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EDITOR'S POST-BAG

30th January 1950.

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

My Dear Editor,

A few days ago I had occasion to fly over to Switzerland for a very short stay. It struck me, in the course of a number of conversations I had over there, that a good many young Swiss, both male and female, seem to have the impression that the way to get work in the United Kingdom is to get themselves invited here and then to start looking for work and possibly even taking it up before they have the necessary permits.

This is, of course, as we all know over here, entirely the wrong way to set about it. Naturally the matter will, in the near future, be mentioned once again in the Swiss newspapers. *But it seems to me to be equally important that your readers, if and when making arrangements for young Swiss coming to them for visits, should make it clear to them, both beforehand, and also after arrival, that to come here as visitors with the intention to look for suitable work once inside the U.K., can only lead to disappointment and do damage.*

A case has recently come to my attention of a young Swiss, whose mother owns a small hotel in Lugano, who arrived at Folkestone, following an invitation from some British friends of the family, to come to Walsall (Staffs) for three months. On arrival at Folkestone, the young Swiss, F.R., had the greatest difficulties with the Immigration Officers, who wanted to prevent him from landing and send him straight back to France. He had forgotten to take with him the letter of invitation from his English friends. He was simply not believed by the Immigration Officer and when a search of his luggage produced a black suit, this was taken as proof that he intended to come and work — without pre-arranged permit — in some hotel in the U.K. He was finally allowed to telephone his English friends, who in turn mobilised me, who in turn mobilised the ever helpful Legation. The matter was, in the end, settled, but not without a visit to the Legation, a further visit to the Home Office, a large number of telephone calls, some down to Folkestone, and quite some correspondence.

The authorities in this country have tightened up the control on landing, following, I am sorry to say, discovery of a number of cases when young Swiss thought they could get away with it and could pull some wool over the British officials eyes. In view of this and to prevent the position from deteriorating further, it seems to me of the greatest possible importance that all concerned should co-operate in this matter: the would-be-workers by obtaining their permits before setting out on their journeys, the *Swiss who reside here by pointing out to their relations and friends in Switzerland what the correct procedure is.*

I trust that in view of the importance of this matter you will not begrudge me the space this letter takes up in your valued means of communication.

Yours sincerely,

GOTTFRIED KELLER,
London Editor Swiss Telegraph Agency
and Basler Nachrichten.

January 26th, 1950.

The Editor,
"Swiss Observer,"
London, E.C.2.

Dear Mr. Stauffer,

My family and I have just returned from a Christmas holiday in Switzerland, where, for the first time after twenty years, we tried once more our skill at winter sports.

A pamphlet issued by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, as well as your advertisement, tempted me to go to the Hotel Albeina at Klosters-Dorf. We have been so delighted with the hospitality experienced there, that I am anxious to draw the Swiss Observer's attention as well as the attention of our compatriots in England to the Albeina. The house was scrupulously clean, the food good and the service so friendly and helpful that we could not wish for anything better. Although Klosters-Dörflie lies apart from the more fashionable Klosters-Platz, the distance proved no obstacle and the prices at the Albeina, thanks to the generous and patriotic attitude of the N.S.H., were so reasonable that inspite of devaluation our family was able to go. In case the description of the Albeina as a "Heim" should be misinterpreted by some, I can only repeat that we were delighted with the house, its management, its atmosphere. We shall most certainly go there again. Our children had their first experience at winter sports and it is impossible for me to describe their joy and pleasure.

Yours sincerely, E.M.B.

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