

Letter Box

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resource such as is needed to cope with the material and moral pressure of hard times like these. What better or more useful could anyone wish for?

"For deep down in the heart of every Swiss lies the conviction that, whatever he may do or not do, he must always think of his country, which — when all is said and done — is the most precious possession of each of us and, should the world come to grief, his sacred and imperishable hope.

"I thank you."

On resuming his seat, Monsieur Paravicini witnessed a second edition of congenial applause, and led by the vivacious Chairman the entire company sang "For he is a jolly good fellow" and many were the glasses emptied for his and Mme. Paravicini's future welfare.

After the toastmaster had made frantic efforts to make himself heard he at last succeeded in announcing the last speaker, in the person of Colonel Anton Bon, to whom the presentation, on behalf of the Colony, was entrusted.

One could have almost heard a pin drop, as the company which a few minutes previously had tried to shout itself hoarse became suddenly quiet, and when Colonel Bon announced that the present which the Colony had made to its departing Minister was a motor car, a sigh of relief broke from everyone, as the speculation as to the nature of the gift had been intense.

Owing to the fact that Messrs. Monico were unable to make the necessary structural alterations in time to have the motor car brought up to the Banqueting hall, Colonel Bon presented the Minister with the plaque bearing the following inscription:

*Presented to
The Swiss Minister
Monsieur C. R. Paravicini
by the
Swiss Colony in Great Britain
as a token of affection and gratitude
1920-1939.*

Curiosity has always been a weak spot of human nature, and no sooner had the announcement been made than some of the Ladies wanted to know what kind of a car it would be (God bless them), well all I can say is, it won't be a "Baby Austin" nor will it be a "Rolls Royce" and therefore they must keep on guessing, at least for the time being.

Colonel Bon in a very witty speech said that if ever the Minister takes his car over the lofty heights of our Swiss mountain passes, the mist which he will no doubt encounter, will remind him of the "good old London fog" or if he should venture to some of the Swiss Race Courses, pleasant memories will come back to him of his visits to Epsom, Ascot and Goodwood.

The speaker then, amidst great applause, finished with a few words in "Schweizerdütsch" which were greatly appreciated and duly acknowledged.

And so ended a most enjoyable evening, my good old friend, the Chairman, thanked everybody for having attended this festive gathering, not without making in his final words a delightful slip of the tongue, he asked all and sundry to "keep their seats and stand up whilst the guests of honour are leaving the room."

I tried hard to follow his instructions but never having been an acrobat it was a devil of a job, and I

am still suffering from the frantic attempts which I made to carry out his orders.

A word of thanks for the splendid arrangements which were made should be given to the members of the organising committee who had worked very hard so that no hitch should occur, they succeeded splendidly.

In a very few days our Minister and Madame Paravicini will leave these hospitable shores, where they have made so many friends, and where they leave behind a still larger circle of friends, a land where, to judge from their own admission, they have spent many happy years, and if the parting will be hard for them, it will be shared by all their compatriots in this realm.

You, Monsieur le Ministre, have been loyal to us and to your task, we on our part have reciprocated in the same spirit, without loyalty there can be no lasting friendships, and it is for this reason that we part the best of friends. We will not say good-bye but "au revoir," and once again "thank you."

ST.

LETTER BOX.

J. M. B. and others. — All requests for extra copies of the S.O. must be accompanied by a remittance at the rate of 3d. for current issues. The souvenirs of Menu Programmes can be obtained from the organising secretary, Mr. Henry Bingguely, 187A, Tottenham Court Road, W.1; they are being reprinted. It should be noted that these souvenirs cannot be posted abroad unless under licence by the printers and only direct from the printing works, i.e., no such posting is permissible when the souvenirs have left the printing works.

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