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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

THEY CELEBRATE

On 1st October, Mr. J. A. Reiber (83); on 4th October, Mr. W. Burren (62); on 5th October, Mr. H. Humbel (64); on 9th October, Mrs. Helena Jenne and Mr. P. Lehrian (72). Mr. and Mrs. F. Streit will have their 42nd wedding anniversary on 11th October, and we hope that Mr. Streit who is still in hospital, will be well on the way to recovery and be able to enjoy the day with his wife and family.

To all these and any other readers who will be celebrating a special day within the next fortnight, we extend best wishes and many happy returns.

A mistake cropped in when the Birthday of Mr. C. E. Fairwestber was announced as 69 on 7th September — it should, of course, have been 79, and we apologise for the mistake.

* * *

A GOLDEN WEDDING

On Wednesday, 10th September last was celebrated the Golden Wedding of Alfred Martin and Alyce Gay who live in New Cross, London.

Business (he was a member of the Banca Commerciale Italiana) brought Mr. Martin to this Country in 1915. Because of the War Miss Gay, who had remained in Switzerland, was prevented from joining him until 1919. She arrived in London and three days later they were married at Deptford Catholic Church. They took up residence in New Cross, where they have continued to reside ever since.

Mr. Martin was the vice-president of Secours Mutuels for many years. In the early 1930's he was financial adviser to the late Sir Alexander Korda who was at the time engaged in making his epic films, including the "Private lives of Henry VIII".

We wish them many happy returns and look forward to reporting their diamond wedding!

* * *

DEATHS

We have the regret of announcing the death of Mr. R. B. Heisch, of 15 Queens Gate Gardens, S.W.7, husband of Mme. Heisch-Dominicé, president of the Cercle Genevois. We also have the regret of announcing the deaths of Mrs. H. Philipps, of 1 Marroway, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, and of Mr. P. Pfeiffer, of 9, Frogna Avenue, Harrow. Our most sincere sympathy remains with these bereaved families.

THE SWISS OBSERVER 30 YEARS AGO (16th September 1939)

The official weather forecasts from Berne are now suspended; one of the reasons given is that the information implied by this publicity might interfere with the neutrality of Switzerland. The Rhine harbour at Basle is choked with all kinds of vessels as down-river traffic has been stopped. About 35,000 Swiss returning from France are expected in Geneva. A special train left Berlin last Sunday week with a contingent of Swiss militia from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. A special train left Geneva with about 600 English holiday makers who were stranded in our country.

Major Paschoud, the general manager of the Swiss Federal Railways has been made a Colonel and is now the military director of our railway system. He is a brother of a former President of our Swiss Mercantile Society.

A note affirming its neutrality has been addressed to the Federal Council by the Principality of Liechtenstein with the request to communicate its content to the belligerent powers.

The hares, foxes, bears and wild birds will have a peaceful time in our country as hunting and shooting as a sport have been prohibited until further notice. The circulation of all private motors on Sundays and official bank holidays has equally been prohibited.

An excerpt from the "Daily Express" reproduced by the Editor says: "at Basle Reichbahnhof, on the edge of Swiss Territory, I saw lines of German trucks, piled with coal, rumbling steadily in the direction of the Gothard Tunnel, towards Italy. It is calculated that at least 25,000 tons of coal and iron are daily passing the Swiss junction of the Erstfeld bound for Italy".

This issue presented a letter to the Editor by Mr. J. Frei, bitterly attacking the position Mr. Stauffer had adopted in his editorial of the previous issues, entitled WAR. According to the correspondent, Switzerland's neutral and passive attitude in a conflict that was the concern of the civilised world was unworthy of her. She should take part in this fight to save Democracy, especially so, since she likes to think of herself as the cradle of democracy. "Where is the Swiss who will be proud of the future liberty and independence of his country if he knows them to have been secured by English, French and Polish blood?" he exclaimed.

YOUR BELATED SWISS OBSERVERS

We apologize to our readers for the delay in delivery of the more recent "Swiss Observers", especially the last one.

Following the merger of the Frederick Printing Company Ltd. with the Fairholt Printing Corporation Ltd. the "Swiss Observer" is no longer printed, as it has been for the past fifty years, in the printing-works of Leonard Street. Instead, the proofs have to be sent through the hands of a middleman to a vast and anonymous printing-factory, where the paper is just one among innumerable other jobs. The factory, we have been told, is at present working to the limit of its capacity and the additional burden of the "Swiss Observer" has yet strained production a little more. This is to say that schedules are extremely tight, and if the work required to complete the paper happens to claim more than its allotted time-slot, then the job will be pushed-back to a later loophole in the schedule whenever one comes about, which may be several days. This has unfortunately happened in the last issue.

Gone are the days where the Editor had only to pass in front of two office doors to see the type-setter, agree with him on schedule, give him tit-bits to type at his convenience and check where he stood with his work. Now, the whole paper is out of the Editor's control once his manuscript has left his hands. Such are the imperatives of rationalisation and concentration: a new organisation which surely brings forth cheaper and better results, but which is vulnerable to the smallest hitch. In view of this new situation (in which the introduction of two-tier postage must also be included), we are actively discussing a new production schedule with the printers so that, once again, you will be able to receive the "Swiss Observer" regularly, second and fourth Fridays of every month.

YOUR NEXT "SWISS OBSERVER" will be published on . . .

Friday, 10th October. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports by Monday, 29th September. Short news items only can be accepted later.

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month, and consequently, your next copy but one will be out on 24th October. Contributions for that issue should be to hand by Monday, 13th October.