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There were views of Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel-Aviv, Beyrouth, etc., with numerous scenes of Eastern life. The film show was wound up with a journey from Andalusia via Gibraltar to Tangiers, Fez, Algiers and Tunis.

At the end of his most interesting talk and film show, Mr. Kern was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Pfaendler and enthusiastically endorsed by the audience.

P.S. — Please note the date of the Annual General Meeting — February 14th, 2 p.m., at Swiss House.

W. B.

SHIPPING WORRIES OF THE SWISS.

(From "Shipping World," January 14th, 1942)

As the Swiss might have foreseen, it is not too difficult a matter to buy merchant ships even in time of war, but it is not so easy to employ them during a struggle in which practically the whole civilised world is involved. The Republic now owns just under 40,000 tons of shipping, which is a much smaller fleet than the Swiss need. It has, however, been difficult to man even this small number of ships since all the maritime nations except Spain and Portugal now need all the seamen they can secure, so the crews are a very mixed lot and are not very efficient, with the usual results. Nor can the vessels be operated as cheaply as was estimated. Wages are much higher than was expected. According to the *Journal de Geneva*, in addition to food and life and accident insurance premiums, a seaman receives \$150 a month, a cook \$215, a first engineer \$340, a first officer \$360, and a master \$560. The majority of the men are unwilling to sign on without a guarantee that part of their wages will be paid to their families, which means further negotiations.

COMMUNICATED BY THE LEGATION.

18, Montagu Place,
Bryanston Square, W.1.
December 26th, 1941.

Dear Mr. Böhringer,

I have received from the Chief of the Political Department, M. le Conseiller Fédéral Pilet-Golaz, the following cable:—

"De cœur avec vous en cette veille de fête, je vous prie de transmettre à vaillante Colonie Suisse mes souhaits chaleureux de Noël."

I should be very much obliged if you would kindly publish this message in your next number of the Swiss Observer.

With my best wishes for the New Year,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

W. THURNHEER.

PERSONAL.

The many friends of Mr. S. P. Tettamanti, of 92, Maple Road, Surbiton, will be pleased to hear that he is slowly recovering from the bad accident he met with some time ago. He has now left the Surbiton Hospital where he also celebrated his seventy-fifth anniversary on Boxing Day.

We wish to join our compatriots in New York in offering Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hoehener hearty congratulations on the 20th anniversary of their marriage; they were married at the Swiss Church in London by the Rev. Wildbolz on December 23rd, 1921. Mr. Hoehener is an extremely active Member of the Swiss Colony in New York and, inter alia, President of the Board which publishes the "Swiss-American," the monthly journal of the North American Swiss Alliance.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

The Editor wishes to heartily reciprocate the good wishes contained in the many letters received from subscribers and is gratified to learn that the "Swiss Observer" is passed on to a large circle of friends. He also has pleasure in specially thanking the following for extra amounts added to the usual subscription:— C. Fügistall, A. E. Grau, Mlle. C. Rougemont, R. Schmid, H. Küng, L. Forrer, G. Widmer, O. A. Dettwiler, J. Paravicini, J. F. Meier, M. Meyer, C. Kunzle, W. Eichenberger, A. Hinderling, J. H. Magron, E. Lucca, J. Tache, Chas. Rutz.

Our next issue will appear on February 27th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

E. Fankhauser, L. Schobinger, W. Studer, Miss Späni, E. Oggier, A. C. Baume, G. L. Guggenheim, H. Steiner, R. Sanger, M. Zullig, W. Deutsch, Mrs. Honegger, H. Spahlinger, P. Bornant, Dr. Ch. Hagenbach, H. Ott, H. Koch, W. P. Weibel, E. Hungerbühler, Mrs. Portman, H. L. Charnaux, Jos. Ecker, A. Bleiker, Mrs. A. Dimier, H. Huber, E. G. Hantsch, K. Pluss, C. Fügistall, F. Isler, E. Flury, J. Hausermann, J. J. Schneider, Mrs. A. J. Whitiker, E. Hentsch, C. Schorno, R. Schmid, Miss C. Rougemont, H. E. Messmer, H. Kung, G. H. Smith, G. Widmer, O. A. Dettwiler, E. Reichenbach, Alf. Bloch, J. Paravicini, Chas. Rutz, G. Gysi, J. J. Wetter, F. M. Rohr, Miss M. Flury, R. H. Stoll, Geo. Bouverat, F. J. Meier, Miss Dupuis, H. Wälti, J. Obrist, Miss E. Jones, J. Dubs, G. E. De Brunner, M. E. Perrenoud, M. Paur, H. M. Ochsner, Miss I. Wyss, E. Gassmann, Nestanglo, Swiss Club Manchester, E. H. Muller, Theo. Bruderer, C. Kunzle, A. Hinderling, Bonnet, J. H. Magron, E. Lucca, J. Tache.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, February 7th, at 12.45 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. (See Advt.).

Saturday, February 14th at 2 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Annual General Meeting — (see report) at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, February 21st, at 2 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Members Meeting to be followed by Mr. G. Keller's "Comments on Current Events," at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.