

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1936)

Heft: 748

Artikel: An unusual holiday

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690703>

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Is Switzerland to defend the Steward's Cup and the Diamond Sculls?

Our compatriots in the British Isles will no doubt remember with what enthusiasm they greeted the splendid victory which the Zurich Rowing Club achieved last July at the Henley Regatta, by capturing the Steward's cup and the Diamond Challenge Sculls, only missing the "Grand" by a small margin.

A wonderful achievement, when one considers that it was their first attempt in a field of sport where English and other Foreign crews have hitherto gathered all the honours.

Our countrymen received universal and unstinted praise from the greatest rowing experts in this country.

G. C. Drinkwater, one of the best known rowing authorities wrote in the *Daily Telegraph*:

"The Zurich crew were superb ...; I have never before seen such splendid rowing."

Manchester Guardian. (6.7.35.)

"Zurich easily beat Thames R.C. in a splendid contest."

Daily News and Chronicle. (8.7.35.)

"The brilliance of the Swiss competitors on their first appearance will remain a feature of this year's festival.

Zurich completed their success when their star member, E. Ruffi, won the Diamond Sculls in splendid form."

The Times. (8.7.35.)

"The Zurich four in beating last year's record for the Steward's Cup by 10 seconds, and the 1925 record by 13 seconds was alto-

gether phenomenal. Ruffi sculled right, in the Diamond Sculls, at 28 to win very comfortably by three and a half lengths in 8 minutes 15 seconds, a time that has only twice been beaten."

Daily Mirror. (8.7.35.)

"The Swiss crew had the satisfaction of achieving the only record performance of the meeting, and their victory was decisive. E. Ruffi, won the Diamond Sculls in easy fashion."

These are only a few of the many splendid testimonies which our countrymen received, in a sporting event, which is followed with the greatest interest in rowing circles all over the world.—

On this occasion we might also mention that the same crew won first honours, only a month previous to Henley at the Regatta in Mannheim. They were also first at the "Europäischen Meisterschaften" in Berlin, and they won in 1935, no less than thirty-one first prizes, a feat which is unrivaled in the annals of rowing.

By their achievements they have proved to the International sporting community that Switzerland has become a dangerous and gallant rival in the domains of Sport, and they have thus added new lustre to the many accomplishments which have promulgated a good and honourable name for our country abroad.

The Rowing-Club Zurich is willing and anxious to take part in this year's Henley contest

AN UNUSUAL HOLIDAY.

You may scoff at miracles but they are still happening and of almost every day occurrence at the little town I visited on my holiday this year.

A woman, so badly crippled with rheumatism that she had to be wheeled from her bedroom to the lounge of the hotel where she is staying, and in a week's time walking unaided down this self same passage. Men walking with the aid of sticks into a swimming bath and when they enter the water moving all their limbs and being able to float and swim on their backs as well as the fittest. A swimming bath where it is impossible to sink even in the 6ft. deep end. The water of the bath so strong with brine and other constituents, and with such powerful action that iron and metal pipes are eaten through in a short space of time. The water so dense that it is impossible to dive into it without risk of serious injury to yourself.

You may well ask where is this place. It must be some famous continental spa. No! It is right under our noses. 120 miles from London and 20 miles from Birmingham. A small town called Droitwich.

Yet with all these wonderful propensities so little known to the average person and for that matter, until the last year or so, so little visited. However, I predict it will not be many years before it's fame of curing these wretched ills of rheumatism, gout and kindred complaints becomes world known and we shall have a very different little town to what we have got to-day.

It is a quaint town with all the old buildings tumbling about. So much so that you would imagine an earthquake must have struck the place. The result of the past mining for the salt which lies in beds not very far below the surface of the earth. Houses with a list of 20-30 degrees, shops with the fronts falling forward or tilting backwards and looking so grotesque and dangerous that you wonder the Borough Surveyor has not condemned them years ago. Settlements galore!

The water used in the baths is composed of natural brine and other minerals pumped up from these salt beds on which the town stands. It is extraordinarily dense as I have tried to indicate — a great deal more dense even than the waters of the Dead Sea and the experience of first entering the baths is very interesting and amusing!

The large swimming baths are heated up to a temperature of 90 to 92 degrees and can be visited by anybody, but the other baths, more suitable for the chronic invalids. Such as reclining baths heated up to 100 or 102 degrees, douche baths, aeration baths can only be given under a doctor's direction. It is great fun to go into the large swimming brine bath even if you are not a sufferer from rheumatism, for you can float and roll about with the minimum of effort. You can stand up in the 6ft. end putting your arms to your sides and heels together and go down no further into the water than your shoulders. In the shallow end the water is so buoyant that you cannot sit

to defend their title; there is, however, a snag, these International Sports contests entail heavy financial burdens on the individual members of the crew, and this year, their attendance at Henley is in the balance, owing to the fact that not sufficient Funds are available.

In order, therefore, to enable our countrymen to defend their title, which they won in such an amazing manner, we make an earnest appeal to all Swiss in the British Isles, to help us, to find a part of the expenses, taking the point of view, that their success reflects in no small part on the good name of Switzerland, and the individual Swiss living in this hospitable land.

We may mention that the Swiss Legation associates itself warmly with our request.

We have an amount of about 1,000 Swiss francs in view, no contribution will be too small, every little will help, and we dare to hope that this will not be an impossible achievement.

Donations, marked "Henley Fund, R.C. Zurich" can be sent either to the offices of the *Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2, or to the *Swiss Legation*, 18, Montagu Place, Bryanston Square, W.1; they will be acknowledged weekly in the columns of our paper.

We feel sure that the Swiss Colony, will come up to the scratch and help our sportsmen, who have given such a wonderful performance of their skill and sporting spirit to defend their title in this great sporting event.

THANK YOU!

on the bottom of the bath but are supported about half way. With the water heated up to such a comfortable temperature of 90 to 92 degrees a stay of 30 to 45 minutes can be enjoyed without feeling chilly and you must get out. Hot towels are provided and you rest for 5 minutes in your cubicle when you find the salt water has dried and you leisurely dress yourself. No teeth chattering or blueness of the nose! What a delight to the non-swimmer or the person who shrinks from the general coldness of the sea.

Added to the wonderful advantages the town possesses it is set amidst some of the most beautiful and interesting country you can imagine. For the tourist it is ideal.

Consider what beauty and historical interest such as the following towns bring to your mind: Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick and Leamington Spa, Worcester, Evesham, the Malverns, Tewkesbury and Gloucester, not forgetting Ludlow, Bewdley and Hereford. All within 16 to 35 miles distance. If you have never visited Birmingham, that City is only 20 miles away.

The views of the surrounding country from the Malverns can only be appreciated by the people who have visited these group of 6 towns. On a clear day, 13 counties can be seen from the heights of the Herefordshire Beacon. No wonder George Bernard Shaw resides here.

Ludlow on the river Teme with its interesting castle and picturesque old houses richly repays a visit.

Mr. Baldwin, the Prime Minister, lives in a beautiful spot just outside Bewdley.

The historian has a superabundance of material and places to visit such as Tewkesbury, Warwick, Evesham, Monmouth, Kenilworth and Hereford, all stepped in the battles of the middle ages.

Fishermen are in their element along the pretty banks of the Severn and the Avon.

I didn't take my usual holiday by the sea this year, but certainly do not regret it.

I have certainly seen miracles of health healing and miracles of wondrous and interesting scenery.

If any reader would care to have any further information as to Droitwich and what it might do for them, I shall be only too pleased to help them. With a spa with such wonderful remedial qualities almost on your doorstep everybody should hear about it.

S.P.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Committee of the above Society was held on the 10th inst., at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1, with the Swiss Minister in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting and the quarterly and annual accounts were read and duly passed. The Report of the Official Auditors of the Society was also accepted.

The widow, sons and daughter of the late Louis Buechi, desire to express their sincere thanks for the loving kindness, and thought shown to him by their friends, particularly the Unione Ticinese, during his brief illness, and for the many expressions of sympathy extended to them in their bereavement.