

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: - (1940)
Heft: 972

Artikel: Hyde Park in wartime
Autor: F.I.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693465>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 16.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

date, to the experimental stage. But now we shall advance more rapidly. When the Schwarzenburg station is put in operation *regular daily programs* will be organized for all continents. Of course a station like Schwarzenburg cannot be brought to a maximum of development over night; its activity will develop through consecutive stages. The first step will include a one station service only, with two directed aeriels for North America, one for South America, two for Africa and one for Far East. The second step will not only bring two additional aeriels for Central America, Southern Asia and Australia, and a circular emitter which will insure the listeners in bordering European lands of a good reception — but also a second station in connection with all these different types of emitters, allowing, thus, simultaneous transmissions of two programs on different wave lengths for different destinations.

Switzerland, though ingenious and industrious, has limited means, we said in the beginning of our article. It must, therefore, aim at maximum results with a minimum of expenditure. Our future national short wave station will, for financial reasons, have to find ways and means of recuperating a part of its investment. To this end, the second emitter will be placed principally at the disposal of a *radiotelephone service* with overseas countries. But even this commercial arrangement will carry with it certain non-material advantages. Among others it will provide our country, which is without any direct access to the

seas, with a permanent connection with lands which heretofore have been out of contact with Switzerland excepting through foreign territory.

We trust, in closing, that these few remarks have helped you to realize better the importance to be attached to the Swiss short wave service in the future, not only from the viewpoint of Switzerland, but of Switzerland's friends and customers throughout the world as well. We hope the manifold possibilities represented by future development have been made evident. Our determination is to insure a maximum development, and with this in mind we invite our overseas listeners to show their goodwill toward our undertaking by forwarding to us such criticisms and suggestions regarding our trial emissions as they may deem useful. We thank you most cordially in advance.

HYDE PARK IN WARTIME.

Having nothing better to do I decided to visit Hyde Park and to find out what my old friends the soapbox orators were doing. True enough, they were still alive and kicking. It was 3 o'clock in the afternoon; one or two people were already haranguing their audiences whilst two more platforms were put into position, indicating that:

- "the time has come," the Walrus said,
- "to talk of many things;
- "of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax —
- "of cabbages — and Kings." —

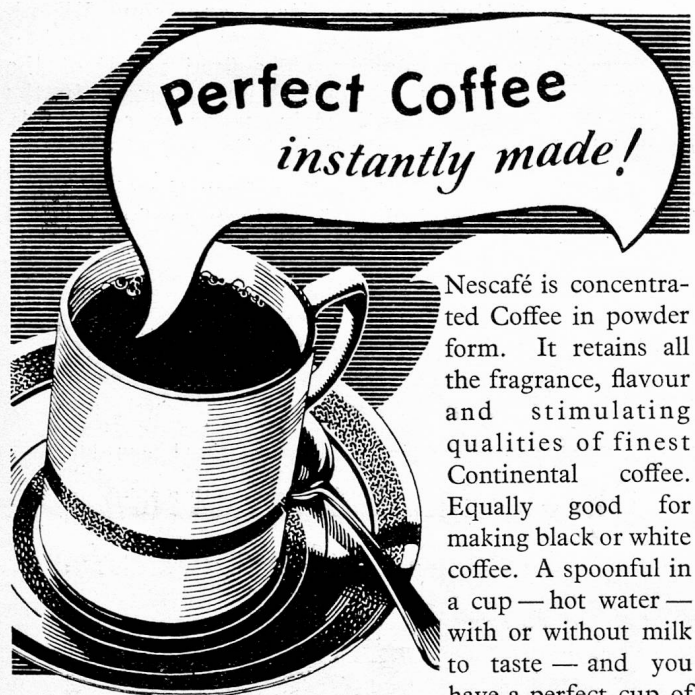
And talk of many things they did, from the sublime to the ridiculous. Every subject under the sun came under review. Religion, Politics, Astrology and Chiropody; Karl Marx, The Old Testament, the Koran and Old Moore. The knowledge and sagacity of some of the speakers seemed profound and made me wonder why parents go to the expense of sending their offspring to Oxford and Cambridge when the professors of Hyde Park give their lectures for nothing.

But let there be no mistake about it. The majority of the speakers take themselves seriously, believing that they have a mission to fulfill. Others are mere cranks and unmitigated humbugs, with bees in their bonnets and bats in their belfries, but without a sense of humour or commonsense.

Nearly all have excellent memories and are able to quote scriptures or books of reference at infinitum and with unfailing accuracy. In fact, some are walking Encyclopedias and Old Moore combined, able to tell not only what Gladstone said in 1878 but what Winston Churchill will say in 1941.

And the audience is just as interesting and varied, consisting of regular supporters, casuals, professional hecklers or like myself, of people out for some fun and cheap entertainment.

Some listen, learn and digest; others pooh-pooh, deride or protest. Some have an axe to grind or wish to air a grievance which they can't forget and which nobody wants to hear; others come out on mischief bent, looking for disgruntled and dissatisfied people



From
Leading Grocers
1/3 and
2/- Tins

NESCAFÉ

A NESTLÉ'S PRODUCT

willing to listen to their poisonous and revolutionary doctrines.

On the whole, however, the meetings are well conducted, goodnatured and orderly; spiced with mother wit and good humour, frequent interruptions and clever repartee.

And so here we are, in the midst of a Nation's struggle for life and death, but Hyde Park oratory goes on in the same old way.

As I left Marble Arch, I tried to think of some words a great poet and critic wrote 70 years ago. They had slipped my memory for a moment and I was still cudgelling my brain when passing Piccadilly and Trafalgar Square. Suddenly opposite the Houses of Parliament, the words flashed back into my mind and as Big Ben was striking the hour I quietly recited the words of Matthew Arnold:—

“The Nation is sound enough if only it can be
“taught that being able to do what one likes and
“say what one likes is not sufficient for salvation.
“Its dangers are from surfeit of clap-trap.”

F. I.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following is one of several encouraging letters we have received from our readers.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer,
London, E.C.2.

July 1st, 1940.

Dear Sir,

I have not received my copy of “The Swiss Observer” for last week, it usually arrives first thing Saturday morning and I look forward to getting it. I sincerely hope this does not mean you have given up publishing it, because I am sure that all good Swiss do look forward to its receipt. I do appreciate the difficulties under which you are “working” at present as to my knowledge none of us have received any letters from Switzerland for some three weeks, although cables are still coming through.

I very sincerely hope that the absence of this copy does not mean that you have had to throw up “the sponge.” That must not be allowed to happen because “The Swiss Observer” is the only means we, the Swiss Colony in England, have to keep in touch with one another. If even during the next few weeks you should find it necessary to publish reports of activities of Swiss Clubs, with one or two tit-bits from the homeland, I am sure that most of us will appreciate your difficulties and that every good Swiss will nevertheless look forward to the arrival of your paper. If you decide to give up you will but add to the tragic situation in which most of us find ourselves to-day and I for one hope most earnestly that you will not do so.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES FER.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

If ever there was a moment when one felt exceedingly proud of being Swiss it was on Tuesday night at the monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club. Members had been asked to attend and support their committee, and particularly their President, Mr. Louis Chapuis, who in his capacity as Chairman of the Swiss Relief Centre was to address the meeting and explain the object of the Centre.

No surprise, no attraction, no conference, was necessary to attract the large attendance of 58 members who came there with the unanimous purpose of helping those who might be in need during the tragic crisis we are going through.

Pagani's themselves went out of their way and produced what may be termed a gorgeous peace time dinner.

After the toasts to H.M. The King and Switzerland has been honoured, and the usual business of the Club, including the addition of a new member, had been dealt with, the President in a moving speech explained the amount of work which had already been done by the Swiss Relief Centre committee, and left no doubt in anybody's mind as to the large amount of work which was still in front of us. The whole assembly was magnetised with the single desire to help here and now. Mr. Louis Chapuis had hardly had time to sit down and be loudly acclaimed for a most magnificent explanation of the purpose of the Relief Centre, than our popular Treasurer sprang to his feet and proposed that the City Swiss Club should vote a donation of £100 to the Swiss Benevolent Society in favour of the Swiss Relief Centre. This gesture on the part of a Treasurer who has the reputation of studying the expenses of the club to keenly shows the great patriotism with which he must have been animated when he made this recommendation to the club. That proposal, seconded with emotion by Léon Jobin, was unanimously carried.

Other members of the Swiss Relief Centre committee then appealed for further assistance from members, and the House Committee which was worthily represented by Mr. Sigerist, Mr. Carlo Chapuis and Mr. Boos, who have done such excellent work at Swiss House, explained how far the organisation had pro-

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.
and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up s.f. 160,000,000
Reserves - - s.f. 32,000,000
Deposits - - s.f. 1,218,000,000

NEW YORK AGENCY
15 NASSAU STREET.

All Descriptions of Banking and
Foreign Exchange Business Transacted