

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1962)
Heft: 1417

Rubrik: Our Next Issue

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

DINNER

Nowhere is the co-operation between the Embassy and the Colony closer than between it and the Swiss Benevolent Society. At the fortnightly meetings of the Committee of the SBS Monsieur Ansermoz, Labour Counsellor, and Monsieur Ribi, Consul, have been most regular in their attendance and the relationship has been a very happy one.

Now that Monsieur Ribi is leaving for his new appointment in Yugoslavia Monsieur Ansermoz was anxious to mark this fruitful working together by a dinner which he and Madame Ansermoz gave to Monsieur and Madame Ribi and members of the Swiss Benevolent Committee at the Glendower Hotel on 30th August.

FAREWELL PARTY

Monsieur and Madame Ribi gave a good-bye party at the Montana Hotel on 11th September. A full hundred friends were invited to bid farewell and also to be introduced to Monsieur Tosio, the new Consul, and his wife. It was a most enjoyable evening during which Monsieur Ansermoz presented a silver bowl to the Ribis from colleagues and friends at the Embassy. He thanked the hosts for their kindness whilst in London and for their generous hospitality at this gathering and expressed best wishes for a happy future.

A NEW ARRIVAL

On 3rd September, Monsieur Enrico Tosio arrived in England to replace Monsieur Ernst Ribi as Consul in London. He is not a newcomer to these islands as he was stationed here throughout the war.

Monsieur Tosio was born in 1913 and originates from Poschiavo (Grisons). He joined the Federal Political Department in 1939. He married Miss Marjorie Cuninghame at the Swiss Church in London in 1942. At the end of the war he was appointed Chancellor and transferred to the Swiss Legation in Stockholm.

From 1949 to 1957 he was Vice-Consul at the Swiss Consulate General in Sydney and in 1958 he was attached to the Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Cairo. Later the same year Monsieur Tosio returned to Berne where he held posts as Chef de Service in the Federal Political Department. The Colony welcome Monsieur Tosio and wish him, his wife and daughter a very happy and successful stay in London.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION — WEST END BRANCH

As from Monday the 17th of September, 1962, business will be conducted from new premises at No. 18 Regent Street, London S.W.1, almost opposite the previous office at 11c Regent Street, from which the Branch had operated since its opening in 1912.

THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

Looking back to the "Swiss Observer" numbers of September 1932, there is not very much outstanding news to record, due, I suppose, to the usual summer slackness, and may be because it was one of the hottest summers. On 3rd September, 100 deaths in the mountains since the beginning of the year were reported. The Federal Council proposed a yearly credit of three million francs in order to help the Swiss farmers who had been severely hit by the crisis.

There was a regular feature "CK's Corner", in that issue mainly about films, but also a note by Mr. Stauffer that "ck and his wife have been blessed with the arrival of a little ck'lett".

On 10th September it was reported that the economic conditions in Switzerland were extremely bad, and in London the Swiss Benevolent Society appealed for a "wardrobe or cupboard, the larger the better, to accommodate clothing".

The issue of 18th September carried a long appeal in French and German by the pastors of the Swiss Church on the occasion of the Federal Day of Prayer.

The village of Blitzingen near Brigue on the Furka slope of a valley leading to the Rhone Glacier was reported destroyed by fire. Only the stone church was left intact.

At the Union Helvetia in London the famous Stocker Sepp's Unterwaldner Bauernkapelle gave a popular concert. This Swiss Gymnastic Society announced that it had resumed its weekly training and there were groups for "active members", "juniors" and "ladies". The usual football results filled considerable space.

The last issue of the month brought a report of a reduction of pay for Swiss civil servants as from July 1933 — as much as 10 per cent had been proposed by the special commission of the National Council. Federal Councillor Motta had attended the sexcentenary celebrations of the Canton of Lucerne.

Mariann.

MUNICH BEER FESTIVAL

Swissair gave a reception to travel agents and representatives of the press at their premises in Regent Street on Friday, 31st August. It was an original party at which Munich beer and white sausages were served by men in genuine Bavarian costumes, in order to animate the guests to fly to Munich for the October Beer Festival — by Swissair, of course!

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 12th October. We should appreciate it if readers could let us have any manuscripts or news items for publication by Wednesday, 3rd October. We are now reverting to our former practice of publishing every second and fourth Friday of the month.