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PAYMENTS IN THE TOURIST TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SWITZERLAND.

As announced some time ago in the English Press, an agreement has been reached between the British and the Swiss Governments in the terms of which a fixed sum has been established to cover the requirements of travellers to Switzerland.

These regulations, although cumbersome to all bona-fide tourists had reluctantly to be imposed by the two governments owing to various abuses.

In order to carry out these new regulations an office under the name of "Swiss Tourist Traffic Federation, Authorisation Office" has been established at 1, Great Cumberland Place, W.1, under the charge of Mr. E. Rutz, with a staff of eight.

One of the tasks of this office is to exercise a control that the established maximum amount is not exceeded and that any traveller does not take more money to Switzerland than he requires there.

The basic allowance at £75 (for adults) and £40 (for a child under 16 years of age) remains as hitherto.

In detail the procedure will be as follows:—

A traveller resident in the United Kingdom — and only such come into question — must, as from the 18th December, 1946, after procuring his Swiss Visa, make an application either personally or through a travel agency to the London Authorisation Office of the Swiss

Tourist Traffic Federation (Swiss Nationals possessing a Swiss Passport do not require an authorisation from the said office), requesting authorisation for the amount which he proposes to take with him to Switzerland under the basic allowance in travellers' cheques, travellers' letters of credit or other travellers' credit documents.

The British paying authority, that is a bank or a Travel agency, will point out to him, when he presents himself, that it is not possible to exceed the amount mentioned in the authorisation.

In this way, provision is made that the aggregate amount established for travel to Switzerland is not exhausted unduly early.

Travellers leaving this country will be allowed the equivalent of £10 in Swiss money (which is deducted from the basic allowance), they will receive on presenting their travellers' cheques, letter of credit or any similar travellers' credit document, one-third of the amount allowed, in cash, and two-thirds in Hotel Vouchers. On presenting the balance to any bank in Switzerland in travellers' cheques, etc., they will receive one-third of the amount in cash and two-thirds in vouchers; the latter may be used for paying hotel accommodation, railway fares and all bona-fide tourist facilities. Exchanging such vouchers into cash is an offence.

Vouchers for accommodation and transport, unused at the conclusion of the stay in Switzerland must be presented by the traveller before leaving the country at a bank, station exchange bureau, frontier customs office; the equivalent will be credited to him in Great Britain.

Travellers staying in private houses in Switzerland, or only staying a short while in Hotels, will, upon presentation of evidence to that effect, receive cash in weekly instalments of Frs.200.—, if more is required an application must be made in Switzerland at the following address: Schweiz. Fremdenverkehrsverband, Gutscheinkontrolle Grossbritanien, Börsenstrasse 16, Zurich.

In the above case, remaining vouchers can be sent to the "Schweiz. Fremdenverkehrsverband, Gutscheinkontrolle Grossbritanien, Börsenstrasse 16, Zurich with an application for reimbursement in cash.

These regulations described above are intended to permit the greatest possible number of tourists to travel to Switzerland within the limits set by the total sum established. They will at the same time serve as a protection against abuses which are not in the interest of the genuine tourist.

LE PETITE SUISSE" CLUB.

A new Club, under the above name has been founded, its aim is, according to the rules received, "for the promotion of social and recreative intercourse."

They occupy pleasant quarters at 18, Orange Street, W.C.2, and wish to attract, as the Secretary, Mr. R. Egli informs us, "nice people."

The premises are fully licensed and open daily from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (Sundays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) Annual Subscription is 10/6.

The Management is Swiss and the Committee invites all Swiss who are interested to pay them a visit to get acquainted with their aims.



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