

More Swiss repatriations

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MORE SWISS REPATRIATIONS.

Again since our last issue appeared two groups of Swiss compatriots from the Dutch East Indies — some from Java but most from Sumatra — have passed through this country. The first group, which was composed of eight men, fourteen women and fourteen children, arrived on January 27th at Southampton, where they were greeted on board the "Winchester Castle" by MM. Mordasini and Huber on behalf of the Swiss Minister. Apart from one family, where the mother had to be sent straight to hospital, they were conducted to London the same day and billeted at 26 and 33, Charles Street, W.1, from where they left for Switzerland in two groups within three days of their arrival.

The next group, which comprised fifteen men, thirteen women and eighteen children, arrived on February 1st two days late at Liverpool owing to severe gales, and were met on board the "Staffordshire" by MM. Mordasini and Huber. They were conducted to London on the same day together with a fairly large amount of luggage which has meanwhile all been sent forward on their behalf either via Paris or Brussels. It was unfortunate that all the careful travelling arrangements which had been made by M. Huber for the transport of this group in three different batches (two via Paris and one via Brussels) had to be cancelled owing to an outbreak of measles amongst the children, with the result that six families are still kept back in London at the time this is being written, that is to say a week after their arrival, with little hope being able to depart to Switzerland before another week has passed. However, they are taking their misfortunes in good heart and are most grateful for the kindness they have received from members of the Colony who have sent such gifts as pastries, cakes and oranges (Mr. Bachmann, Westend Fancy Bakery Ltd.), oranges (Mr. Schorno (the Covent Garden Supply Co.)), Swiss sausages (Mr. Bartholdi), chocolates and sweets (Mrs. Huber).

Every step was taken to provide the sick persons with first-class medical aid, and we are glad to say that they are making good progress.

As regards their treatment under Japanese rule, many of them have distressing tales to tell, but several have seen even worse happenings during the Indonesian revolt, such as the stabbing to death of Mr. Surbeck, the proprietor of the Seanter Hotel, whose daughters were amongst those repatriated on the "Winchester Castle."

We would like to put on record that the provision of really adequate housing accommodation in a central area in London for these repatriates by the Swiss Legation has proved a real blessing in this case, for while on the one hand it would have been most difficult to find suitable hospital accommodation for all the sick, it might have led to a spread of illness had these people not been kept together but sent to a number of different billets.

We are glad to state that now all the members of this party have departed.

Adam, Jean, with wife Louise and two children, Niederwichtach, Bern; Baechtold, Anton, with wife Gertrud, Schleithem, Schaffhausen; Brack, Max, Aarau, Aargau; Haessig, Max, with wife Frieda and two children, Aarau, Aargau; Haepfli, Hans, with wife Gertrud and two children, Biberstein, Aargau; Huber, Wilhelm, with wife Elsa and two children; Jaeggi, Otto Albert, with wife Marta, Gondiswil, Bern; Kobelt, Max Werner, with wife Alice Claire, Mar-

bach, St. Gallen; Moser, Jules, with wife Ida and two children, Schaffhausen, Schaffhausen; Nisse, Ernst, Basel, Baselstadt; Pfrange, Luzia; Dr. Tottoli, Maffeo, with one child, Zofingen, Aargau; Werdmueller, von Elgg, Joan Erik, with wife Albertina and one child, Zuerich; Wiederkehr, Otto, Aarau, Aargau; Zoller, August, Tablat, St. Gallen; Zwicky, Hans Otto, with wife Marguerite and two children, Choulex, Geneva.

Dietiker, Ernst, with wife Gertrud and two children, Basel, Basel-Stadt; Geering, Elsa (Mrs.) with three children, Zuerich; Habluetzel, E. Walter, with wife M. Lina and two children, Wizingen, Schaffhausen; Keller, Louise (Mrs.), Weinfelden, Thurgau; Kuoni, Johann Florian, with wife Nina Suzanne and three children, Chur and Jenins, Graubunden; Rufener, Elisabeth (Miss), Blumenstein, Bern; Schenk, Ernst Hans, with wife Fridolina Clara and son, Duebendorf, Zuerich; Schudel, Paul Gottlob, with wife Helene and three children, Riehen, Baselstadt; Senn, Hans, with wife Luise (Lenzie), Solothurn; Surbeck, Lydia (Miss) and Surbeck Hedwig (Miss), Hallau, Schaffhausen; Wählich, Cilli (Miss), Zuerich; Zermatten, Louis Henri, with wife Anna and son, St. Martin, Valais.

TO THE SWISS OF BOTH SEXES IN THE LIVERPOOL CONSULAR DISTRICT.

In 1927 the Federal Council appointed me as Honorary Consul in succession to the late A. J. Fontannaz. Bundesrat Motta gave me his instructions. I was to act in every circumstance as the good father to you. Here is the yardstick by which you can measure my performance as your Consul. I now retire not because the authorities wish to make a change but because I am no longer young enough to be your father. I would now have to be your grandfather and I hardly think that was Bundesrat Motta's intention. I could see an advantage in remaining your Consul during the war when situations might arise where confidence alone might help. But the war is over and time has moved on.

I have been pursuing three *carrières* at one time simultaneously. A commercial one as member of the Liverpool Corn Exchange, but the building lies in ruins and the trade is in the hands of Civil Servants. I must write that off. I am one of the senior Consuls in my second *carrière* and I give this up. Do not think that I shall sit in an easy chair and think only of the past. There remains to me my scientific *carrière* in Geology and my intentions are to widen my knowledge of the Mountain land of North Wales and the more accessible part of the Alps.

I shall not lose my interest in your doings and you will have at all times my best wishes for your health and for success in all your undertakings.

E. MONTAG.

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