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EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

LETTER FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR.

Swiss Embassy,
23rd September 1959.

Monsieur A. Stauffer,
Editor,
Swiss Observer,
London.

Dear Mr. Stauffer,

With reference to the notices appearing in your editions of September 11th and to-day about our visits to Guernsey and Dunfermline, I think I should give you some more detailed information about our peregrinations during the last two months and leave it entirely to you whether and in what form you will bring it to the notice of your readers.

Our visit to Guernsey, where my wife and I were so warmly received by the majority of the five Swiss residents (who later in the day decided to found a Swiss Club in Guernsey), was made during our stay in Jersey. The Swiss Colony in this beautiful Channel Island counts around 150 regularly registered members, but this number is far exceeded each summer with the influx of seasonable employees, mostly of the hotel and hairdressing trades. They have their own Swiss Club over which Monsieur Pierre Galitch presides with great devotion and competence.

The great event of the Jersey season is the annual Battle of Flowers; for the first time the Swiss Club decided to participate in the procession of "Flower floats" this year. It was a very amiable gesture of H.E. the Governor of Jersey to invite the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker to stay with him at Government House and to witness the great success which our compatriots had on this occasion. They won the "animation prize" offered to the most original creation, for their admirably decorated wagon "Helvetia".

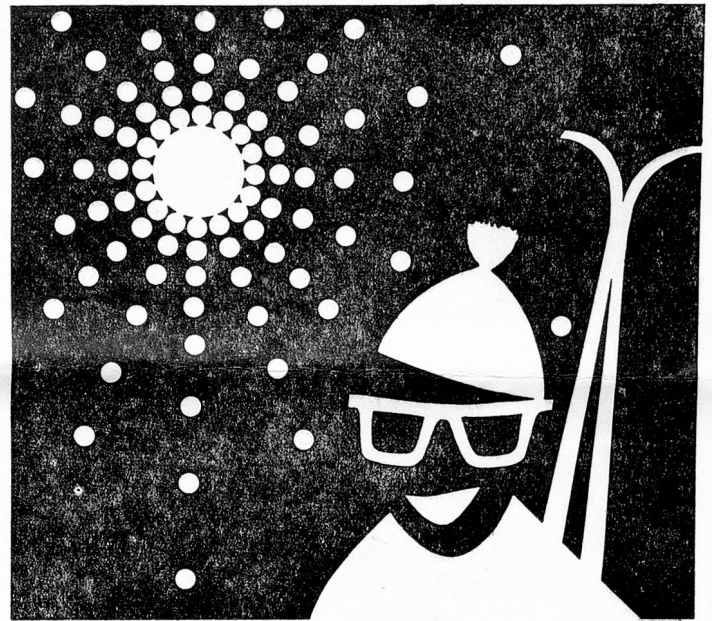
It was a fortunate coincidence that next day we were able to celebrate the Swiss National Day, together with our compatriots on the island; the occasion was enriched by the participation of the Jodler Club "Uto" and the Ländlerkapelle Jost Ritary, from Zurich; their demonstrations of Swiss popular music (including the Alphorn) certainly was a very attractive novelty to the packed audience amongst whom there were many local friends of our country.

It had been our wish for a long time to visit our compatriots in Scotland too; the Scottish Industries Exhibition at Glasgow, in September, and the Edinburgh Festival were therefore a welcome occasion to make it come true. Our Colony in Scotland, numbering around 220, is almost equally distributed between the regions of the Clyde and the Firth of Forth, some others live scattered over various places of the Highlands and the Borderland. In Balloch and Dunfermline, both centres of the textile industry with strong local groups of Swiss technical experts, there exist flourishing Swiss Clubs, under the chairmanship of Mr. Berli and Mr. B. Frick. In Glasgow and in Edinburgh the cohesion amongst the Swiss residents seems to be weaker although the desire to meet other compatriots regularly was often expressed. The excellent Restaurant of our compatriot G. Ferrari in Glasgow should indeed offer all facilities to bring such an initiative to fruition.

It is a very impressive experience to meet at both receptions which were given to us, at Glasgow and Dunfermline, almost every Swiss resident of those regions; they all seemed to be greatly interested to hear about the life of our Swiss community in Great Britain and the problems of the Swiss abroad in general. Our compatriots in those distant parts of the United Kingdom are indeed anxious for closer links. What could be done in order to let them share the intense social and cultural activities of the Swiss community in London and thereby strengthen their ties?

The picture of the life of our Colony in Scotland would not be complete without mentioning the excellent and faithful services of Consul E. Hofstetter. During the last 25 years, in peace and in war time, our Consular Agent at Balloch has fulfilled his tasks in a really exemplary way. Beside his heavy professional duties he spared no effort and shunned no personal sacrifice in his selfless devotion to the common cause, looking after the welfare of his compatriots and fostering, in his official relations with local authorities and his consular colleagues, the good reputation of our country. Our people owe him a large debt of gratitude indeed.

Yours sincerely,
sig. A. Daeniker.



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Switzerland

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