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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

OPENING OF SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

M. Ph. Etter, the President of the Swiss Confederation, the members of the Federal Council and of the Diplomatic Corps, almost all the members of the two Houses of Parliament, the General Staff, and the delegations of the 22 cantons, accompanied by their banners and ushers (Weibels) in coloured robes, arrived from Berne in a special train for the official opening of the National Exhibition.

President Etter, in his opening speech, declared that the exhibition, which was held in the city where the strategic roads leading to German, French, Italian, and Romansch-speaking Switzerland met, was a symbol of the unity of the Confederation. It was a splendid illustration of the effort of Switzerland in all domains, and he saluted the "Unknown Swiss Worker."

The Swiss National Exhibition is the first to be held in our country since that at Berne in 1914.

The exhibition is intended to present comprehensively a mirror of Swiss life. The tourist is accustomed to think of Switzerland as a purely agricultural country, mainly pastoral and devoted to a rather picturesque production of milk and cheese. That is only one aspect of Swiss economy, though a highly important one. Swiss agriculture is in itself, as the exhibition shows, highly varied, ranging from the production of wine in vineyards that come right up to the suburbs of Zürich from the south, to the extensive production of sugar beet in the north. There is an industrial side also, of which the tourist, for obvious reasons, sees much less. In North-eastern Switzerland is a highly-developed industrial life, embracing machine construction, textiles and chemical, electrical and metallurgical production, and in the west there is a vast and well-organised watch-making industry, with its natural accompaniment — the making of optical and scientific instruments of precision.

Switzerland at Work.

The aim of the exhibition is to present something more than a trade fair: to illustrate Switzerland at work. The agricultural section shows a model Swiss village living its daily life — not a reproduction or a sham antique of "ye olde chalet" type, but a modern community going about its daily routine. The purpose of this is partly educative, with the purpose of instructing the rural Swiss themselves in village planning and model farming. The village is complete with town hall, farm buildings, post office, co-operative cheese factory and village inn — the last with its "Stübli," where food and drink are served on country lines in country comfort. A real old chalet — one built in 1790 in the Val d'Herens, off the Rhône Valley — is shown to illustrate the virtue of sound timber building.

The best energies and imagination of Swiss architects and builders and technicians have been enlisted in the design and execution of the industrial section. Extensive use has been made of aluminium fittings, perhaps to emphasise the importance of the oldest Swiss metallurgical industry, in which Swiss research and practice have an honourable record. A pavilion is devoted to illustration of processes in the production of aluminium alloys and the many uses to which they are put. In the Engineering Hall can be seen the new giant electric locomotive, designed and built in Switzerland, for use on the St. Gotthard line. This railway presents peculiar problems for the locomotive engineer, since the track rises by fairly steep gradients on the north side of the Alps to some 2,200 feet above the Lake of Lucerne, and falls on the other side about 2,800

feet to the Italian frontier. The engine develops 12,000 horse-power, and can take trains of 650 to 700 tons up to the St. Gotthard tunnel at some forty miles an hour. Two have been ordered.

The Lighter Side.

The exhibition is not wholly instructive and serious; it has its lighter side. There are cafés, mountain inns and rest-houses reproducing the cantonal styles of Tessin, Engadine, Valais, Oberland, Appenzell and so forth, and displaying the wide range of regional Swiss food and drink, which at their best can be very good indeed. Much space and time is being devoted to sport and athletics. In the Hall of Fashion twelve pretty Swiss girls (they were elected from 600 candidates) will show off Swiss textiles and confections.

Zürich will benefit to some extent permanently, for the exhibition has necessitated the rebuilding of the main bridge across the outlet of the lake and the complete reproduction of some of its old public buildings. And visitors should not fail to explore the quaint corners of the older city set upon the hill, where the medieval past is being saved from extinction by kindly and tactful hands, while the dignified modern city grows round it apace.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published unemployment in Switzerland has greatly diminished, there are at present 32,864 unemployed registered or 28,253 less than twelve months ago.

NEW NESTLE PRODUCT MAY BE MARKETED HERE.

Reference was made at the 72nd Annual General Meeting of Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Holding Co., Ltd., at Cham, Switzerland, recently, to Nescafe, a new product launched on the Swiss market.

It is possible that the product will be introduced into England some time this year.

THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE BROWNIES.

Princess Margaret and two other little girls connected with the Buckingham Palace Brownies have received their "golden bars" (Brownie second class). The presentations were made by Fräulein von Herenschwand, the guide in charge of the international chalet at Adelboden, who had come to show them a film of the chalet and to teach the company some Swiss songs.

ENGLISH FOOTBALLERS TO VISIT SWITZERLAND.

Everton, the Football League champions, are to tour Switzerland during the close season. Matches will be played in Geneva on May 8th, Biel on May 20th and Zurich on May 24th.

INCREASE OF FRONTIER GUARDS.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to increase the number of frontier guards.

LOCAL.

ZÜRICH.

Over 89,000 persons have visited the National Exhibition on Sunday last.

BERNE.

On the occasion of the 100th birthday anniversary of M. Adolf Guyer-Zeller, the instigator of the Jungfrau Railway, a monument erected by the "Verkehrsverein" of Interlaken, was inaugurated in the presence of members of the family and the authorities both of the canton of Berne and the town of Interlaken.

The death is reported from Bienne of M. Karl Albert Leuenberger, President of the Board of the "Vereinigten Drahtwerke A.G." and the "Kettenfabrik Union, A.G. Biel," at the age of 79.

BASLE.

The accounts of the canton of Basle for 1938 closed with a deficit of 3,871,981.39 frs.

Dr. Hermann Renfer, since 1919 Director of the "Basler Lebensversicherungs Gesellschaft," has celebrated his 65th birthday. Dr. Renfer enjoys a great reputation in the Insurance world. In the Army he held the post as chief of staff of the 3rd Division.

BASEL.

Dr. O. Schär, President of the Board of the "Schweiz. Konsum Verein," has tendered his resignation. Dr. Schär has been connected with this important concern for the last thirty years.

ST. GALL.

The well-known firm of Christian Fischbacher & Co., in St. Gall, has made a donation of Frs. 500,000 to the Federal Council to be used for research work in connection with the Technical University in Zurich.

GRISONS.

The elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons took place last Sunday. The various parties in the new Council are represented as follows: Democrats 40 seats (old Council 35); Conservatives 28 seats (old Council 27); Liberals 21 seats (old Council 29); Socialists 9 seats (old Council 6); Independent 1 seat, (old Council 2); Total of members: 99.

AARGAU.

National-Councillor Dr. Hans Hoppeler, for the last twenty years a member of Parliament (Nat. Council), is not seeking re-election.

National-Councillor Otto Hunziker has celebrated his 60th birthday. M. Hunziker has been a member of the Grand Council from 1906-1936. In 1911 he entered Parliament. (Nat. Council). M. Hunziker has, during more than thirty years, rendered great services both to his native canton as well as to our country.

TICINO.

Two people were killed and several injured through the explosion of a mine placed in one of the tunnels of the Gandria Road, to block the road in case of war. The military authorities have investigated the matter and a report will be issued later on.

VAUD.

The death is announced from Aigle of M. Jules Borloz, since 1895 editor and publisher of the "Feuilles d'Avis du district d'Aigle," at the age of 71. The deceased was one of the Founders of the Swiss Press Association, he was a member of the Grand Council from 1916-1929.

VALAIS.

M. Hans Schröter, member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais, and a director of the "Volksbank" in Visp, has died at the age of 72.

NEUCHÂTEL.

Dr. C. de Marval, Honorary member of the Swiss "Samariterbund" and President of the "Stiftung für das Alter," has died in Neuchâtel at the age of 67. Dr. de Marval some years ago received the Gold medal of the International Red Cross for the many services he had rendered in that cause.

GENÈVE.

An International Competition for musical performers will be held at the Conservatoire de Musique, Geneva, from June 26th to July 8th. The competitions are open to both sexes. Money prizes will be given to the best performers, who, if selected, will play at the concluding orchestral concert. Information and conditions will be sent on application to the Secretary, International Competition for musical performers, Conservatoire de Musique, Geneva, Switzerland.

FOOTBALL.

7th May, 1939.

SWITZERLAND ... 2 HOLLAND 1

A comparatively small crowd of 17,000 witnessed this 14th international match of the two sides at the Wankdorf stadium in Berne, ending in a narrow, yet deserved victory for Switzerland. It is indeed pleasing to be able to dispense with that old formula of "wonders never cease" and similar epithets expressing delight, tempered by surprise and astonishment. But after the good show put up by Switzerland last year in the internationals played, particularly against England at Zurich (of course I am rubbing it in, there might not be another chance in my lifetime!), and against Germany in the world-championship games at Paris, worthily followed this year by that 4:2 win over Portugal at Lisbon and 3:1 over Hungary at Zurich, even the most inveterate pessimist of a reporter has shed the inferiority complex: A Swiss win against the Dutch was a foregone conclusion.

Although proved a correct forecast in the end, the Swiss had to fight for it desperately hard and it was anybody's match right up to the end.

In the first half the Dutch found their feet much sooner, showed good teamwork but lamentable shooting. After twenty minutes play, Smit, the inside-left and about the best Dutch forward on the field scored, for Holland to lead by one goal to nil. This out of the whip stimulated the Swiss eleven to great efforts. A great dribble by Amado, beating three, four opponents and finally the Dutch goalkeeper made the score level at one all, in the 27th minute. Immediately afterwards Trello has the misfortune to see a cannonshot of his headed out by Caldenhove, the Dutch left-back, the goalkeeper being hopelessly beaten. Switzerland now has the better of the argument. They build up some glorious goal chances, but the final effort either narrowly misses the Dutch goal or is efficiently dealt with by the young Dijkstra, Dutch custodian.

After the interval the fortunes fluctuate; now the Dutch, now the Swiss are pressing. All in vain. The nearer the final whistle approaches the more lively becomes the game. Gradually the Swiss manage to get on top. Attack after attack rolls on the Dutch sanctuary, only to be repulsed. The halves feed the red forwards beautifully; Trello schemes as of old; the wings, Bickel and especially Aeby serve some lovely centres. But nothing tangible will accrue. The minutes pass. Must we be content with a draw, possibly lose the game undeservedly by a score of Holland in some sudden break-away? Then Amado, whose inclusion had found a number of critics, flung combination to the winds, relied once more on his delightful body-swerve and ball-control to carry him past all opposition and placed the ball in the top-left corner of the net. In the last minute Switzerland has taken the lead and won the match.

Well done, the Reds! Keep it up!

Team: Schlegel (Young Fellows); Minelli (Grasshoppers), Stelzer (Lausanne); Springer, Vernati (both Grasshoppers), Bichsel (Lausanne); Bickel (Grasshoppers), Amado (Lugano), P. Aeby (Grenchen), Trello and G. Aeby (Servette).

Referee: Baert (Belgium).

M.G.

"L'ARMEE SUISSE."

Swiss Minister's Guests at Presentation of Film.

A private presentation of the film "L'Armée Suisse" took place by invitation of the Swiss Minister at the Monseigneur Theatre, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, May 10th, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Invitations were sent to members of the Government, the War Office, Air Ministry and both Houses of Parliament, to representatives of the Press and others.

The Military and Air Attachés of the Embassies and Legations were also invited to see the film.

Amongst the large and distinguished gathering were:

M.P.'s and Members of the Government.

Mr. Vyvyan Adams, Lt.-Commander P. G. Agnew, Col. J. Sandeman Allen, Mr. W. W. Astor, Col. J. Baldwin-Webb, Mr. R. E. B. Beaumont, Mr. Robert Bernays, Mr. W. W. Boulton, Sir William Brass, Captain Malcolm Bullock, Lord Burghley, Miss Thelma Cazalet, Capt. Victor Cazalet, Col. Ralph S. Clarke, Lt.-Col. Windsor Clive, Sir Thomas Cook, Mr. Duff Cooper, Mr. W. Craven-Ellis, Sir Henry Croft, Sir J. Smedley Crooke, Mr. Anthony Crossley, Mr. John S. Dodd, Mr. Patrick Donner, Col. Rt. Hon. Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, Captain T. L. Dugdale, Mr. Charles Emmott, Mr. P. V. Emrys-Evans, Captain Arthur Evans, Sir Arthur Gridley, Sir Edward Grigg, Lt.-Col. H. Guest, Mr. G. H. Hall, Sir Patrick Hannon, Colonel A. P. Heneage, Mr. George Hicks, Miss Florence Horsburgh, Sir Alfred Knox, Mr. P. C. Loftus, Sir Charles MacAndrew, Captain P. D. Macdonald, Lt.-Col. J. R. J. Macnamara, Sir William Max-Müller, Field Marshal Lord Milne, Mr. Harold Mitchell, Col. Nathan, Sir Henry Morris-Jones, Lt.-Colonel A. J. Muirhead, Mr. Noel-Baker, Lt.-Colonel Terence Nugent, Mr. Gerald Palmer, Mr. John Parker, Sir John Power, Mr. John Rathbone, Major Ralph Rayner, Captain E. H. Robinson, Colonel L. Ropner, Colonel Sir E. A. Ruggles-Brise, Sir Horace Rumbold, Mr. E. W. Salt, Sir Arthur Salter, Sir Walter Smiles, General Spears, Mr. J. Henderson Stewart, Lord Strabolig, Colonel E. L. Strutt, Mr. Charles S. Taylor, Captain Waterhouse, Mr. T. William, Rear-Admiral Sir Basil Brooke, General Sir Ian Hamilton, The Earl Howe, Captain Lewis, Major John Lugard, Colonel McGrath, Mr. Hamilton Lamplugh.

War Office.

Lord Munster, General the Viscount Gort, Sir Victor Warrender, Capt. C. J. Mc. C. Allport, Major A. J. Andrews, Lt.-Col. J. A. Barstow, Major G. R. Burford, Lt.-Col. F. A. M. Browning, Captain H. Butterworth, Major-General L. Carr, Lt. Clarke, Captain C. M. F. Deakin, Captain A. V. C. Douglas, Captain J. B. D. Drury-Lowe, Col. Fox-Pitt, Captain A. J. E. Gordon, Lt. H. J. L. Green, Capt. M. D. C. Hanbury-Tracy, Lt.-Col. A. F. Harding, Capt. Jeffreys, Capt. Hon. J. B. G. Hennessy, Brigadier W. C. Holden, Lt.-Col. J. D. Latham, Capt. S. H. Moore, Col. Reford, Capt. E. C. Russell, Major H. L. N. Salmon, Lt. W. F. Smith, Major P. R. D. Spurgin, Captain C. W. M. Timmis, Lt. J. Turner, Capt. L. I. T. Whitaker, Major O. S. D. Wills, Captain F. I. C. Wetherall, Lt. W. R. de B. des Voeux.

Air Ministry.

Major A. R. Boyle, Captain G. C. Bateman, Group Captain A. C. Collier, Squadron Leader Rock de Besombes, Group Captain R. V. Goddard, Major Wells.

Military, Naval and Air Attachés. (Diplomatic Corps).

Belgium: Lt.-Gén. Baron Vincotte, Major L. F. E. Wouters; Bulgaria: Major Penio Vassilev; China: Major

ChenPin-Kai; Egypt: Lt.-Col. Hamed Niazi; Finland: Commander H. Gröndahl; France: General Lelong, Capitaine de Brantes, Col. Fournier; Germany: Lt.-Col. von Bechtolsheim, Major A. Soltmann, Generalleutnant Wenninger; Hungary: Lt.-Col. R. de Utassy; Iraq: Col. Hamid Nusrat; Italy: Lt.-Col. Marigliano, Generale Attilio Calderara; Japan: Lt.-Col. T. Imasato; Latvia: Lt.-Col. Oskars Kalnins; Nepal: Capt. Yagya Bahadur Basyat; Netherlands: Lt.-Commander A. de Booy; Roumania: Capitaine de Vaisseau G. St. Dumitrescu, Captain George Iliescu; Siam: Colonel Morn Snidvongseni; Sweden: Major Count G. F. von Rosen, Captain Hägglöf; Turkey: Commandant d'Etat-Major Subhi Göker, Capitaine d'Etat-Major Cemal Aydinli; U.S.A.: Lt.-Col. Bradford Chynoweth, Major G. McDonald; Yugoslavia: Brig. Gen. Radovitch.

Representatives of the Press.

Dr. Egli, M. Jacot de Boinod, M. Gottfried Keller, Dr. Kessler, M. J. Meunessier, M. A. Stauffer, Mr. Kenneth de Courcy, Major E. W. Polson Newman, Commander King-Hall, Mr. James Dawson (Star), Mr. Campbell Dixon (Daily Telegraph), Editors of the Daily Express, Daily Herald, Evening Standard, News Chronicle, and Yorkshire Post.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The first of the 1939 - 1940 meetings took place at Pagani's Restaurant on Tuesday, 2nd May, and the atmosphere which reigned right through the evening was a very good omen for a most successful year.

The President with his usual vim was one of the early arrivals, full of smiles which soon magnetised the assembly into a meeting where depression was banished. With his great devotion to the Club, he had postponed an important tour abroad so as to be able to fulfil his duty of presiding at the first of these monthly meetings. Whilst the absence of certain committee members was noticeable, the meeting lost none of its lustre thanks to the presence of Mr. de Rham, who represented the Legation. Mr. de Rham is a very good friend of the Club, and one who appreciates a good talk, particularly when it is given by such a magnificent speaker as Mr. Thiery.

One new member, Mr. Chapuisat, was unanimously elected, and it was unfortunate that he was prevented from attending the meeting.

The President made an eloquent appeal in connection with the sending of our little compatriots to Switzerland for a holiday, and the assembly was unanimous in agreeing that the Club should support this patriotic undertaking. Members present unanimously agreed to make a first donation which if required could be followed by a further donation subject to approval at a subsequent meeting.

Members were again reminded that a Committee is being set up to organise a Swiss demonstration on the 1st August; one of the delegates of the City Swiss Club to that Committee expressed the hope that this national fête would be well supported by all members of the colony who happened to be in London on that date. Never has patriotism been more necessary than at the present time while the international situation is so unsettled.

The official part of the meeting was soon over, and it was a real pleasure to see with what harmony all the discussions were conducted, and the unanimity that prevailed on all decisions shows that even if there was not a record attendance, the quantity was definitely made up by quality.

Mr. Maurice Thiery whom the members had already had the pleasure of hearing previously was up to form, if not excelling himself. His well-known wit, his astonishing and pleasing way of recounting stories was keenly appreciated by the audience. Some two hundred members of the Club, however, failed to enjoy this particular treat, and I cannot help feeling that they must be suffering from disappointment or remorse at having missed such an interesting and pleasant talk. Stories from Bocage to Sarah Bernhardt, Tristan Bernard up to Sacha Guitry were not only interesting in their official version but most amusing and certainly made the evening one of the most successful which the Club has had for a long time. Mr. Thiery was cheered to the echo, and there was only one regret that at 10.30 it should already be time to part.

Mr. de Rham in a few well-chosen words thanked Mr. Thiery for the most fascinating evening he had enabled us to spend and rejoiced in the very friendly atmosphere which is reigning between our French friends in London and the City Swiss Club.

It is hoped that all the unfortunate ones who for some reason or other missed this meeting may remember that it is the aim of the Committee to make these monthly reunions as attractive as possible, and it would be good for the members to remind themselves that when such well-known speakers as Mr. Thiery pay the compliment of a visit to the Club, they should be supported by a large attendance.

Plans are in progress for the June meeting, and the Secretary is anxious to know whether the approximately 200 members who were absent are likely to mend their ways so as to enable him to complete the arrangements.

It would be greatly appreciated if members who have any suggestion to make in connection with the meetings would write the Secretary so that he may take up their ideas with the Committee.

Members will know that it has been the aim of the Committee to have an attendance of about 100 members at each meeting, and there is no reason, in my opinion, why members of the Club should not turn up regularly. I always feel that it is as bad for a member to pay his subscription to a Club and not attend regularly, as it would be for a customer to pay his restaurant bill and walk out without having his food. The great success of the first meeting has no doubt been communicated to many members of the colony, and they will all be welcome at the next meeting which takes place at Pagani's on June 6th.

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