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SWISS BUSINESS VENTURES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

In order to make the "*Swiss Observer*" as attractive as possible to all classes of our readers, we are perfectly willing and even anxious to publish descriptive accounts of individual or collective business ventures of members of our Colony. For several excellent reasons we think we are justified in devoting a part of our columns to this kind of information.

Firstly and foremost, we believe that our supporters will be interested to hear of the business activities of their compatriots in this country, almost as much as they are interested in our reports of the social events of the Colony or in the home news.

Secondly, it should be of value to them in so far as they might wish to patronise the business of our compatriots if only they knew or remembered where they are to be found. Conversely, of course, we are aware that in some cases our accounts may be helpful to the owners of the businesses described and we sincerely hope they will be.

Naturally we can indulge in this kind of publicity only under conditions of strictest impartiality and fairness to all. Those are absolutely guaranteed. In the first place we offer to report on the business of every Swiss in Great Britain, without distinction, who cares to give us particulars, to permit a trusted representative of the "*Swiss Observer*" to inspect their factories, etc., and whom we deem to be doing honour to the high traditions of quality, craftsmanship and integrity of our home country. In the second place we wish to make it clear that the accounts we intend to publish will, of course, not be influenced in the slightest degree by the advertising side of the "*Swiss Observer*."

By strict adherence to these conditions, which are really a matter of course, we think that we can render a real service to our readers as well as to the business community of our Colony. As we have stated before, we believe that the members of our Colony could assist Swiss imports into Great Britain and visa versa once the cumbersome restrictions are lifted, as well as Swiss enterprise in this country, very considerably by persistently patronising such enterprise.

If our reports prove to be helpful in this sense, the "*Swiss Observer*" will be able to show another justification for its existence.

We should be glad if all Swiss businessmen in this country would help us, to get together a really comprehensive series of reports on their various ventures.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, October 30th, 1953. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscription: A. W. Burkhard, J. Brunner, B. Frick, C. Genoud, Dr. V. Umbrecht, M. A. Maud-Modica, Ch. Strubin, J. Keller, J. H. Speich, H. Monney, Swiss Club, Manchester.

HOME AFFAIRS.

by PIERRE BÉGUIN.

"Democracy demands good morals".

At the opening of the Autumn Sessions of the Federal Chambers, an incident occurred which deserves to be mentioned because it allows us to make some observations regarding our electoral régime and the functioning of our democracy.

But, first of all, let us recall briefly the manner in which the system of proportional representation is conceived in Switzerland. The citizen votes for a Party. But, at the same time he votes for individual persons. He is at liberty to choose from among the various candidates proposed by a Party Committee. He can strike out the name of one or the other. He also has the right of cumulating — that is to say of inscribing it twice — the name of the candidate whom he favours and whose election he desires particularly. Thus, our electoral régime is a mixed one, in the sense that although it is based on an equitable repartition of seats between the small and the big Parties, it also permits of the expression of personal preferences. This has been arranged in order that the Party Committees should not become all-powerful, and that the personal element — which constitutes the chief advantage of a majoritary system — should be maintained, nevertheless.

It is always the candidate who has obtained the greatest number of personal suffrages, who is elected. Should he give up his functions, for instance, by resigning, then his place is taken by the candidate who came immediately after him in the order of preference. This is quite normal and it does away with the necessity for complementary elections. In other words, after a general election has taken place, we not only have members who have been elected primarily, but also a reserve of substitutes.

An event has occurred, however, in Basle, which although doubtless quite legal from the point of view of strict law, but which, nevertheless, is profoundly shocking and has been criticised very sharply. The Communist deputy in Basle, the only one of his kind, was obliged to resign in consequence of a penal sentence. Normally — as we have just explained — it is the first of the "next comers" from the 1951 elections, who should have taken his place. But, this man waived his right, then all the other candidates

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