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SWISS PROMOTION

Will Switzerland keep her touristic position?

A forum to discuss this theme was organised by the Nandro a Savognin railway society. Invited were Leon Schlumpf (who is head of the Engadine's department of economy), Mr. Ettore Tenchio, president of the cantonal association for tourism of Zurich, Mr. Christian Jost, the mayor of Davos and Mr. Theophil Von Sprecher of the UBS branch of Davos.

The fact that the number of Swiss resorts has leaped from 12 in 1935, to 130 today, that the Swiss hotel industry had invested over a billion francs, and that two more billion francs had been invested in resort equipment such as better communications and swimming-pools was a basis for discussion.

The conclusions of the participants were that the State should not extend its control of the tourist industry but build up the necessary infrastructure. The private sector would achieve a better working-relationship with public authorities.

British Anthology on Swiss Literature

The last reception given by the former cultural attaché in London, Dr. Paul Stauffer, was not only to mark his imminent departure, but to present a book published in London with the co-operation of "Pro Helvetia" called "Swiss Men of Letters". The book contains a preface and 12 chapters: three introducing Swiss literature in her three national languages respectively, nine devoted to C.-F. Ramuz, Jeremias Gotthelf, Gottfried Keller, C.-F. Meyer, Carl Spitteler, Robert Walser, Max Frisch and Friedrich Dürrenmatt. The preface and introduction of the chapter on Swiss-Italian literature have been written by Professor Guido Calgari. Charly Guyoa, of the university of Neuchâtel, has written the French-Swiss chapter and Mr. Andri Peer, teacher in Winterthur, has been responsible for the German-Swiss part.

This work succeeds to "Literatura Chveisarii", a Russian anthology of Swiss authors.

DRUGS

The president of Interpol addressed a narcotics symposium and said that it still was practically impossible to control the traffic in narcotics. The intensity of this traffic was due to the situation of supply and demand as well as to geographical factors. Illegal carriers were being seized every day, a fraction of those who get away with it. Narcotics were found in diplomatic suitcases, and especially in the luggages of young travellers, hoping to pay for their journey by selling the pot that they have had no difficulty to get back home. In Asia, it is particularly easy to supply oneself with narcotics. The number of addicts in Europe has

increased threefold in the last four years. The speaker said that producing countries should now exercise stricter control. He added that it was time for the public in Europe to realise the dangers of narcotics.

The symposium was presided by the author Arthur Koestler and attended by 200 psychiatrists, criminologists and sociologists. It was disclosed that, according to latest reports, 20% to 30% of American youths smoked marijuana, cannabis and haschich. 60,000 people were addicted to heroin. The situation was not much better in Europe, Denmark being top consumer in pot. There

were few heroin amateurs, Great Britain excepted. One of the speakers, Professor Kiebolz of Basle, said there was far too much tolerance and lack of awareness on the consumption of "pot".

The federal law on narcotics is, as a good example, quite severe. Anyone accused of importing, reselling and consuming narcotics is liable to a fine of 30,000 francs and a sentence of up to two years imprisonment. A group of young hippies who had been smoking pot together in Montreux were recently sentenced to deferred prison sentences ranging from a week to one year.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY CENTENARY APPEAL

One hundred years ago, the "elders" of the Swiss Church in London, who until then had looked after our needy fellow-countrymen, decided that the administration of relief among the Swiss should be put on a different and wider basis by the creation of a separate Benevolent Fund. Little did they realise where those first new steps taken to help their less fortunate compatriots would lead. Today, the activities of the Swiss Benevolent Society (originally called the "Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses pauvres") are manifold and have expanded far beyond the modest aims of those Christian gentlemen. This has been a natural growth, engendered by the increasing activities of the Society over the years and by the response which these very activities aroused in our Swiss community. The founding members would certainly have been amazed to learn that today their initiative required for its fulfilment a full time paid secretariat.

They would also see the enormous changes that the years have brought, particularly in the general well-being of the community at large. But it is unfortunately a truism that in spite of the growth of the Welfare State, the needy will always exist by comparison with the normal material standards of society; there are many problems connected with the aged—and let us say at once also with the young—for whose satisfactory conclusion the Society can be so helpful.

Could they have also envisaged the existence of the Swiss Hostel for Girls, the result of the very generous Aurèle Sandoz Legacy to the Society? Though the Hostel is not administered by the Society, it was nevertheless founded as a consequence of this legacy.

Even before this major development in favour of the young, the Society had been instrumental in the creation

of the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain by providing free accommodation and other facilities besides financial support for it.

It is perhaps appropriate to announce at this juncture that, experimentally, room is being made at 31 Conway Street to provide a Hostel of temporary passage for young men, commencing with this Centenary Year. The purpose here is to have accommodation available for very short periods for the many young Swiss men who continue improvidently to arrive in this metropolis without having made any arrangements. It is hoped to give them the time needed to look around for rooms suitable for them and their means, thereby relieving the pastors of our churches of some difficult problems with which they have been increasingly faced in recent times.

The activities of the Society are such that the income from the invested funds is being fully utilised to give help where help is needed.

The Executive Committee feel that a most appropriate way to celebrate our Centenary would be to give a "Centenary Present" to all our pensioners. With this end in view, any EXTRA contribution you might like to make to mark this Centenary Year will be greatly appreciated and you are invited to send it to the Swiss Bank Corporation, 99 Gresham Street, London, E.C.2, marked "Swiss Benevolent Society—Centenary Appeal Fund", Account No. 8 421 943.

We shall be most grateful for your special help on this occasion, knowing as we do the relief and happiness this concerted action would bring to our needy compatriots.

*The Executive Committee
of the Swiss Benevolent Society,
Dr. X. Speckert,
President.*