Swiss holidays for United Kingdom Swiss children

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THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

The issue of 2nd March 1935 gave news of a majority of Swiss voters accepting a Referendum to increase the initial army service (Rekrutenschule) from 67 to 90 days. The majority was 75,000 and participation was about 80%. A letter was published which had been sent to the President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Minger, by the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, in moral support of the above Referendum. The appreciative answer by Bundesrat Minger was also reproduced.

There were several columns of reporting on the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Mercantile Society at the Trocadero. About 180 members and friends had attended this function under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Steinmann, and honoured by the presence of the Swiss Minister Monsieur Paravicini.

On 9th March we read that Mr. Oscar Gambazzi had become President of the Unione Ticinese in succession to Mr. W. Notari, and that Miss Adrienne Campart had been awarded the "Lady Margaret Gold Medal for Verse Speaking" of the Poetry Society.

On 16th March a further instalment appeared of a lecture which had been given to the N.S.H. by Mademoiselle Alice Briod on "Les Suisses à l'étranger et la mère-patrie". There was a report of Swiss yodellers scoring a great success at the Annual Tours Reunion of the Polytechnic at the Albert Hall. The "William Tell Yodel Choir" (employees of the Swiss Federal Railways) and the soloist Miss Gritli Wenger afterwards paid a surprise visit to the Union Helvetia, where the usual Saturday dance was in progress.

At long last, there were also services for Catholic Swiss at the St. Bonifatius Church, Adler Street, Commercial Road, Aldgate, E.1.

The next issue told us of the new record by Swissair: Basle-Croydon in 2 hours 29 minutes. We read that the Swiss National Museum was being extended, and a lengthy biography of the new Swiss Minister to Egypt, Monsieur Henri Martin, was published. We were informed of a successful *Soirée Dansante* of the City Swiss Club at the Garden Suite of the May Fair Hotel, attended by 165 members and friends, and that the Swiss Benevolent Society had difficulties because members left payment of their contributions to the last quarter of the year.

The Editor of the S.O., Mr. A. Stauffer, gave an account of his flight over London as guest of Swissair: "Swissair Machines over London". Monsieur Paravicini was guest of honour at a luncheon offered by Swissair at Brown's Hotel, and at a Monthly Meeting of the S.M.S., a talk on "Flying around the Ancient Worlds" was given by Mr. Oliver E. Simmonds.

From the same issue we reprint the following announcement: "We have great pleasure to announce the engagement of M. Walter Meier, President of the Education Department of the Swiss Mercantile Society with Mlle. Mariann Gysin from Basle, our esteemed collaborator (Mariann)." *Well, well!*

An advert on the same date offered "Schweizer Stumpen" at 3/-, 3/4 and 3/6 per bundle of ten, with 10% discount on orders of units of twenty. Mr. W. Graf, Hever, Kent.)

On 30th March, we read of the kidnapping of a German refugee in Switzerland and of the scheme "Christian Kunzle Alpine Homes" started in Switzerland by our compatriot in this country, well-known as manufacturer of Kunzle's chocolates.

There was a report of a concert by Swiss musicians at the Legation, Madame Stefi Geyer (violin), Franz Josef Hirt (piano) and Madame Sophie Wyss (soprano); cello music was performed by James Whitehead. There was mention, too, of a reception for two hundred guests which Madame Paravicini gave at the Grosvenor House in honour of members of H.M. Government, the Foreign Office and the Diplomatic Corps. The above-mentioned artists performed during the evening.

There was a long report of the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Club Birmingham under the chairmanship of its President Mr. P. Brun. There were representatives from the main London Societies amongst the 160 members and guests. The Swiss Club (Schweizerbund) in London, too, had held its Annual Banquet under the chairmanship of Mr. Hediger.

A letter to the Editor warned readers about the dangers of smoking in aeroplanes! This had recently been introduced in Swissair planes, but was still prohibited in planes of Imperial Airways.

SWISS HOLIDAYS FOR UNITED KINGDOM SWISS CHILDREN

The Foundation "Pro Juventute" in Zurich is again organizing a holiday for children of 7–15 years, of Swiss parentage who live in the United Kingdom, provided always that there is a sufficient number of participants.

As usual these holidays will start at the best and most attractive time to enjoy Switzerland, i.e. towards the end of July, and are scheduled to last six weeks according to arrangements made by "Pro Juventute".

As regards board and lodging in Switzerland, "Pro Juventute" offers various schemes, such as:

(a) Board and lodging at reduced prices of about 14/- to 24/- per day in a recognized children's home, selected by "Pro Juventute", available for children up to 12 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.

(b) A stay of about 4 weeks in various holiday camps, available for children of about 12–15 years of age, only for children holding Swiss passports.

(c) Free board and lodging with Swiss families for a limited number of children whose parents are unable to pay either the whole or part of the cost. Only children holding Swiss passports can be considered under this scheme.

(d) Children who are in the happy position of holding a written invitation from relations or friends in Switzerland are welcome to join the party for the journey both ways.

Parents who are not able to pay the whole of the cost, which is kept as low as possible, are entreated most earnestly to contribute as much as they possibly can in order to reduce the strain on the funds of the Benevolent Societies and "Pro Juventute".

In cases where parents would value such holidays for their youngsters but are not in a position to defray the cost of the journey, the Swiss Benevolent Societies would endeavour to provide the necessary funds. This should be stated in the application.

It is expected that many Swiss parents in the United Kingdom will gladly avail themselves of this opportunity

of enabling their children to enjoy a healthy and happy holiday in the most pleasant surroundings and scenery of our homeland.

Applications should be sent in writing at the latest by 27th March to:

(a) in the London Consular District: Mrs. B. Kaluza, 152 West Hill, London S.W.15;

(b) in the Manchester Consular District: Swiss Consulate, 56 Spring Gardens, Manchester 2.

The parents will then be supplied with all relevant information.

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