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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Your July issue is particularly interesting since we lived in Vaud. We enjoyed the feature immensely.

MM's comments on the BBC's Swiss evening largely match our own. The programme did raise some interesting points however. I wrote to M. Freymond to enquire about the increase in the number of strikes in Switzerland. It was not made clear how many people were involved, for how long or for what reason. It seems to us to be a serious retrograde step and not in keeping with the Swiss approach to industrial problems. Can any of your readers tell us what lies behind the events?

Gottfried Keller's "Letter from Switzerland" was interesting from two points of view. Firstly, despite the Credit Suisse affair (and the discovery of at least one traitor as well as the industrial problems which he did not mention), nobody who knows Switzerland and the Swiss will make the mistake of imagining these things to be in any way typical. Rather than Switzerland's image being tarnished, I am sure that the way the Swiss people handle these problems will lead to their reputation for honesty and justice being greatly enhanced.

Secondly, the Swiss Radio Service programme about the wartime activities of some Swiss is not only praiseworthy but deserves a wider audience. Most people in Britain do not know that Switzerland, too, mourns her war dead, nor do they appreciate the very difficult position and consequent hardship endured by the country because of her geographical location and her need for imports in order to survive. Many unfortunately believe that Switzerland sympathised with Nazi Germany if not actually aided it.

There is an unfortunate gap in all the history books that I have seen covering the war years and I have often tried to get more information. The more I learn, the more I wonder why there is such reticence. Switzerland has little to be ashamed of and much of which to be proud. If I could get the information, I would like to write a book to redress the situation.

Peter E. Slater
104 Atheling Grove
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Scotland.

Footnote – how pleasant it is to receive a letter like this from one of our British friends. Thank you Mr. Slater.

Editor.

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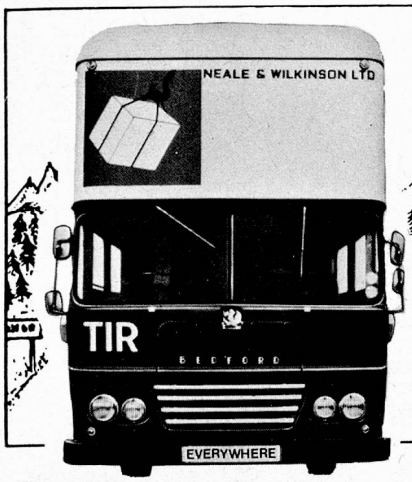
ON THE FRONT PAGE

The beautiful Abbey of St. Maurice im Rhonetal, Valais. Read more about it in Kathleen Watts' article on pages 18, 19 and 20. Photo by courtesy of SNTO.



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