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TOWARDS THE CREATION OF AN INSTITUTE FOR SWISS ABROAD.

The President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, an organisation for Swiss living abroad, called a conference of all representatives of societies and bodies interested in this matter at the beginning of this month in Lausanne. Up to the moment of going to press we have had no report on its proceedings. However, the Neue Zürcher Zeitung published an article on October 31st, dealing with the problem which Professor Lätt, the President of the Auslandschweizer Committee, proposed to discuss, and we gather that quite a number of educational institutions amongst others the High School for Commercial Studies in St. Gall and the Swiss Mercantile Society, have given attention to the question of preparing Swiss people for careers abroad. They have accorded it some place in their syllabus and although their attempt seems to concentrate mostly on preparing representatives in the trade and banking line, the necessity for special and moral equipment of others wishing to go abroad, has lately been given some attention.

Professor I. Egli (Meilen), who has lived in Turkey for many years, recently published a Survey of the openings for Swiss in that country, pointing out that Turkey was one of the more promising countries in that respect. It is known that Swiss University people have contributed largely and in various fields towards making the University of Istanbul what it is to-day and, it is fair to assume, have thus established a link between those Swiss wishing to take up a position there and the Turkish people.

Dr. Werner Imhof of the Secretariat de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique has recently expressed himself on the same subject. He emphasised that in whatever sphere of activity Swiss citizens might find themselves abroad, they should always be aware that their country has made and is still making a valuable contribution in the field of political thought. Its very existence is proof that our political institutions have attained a degree of maturity which in itself should provide the Swiss who knows enough about it and is conscious thereof, with a background that may serve to strengthen existing bonds between Switzerland and his adopted country.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE.

Instructive details about the present constitution and powers of this Committee are given in the "Manchester Guardian" (October 28th):

This remarkable body was formed in 1863 as a self-constituted group of Swiss citizens. All its members since then have been Swiss and serve for three years each. New members are co-opted to fill vacancies; they are not delegates or representatives of any other nation or body. It is because the neutrality and independence of the committee are thus safeguarded that it has such unique authority.

Its delegates in other countries have remarkable powers. They have complete freedom of movement; they can report without censorship; they can interview prisoners without witnesses. The committee itself acts as the trusted mutual agent of warring Governments, receiving their official lists of prisoners, inspecting their camps, and asking for improvements.

The work of the committee is far bigger in this war than it ever was before. Its Prisoners of War Central Agency, for instance, employs 3,500 people, almost all of them Swiss and four-fifths of them unpaid. Its chief work is to collect and pass on information about prisoners of war, and its card index of prisoners has eight million cards. It sends 6,000 replies a day to inquiries from prisoners' families. It notifies deaths of prisoners and forwards personal effects. It sends enormous quantities of food and comforts to prison camps and has been the channel through which a quarter of a million books have reached them.

The committee has never in previous wars had so big a task as now in circulating news about civilian refugees, of whom, as of prisoners of war, it keeps a card index.

In short, this organisation of Swiss private citizens, working without hope of fame or reward, is responsible for most of what kindness and mercy still remain in the countries conquered by Germany.

A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WINS HIS APPEAL.

Among the cases before the Northern Appelate Tribunal figured a compatriot who appealed against "non-combatant Military Service; the Tribunal ordered that he should be discharged from the Army and be conditionally registered as conscientious objector to all forms of military service. The following report is taken from the Manchester "Guardian," November 7th, 1941.

P.H.W. said he was entitled to claim Swiss nationality, but when the Ministry of Labour asked him whether he wished to do so he replied that he did not. He preferred to rest his objection to military service entirely on religious grounds. He was a confirmed member of the Swiss Protestant Church in London.

At the time of his appearance before the London tribunal he was working as an invoice clerk to a firm of timber merchants, and it was stated that the London tribunal regarded that as inconsistent with an objection to non-combatant service. He was dismissed from that work when he told his employers that he could not obey the order of the tribunal, and he joined a "non-profit-making" market-gardening community. He had put his private savings into it, it was said, and had lived on about fourteen shillings a week so as to develop the holding.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

In an article entitled "The Beleaguered Country" which was reprinted from "The Sphere" in our issue of the 26th September, 1941, a statement was made that the Sulzer Works in Winterthur, the Brown Boveri Works in Baden and the Oerlikon Corporation in Zurich are working exclusively for Germany.

The London representatives of above three Swiss firms have protested to us to the effect that this statement is contrary to the facts. From the initial editorial remarks to the article published in our issue of the 26th September, readers will have understood that we questioned the correctness of some of the statements contained therein, and the one referred to above is a case in point.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Johannesburg, Sept, 18th, 1941.
25, Mons Road.

My Dear Boehringer,

In order that you and the S.O. should be well informed as to what is happening down here, I am sending you some cuttings giving a description of the campaign in Abyssinia by the S.A. troops.

You will see from the reports that it was the very accurate and excellent shooting which gained the rapid S.A. victory. As Swiss you will no doubt be pleased to know this and will be reminded of the story of the German Emperor when asking a Swiss rifleman what we would do if invaded by a superior force he received the reply that "we would simply have to shoot twice."

In one of the illustrated articles enclosed you will recognize in the very foreground my son Victor Theophile who is with the forces already for over a year and is now staff sergeant in Addis Ababa with the S.A. Eng. Corps. He has been at Lake Rudolf, the Juba River, Mogadisho, Mombassa, Aden, Berbera, Dirre Dowa, etc. By the way, can you find out — when you have time — what ship the "Bundesrath Donner" is; he travelled on it from Mombassa to Aden. Bundesrath seems to be very typical Swiss and Donner was the maiden name of my mother her father being born in Schwyz in 1803. Victor writes it was a very beautiful big ship with first class luxury cabins and everything of the best. I wonder if "Bundesrath Donner" forms part of the new Swiss Mercantile Fleet? Anyhow, I hope that you or Stauffer can enlighten me on this particular point and I am sending you sincere thanks in anticipation.

I also enjoyed and appreciate very much your courtesy in reprinting my letter about my soldiering days in Switzerland. I sent it to my son up North, as they call it here, but so far he has not received it. . . . Could you send me another copy?

I also enclosed copy of the leading paper in Addis Ababa. Dated Aug. 29th it is only three weeks old and you will notice how up-to-date is the news about what happens in the world.

I notice that some contributions have been sent to you recently to encourage you to continue the good work of the S.O. I have always appreciated your efforts and I am enclosing a cheque for £5, a small offering on my part.

Please remember me to my old friends in the C.S.C., etc.

Theophile Schaeerer.

* * *

We are reprinting the above letter from our "counterpart" in the hope that some of our readers may be able to come to the assistance of the Editor who has not yet taken up the study of Swiss genealogy. Though the titles of our ships are likely to be as fleeting as the Swiss Navy we are sure that no "Bundesrath Donner" has recently carried the Swiss flag across the Atlantic. Unfortunately our archives have been destroyed by an unkind "Blitz" so that we cannot definitely state whether a Federal Councillor has ever owned up to the bold name of "Donner;" we fancy he would have been out of harmony in the placid capital but we hope that our old friend and former colleague Stauffer can rectify our shortcomings. — We have carefully read the cuttings (mostly from the S.A. "Star") and are impressed by the descriptive and

engaging way in which the progress of the war on the African continent is recorded. We envy young Schaeerer on reading that his regiment arrived in Addis Ababa to find "at least 460 liquor houses" and a plentiful stock of these medicines. Most of us over here are sick and sore of paying something like 15/- for a bottle of red wine of dubious vintage or origin and some of our club secretaries might keep this place in mind for future social gatherings. — To Mr. and Mrs. Schaeerer we wish to convey on behalf of their many London Friends hearty good wishes for the New Year coupled with the hope of a safe and early return of the "Stammhalter."

* * *

Miss A. H. and Others. — Sorry we cannot advise you. We have not heard of any Swiss Calendars being available and we fear that none will reach this country.

* * *

With many thanks we acknowledge contributions from:— H. Markwalder, P. Walser, W. Wagner, A. Homberger, G. Hafner, G. Wüthrich, H. Pfirter, Theo. Schaeerer, Miss A. Wiedmer, L. A. Arnould, Miss A. Hohlfeld.

SWISS STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

Through the courtesy of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation we are enabled to publish the quotations of some of the leading stocks.

	14th Oct.	11th Nov.
Bankverein	... 455	449
Kreditanstalt	... 522	523
Rückversicherung	... 3050	3175
Ciba	... 6000	5975
Nestlé	... 907	913
Aluminium Neuhausen	... 3175	3240
Columbus	... 308	323
Sulzer	... 1220	1270
Brown Boveri	... 279	284 ex right
Wehranleihe 3% 1936	... 102.60	102.05
SBB Jura-Simplon	... 103	102.50

GOOD-BYE.

So friendly were we, he and I,
The parting really made me cry.

To-day he went, left me alone,

A tug, a wrench — and he was gone;

Yes, never to return again,

That's why I suffered all this pain.

Great is my loss, let's face the truth,
Oh! how I miss you — ACHING TOOTH.

H. E.

