

Editor's post-bag

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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor,
The Swiss Observer,
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

As my letter, which you kindly published in your issue of February 27th, was mentioned by Dr. Umbricht in his address at the last monthly meeting of the S.M.S., may I be allowed to refer to this matter once more?

In the first place, I did not suggest, as Dr. Umbricht seems to imply, that all funds available within existing agreements should be allocated to Swiss Exports. All I am concerned about is that the "cake," even if it is only a small one, should be divided fairly between the various units of our Swiss economy. Dr. Umbricht stated that it was "quite unfounded to declare that tourisme is made possible at the expense of the (Swiss) export industries." I am, however, not alone in thinking differently. Both, the "Daily Telegraph" and "Evening Standard," two responsible newspapers, are quite explicit on this point: "To prevent a balance adverse to the British, the Swiss themselves undertake to limit their exports to the sterling area" again: "The Swiss exporters will hardly take pleasure in the preference given to their hoteliers" and again: "One (factor) is the extent to which the Swiss will discriminate against their export industries in favour of their tourist interests!"

According to Mr. de Graffenried, Switzerland's income from foreign tourists was estimated, in 1937, at a figure equal to about 37% of the total Swiss Exports. In 1948, British tourists get nearly *Seven Million Pounds*. On the other hand the following amounts have been allocated:

Clothing (underwear)	£85,000
Cotton Piece Goods	£175,000
Embroideries	£120,000
Knitwear	£60,000
Ribbons and Braids	£117,000
Rayon and Silk piece goods (Silk for re-export)	£225,000

There are, I know, other important export industries (Watches, Machinery, Chemicals) getting their allocations as well but, while "Tourisme" gets Millions, the various branches of the textile industry must be satisfied with Thousands!

The respective merits (from the Swiss point of view) of Textiles and "Tourism" cannot be discussed here but are nevertheless worth being taken into account.

In any case, the above figures still make me wonder whether the "cake" is actually being divided fairly.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. B.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 2nd, 1948, from 4 to 10 o'clock — Unione
Ticinese — Tea Dance, at the Dorchester Hotel,
Park Lane, W.1.

Wednesday, May 5th, 1948, at 6 p.m. — Société de
Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at Swiss
Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, May 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, 1948, at 7 o'clock
— Swiss Male Choir — Rehearsals, at Swiss Club,
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, May 12th, 1948, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Mer-
cantile Society — Monthly Meeting — followed by
a report on the Delegates Meeting of the S.K.V.
at Lucerne, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square,
W.1.

Saturday, May 15th, 1948, at 4 p.m. — Schweizerbund
(Swiss Club) — Meeting, followed at 8 o'clock by
a Social Evening, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
(See Advert.)

Monday, May 31st, 1948, from 6.30 to 10 o'clock (doors
open at 5 o'clock)—Fête Suisse — at Central Hall,
Westminster. (See Advert.)

Wednesday, June 2nd, 1948, at 6 for 7 o'clock —
General Guisan Dinner, at the Dorchester Hotel,
Park Lane, W.1. (See Advert.)

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