

Divine services

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In framing the Swiss constitution, we, like many other countries in the old world and the new, learned much from the Magna Charta and the mother of parliaments.

In all these things Switzerland, in her small way, has much in common with Great Britain. The Confederation of Switzerland is composed of 22 free cantons which formed the "Eidgenossenschaft" between 1291 and 1815, when the neutrality of Switzerland was ratified by the congress of Vienna and Paris.

Against this, we have the British Commonwealth of Peoples, which, thanks to the broad outlook, toleration and farsightedness of their statesmen, have been welded into the greatest League of free nations ever known in history.

In conclusion let us quote the immortal lines in Schiller's "William Tell," being the Eternal Oath sworn by the founders of the Swiss Republic:

"We want to be a brotherhood of peoples; never to be separated in times of peace or war. We wish to be free as our fathers were and we would sooner perish than submit to bondage."

How history repeats itself. The Motto of the Swiss in 1291 has become the clarion call of the Allies in 1940.

And let our British friends be of good cheer. History shows that a cause founded on Truth and Justice is never lost, Justice being the first concern of mankind.

Napoleon, who said that God was on the side of the biggest battalions, found in the end that there were other things, moral and spiritual, which carry through adversity, recover lost ground and in due time, win through to Victory.

Sustained by the knowledge of fighting a just cause the strength of the Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen will be multiplied and help them, as already shown in Flanders, to perform miracles of courage and endurance.

And last, but not least, the words of an Athenian statesman spoken over 2,000 years ago are still true: "Great is the dominion of the sea."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. ISLER.

LETTER BOX.

H. de P. — We apologize for the clerical error; your subscription terminates with issue No. 1017.

W. T. — Your fears are unfounded. Even should Switzerland be involved in the war the position of our young English born compatriots is quite clear. There are quite a number who have been members of territorial units before the outbreak; they preserve their dual nationality and though according to our Constitution no Swiss may serve in a foreign army they do so with the tacit knowledge of the army authorities as they are exempt from the payment of the "Militärsteuer" during their active service with the British forces.

CITY SWISS CLUB PARCELS TO SOLDIERS. IMPORTANT.

Will members please send me immediately the names of any members or sons of members who are serving in the Swiss Army or with any of the Allied forces, as the committee is anxious to deal at once with the suggested sending of parcels on behalf of the City Swiss Club.

It is important that full details should be in my hands in the early part of next week.

On behalf of the Committee,

H. Binguely, Hon. Secretary,
Bulle House, 167, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

A report of the last monthly meeting which took place on the 4th inst. will appear in next week's issue.

Will members please watch the Swiss Observer for further important announcements affecting the welfare of our compatriots, and communicate the information to those who are not subscribers.

Bee.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Edith Scheidegger née Ullmer died early yesterday morning, at the age of 70, from the after effects of a serious operation bravely borne. On behalf of the large circle of friends in the Colony we wish to tender our sincere sympathy to her husband, Mr. E. A. Scheidegger, of 34, The Chine, Grange Park, N.21.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, June 12th, at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — followed by an address by Mr. Paul Grob, at "Swiss House," 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, June 21st, at 7.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — to be followed by a talk on "Current Events," by G. J. Keller, Esq., at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

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Dimanche 9 juin 1940: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du dimanche.

6h. Culte en allemand au Foyer Suisse.

Mardi 11 juin, 3h. Réunion de couture au Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

BAPTEME.

Le 2 juin, Elizabeth-Ann BRUNNER, fille de Willy Ulrich Brunner et de Sylva-Maria née Hauser.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 9. Juni 1940: in der Schweizerkirche, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

11 Uhr. Gottesdienst.

6 Uhr. Gottesdienst im Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Für Amtshandlungen und alle Anfragen wende man sich an Pfr. Stutz, 42 Haringey Park, N.8. (MOU. 8585).

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