor,*
*Swiss Observer,*
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my appreciation to you for having published a few letters in connection with Switzerland's representation at the Funeral of His late Majesty King George V.

I too was questioned on innumerable occasions by my English friends, why no mentioning was made in the English Press, that somebody was delegated to represent our country. —

It might be that the Swiss Government does not send any missions on occasions like this (although I cannot see any reason why they should not), but there seems to me no reason, why not at least two or three members of the Legation, apart from the Minister could have been delegated, like other countries have done, apart from their military and naval *attaché's*, thus the representation would have been more conspicuous.

The absence of any information in the English Press, with the exception of one or two papers, is deplorable, and should not have happened.

Surely our authorities should have seen to that, it has created a very bad impression amongst English people.

Hoping you will be able to publish this letter in your next issue, I beg to remain, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,
*J. Fischer.*

---

Knowle, 3rd February, 1936.

*The Editor,*
*The Swiss Observer,*
23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

There is no doubt in my mind that there is something seriously the matter with Switzerland, but there is doubt in my mind as to the proper remedies of that country's very serious troubles. This doubt is the object of my letter and I hope that you will give it space in your Journal and that your readers will understand that I have Switzerland's interests at heart.

I have just returned from the latest of many hundreds of visits to my second Homeland. Every visit since the War has brought me more and more sadness. I talk to the people at every opportunity in their own Mother tongue (the tongue my Mother taught me.) I have talked with farming people, road men, blacksmiths, millers, guides, manufacturers, bankers, railwaymen, hotel people, visitors and all manner of humble and exalted folk.

From these countless talks I have gathered that there has ceased to be any stimulating influences; the people seem to have gradually drifted into the sad position of shoulder shrugging despondency of: "What can one do?"

One wise Swiss who happened one day to be walking over the Furka with me, said, when I expressed my views, "Yes there is something in what you say. We do seem to be drifting a bit, but, we have been to our ministries, we have asked them for guidance. Our commerce has asked for codes; our trade has requested new currencies; labour is clamouring for it's rights and the new generation is demanding a less gloomy future. What we need is something stimulating. Not a temporary schnapps but some far-reaching act such as depreciating our currency." He finished on the note that Switzerland like other countries needed new ideas, that it's people needed to modify its manners, be taught new outlooks, that they must root out their prejudices and subvert their convictions if they wished to climb back from this well of gloom into glorious sunshine once more.

With the sincere hopes that this letter may be of some help,

I am, dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,
*George Ellison.*

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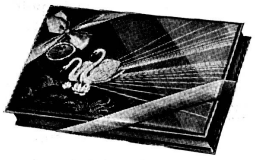

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, February 26th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting to be followed by a causerie by J. P. Trembley, Esq., on "La Pologne d'aujourd'hui" at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, February 29th, at 2 and 4 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show — at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1.

Saturday, February 29th, at 7 o'clock sharp — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

Saturday, May 23rd — Swiss Sports — at Herne Hill.

## Divine Services.

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Dimanche 9 février.

11h. — M. Roulet, missionnaire.
Collecte en faveur de la Mission.

6h.30 — M. R. Sauty.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes

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Sonntag, den 9. Februar 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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