

# A monument to Giuseppe Motta

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to their own consciences for answers to such questions.

The Swiss come here wanting more shipments of imports.

If, on the contrary, Britain finds it necessary to cut down navicert and export licences, thanks to which Switzerland has been able with her own fleet of ships to carry on overseas trade through Lisbon, Marseilles, and Genoa, the Swiss should fully grasp the reason: because Germany can collar anything it fancies that goes into Switzerland, and does.

The Swiss people emerged in 1291 under a pact binding them "in view of the bad times and for their better protection and defence, to stand by one another, with counsel and with action, with life and with property, with united force all who threaten oppression and injustice."

Britain respects this, if Germany does the opposite; the same Britain of which the *Revue de Lausanne* writes: "Britain never caused Switzerland the slightest alarm, military or economic. If she had only Britain to trouble her, Switzerland's existence would always have been peaceful."

\* \* \*

Other references in the Press are content with personal data such as the "*Irish Independent*," March 30th:

Head of the Mission is Switzerland's greatest industrialist, Herr Sulzer, Chairman of the world famous Sulzer Brothers' heavy industries at Winterthur, which have branch-factories as far afield as Egypt and South America and which, incidentally, have made Diesel submarine motors for quite a number of States. During World War I Mr. Sulzer, now well in his sixties, was Swiss Minister at Washington.

American born William Rappard, son of a wealthy Geneva industrialist and a leading economist in his own right — he once taught at Harvard and is now professor in Geneva — is another member of the delegation. And so is that young Catholic scholar, Professor Theo Keller of the Commercial University of St. Gallen, financial expert of the Berne Government.

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In a lighter vein is the following from the "*Evening Standard*," April 4th, reprinted from the "*Londoner's Diary*" — an informal gossip column about people who happen to be in the limelight:

Professor William Rappard, a member of the Swiss economic mission to London and a former lecturer in economics at Harvard University, gave an outspoken address on Anglo-Swiss relations before the City Swiss Club on Thursday night. He was talking at a dinner meeting at the Dorchester, at which all six members of the mission were guests.

It is significant that Professor Rappard spoke in the presence of the Swiss Minister in London, Mr. Thurnheer, and that his talk could not have been intended as propaganda to influence the success of the economic mission because he was addressing 200 of his fellow-countrymen. The British Press had not been invited. I was there as the personal guest of the energetic secretary of the City Swiss Club, Mr. H. Bingguely.

Professor Rappard, a tall, well-built man with white hair and a white moustache, spoke in English.

He said that there was a tremendous difference in Swiss feeling now compared with 25 years ago.

. . . . .

Describing life in Switzerland to-day, Professor Rappard said that there were very few taxicabs and motorcars. All petrol comes through Germany, "an indication that it is not over-abundant." Geneva has 7,000 vacant apartments; every house seems to be either to let or for sale.

In London, Professor Rappard has been struck by the carefree appearance of the people. It is the same in Switzerland. "Is this indifference or fortitude?" he asked. In either case, he believes that the Governments in both London and Berne take a graver view than the man in the street.

The City Swiss Club is composed of business and professional men established in this country, the secretary told me. . . . .

### A MONUMENT TO GIUSEPPE MOTTA.

The Federal Council have given their blessing to the idea thrown out by the "*Pro Ticino*," the well known association of the Ticinesi living outside their Canton, for a monument to be erected in Berne and for the endowment of a Swiss Foundation in memory of the late Dr. Giuseppe Motta, Federal Councillor. The City of Berne have offered to make available a site in the vicinity of the Federal Chambers, which will be either the terrace garden in front of the right wing of the building, facing south, towards the Alps and the Ticino, or in the Courtyard between the Federal Chambers and the Bernerhof (Finance Ministry), where it could be more easily reached by the public from the Bundesgasse than on the terrace. The object of the Foundation will be decided upon by the Federal Council in consultation with the "*Pro Ticino*." This decision will be taken later when the result of the collection to be made in Switzerland and abroad will be known.

A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Federal Councillor Celio, to take charge of the organization of the collection. An appeal has been received by the Swiss Societies in London.

Although in the present difficult times appeals to one's generosity are numerous, it may confidently be expected that the Swiss people, both at home and abroad, will respond as generously as is their wont to make the scheme a success.

For thirty years Dr. Giuseppe Motta went from his home to the Bundeshaus to attend to the affairs of state, unassumingly just as any ordinary citizen. Yet his work, especially for the foreign relations of our country, was wise and farsighted. To-day, Switzerland stands an island of peace and goodwill in a world at war. "With malice toward none; with charity for all . . ." this is the spirit with which Motta's foreign policy was imbued, and which to-day still protects our homeland.

Contributions to the collection may be made through the Societies in the Colony or to the Editor, who will pass them on to the Legation. The names of contributors will be entered in a scroll which will be encased in the monument.

J.E.