

The "Swiss Observer" thirty years ago

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THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

The issue of 1st October 1938 carried a communiqué from the Swiss Legation informing all officers, non-commissioned officers, lance-corporals and privates incorporated in the Army, and belonging to the *Auszug*, *Landwehr* and *Landsturm* that they would have to join their units in case of a general mobilisation. They would be getting an *ordre de marche* from the Legation. The first black-out of all Switzerland was reported. All civilians who had to go out that night were issued with luminous badges like those supplied to soldiers in the Maginot Line. The Swiss frontier defence force manned the frontiers during the crisis. A long report appeared about a football match between a Swiss team and Arsenal, the latter winning by 3:2. The Swiss team had been invited to lunch at the Zoo where our compatriot Mr. Schorno was in charge as Manager of the Members' Restaurant. Monsieur Paravicini was present and other "notables", both British and Swiss.

In the following issue the message was printed which the Federal Council has sent to the German and Czechoslovak Governments to try and find a peaceful solution of the crisis. Various events in the Swiss community in London were reported including a *Danza Familiare* by the Unione Ticinese. A Motion had been put up to the Swiss Government "Pour la Suppression de la Taxe Militaire des Suisse à l'Etranger" — reprinted from the "Echo Suisse".

On 15th October, we read that the Nazis had banned Pastor Niemoeller's book, published in Switzerland. Thanks were expressed by our Swiss compatriots in Spain for the splendid help which had been sent to them in 1936. Following an appeal in the S.O. three years previously, over £500 had been collected, and the generous gesture had been imitated by other Swiss Colonies. Mr. Hanns Vischer had given a talk to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique on "The Swiss and the Empire", and there was an article on the cotton and embroidery exhibits at the National Exhibition in Zurich to be staged in 1939.

The next issue gave a report on the lessons learnt from the black-out; it said that on the whole people had followed instructions very well. A long report on the Golden Jubilee of the Swiss Mercantile Society appeared — it covered over four pages which would be equivalent to eight of today's size of the paper! But then it was a special event, and a strong delegation had come from Switzerland. Mr. A. Steinmann had been in the chair, and the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, had been amongst the guests. Under "Personal", the death of Mr. George Bruschweiler was reported and the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. Deutsch.

The last issue in October had a report on "Gaps in Defences in Switzerland". Switzerland realised that though Mr. Chamberlain had warded off the immediate danger of war in Europe, the threat was not over, and they were determined to prepare for the worst. The Swiss Alpine Club had celebrated its 75th anniversary. 38m. francs was the deficit the federal budget forecast for 1939. The Swiss had opened a "concentration camp without terrors" for safe custody of Nazi refugees — a sanctuary for some 300 men, women and children. The Arosa hoteliers had organised a ball at the Savoy, at which the Swiss Orchestral Society had performed. The Swiss Club in Liverpool had held its Family Dinner attended by more than 100 people.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

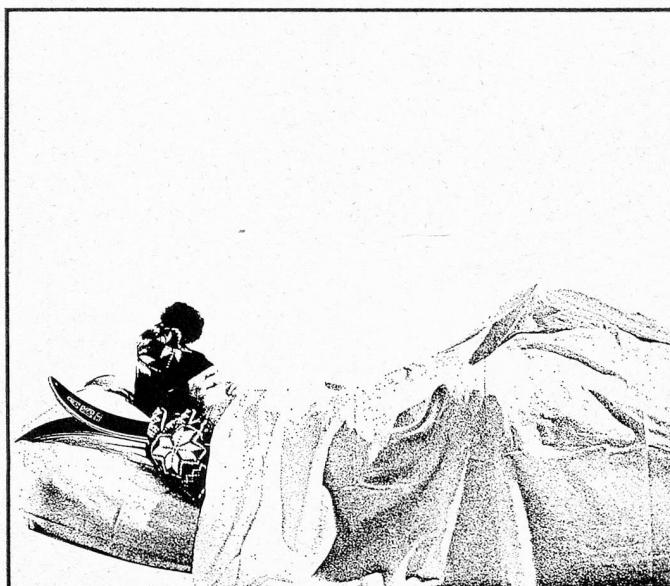
How to Save Money

Price of cards — up. Cost of printing — up.
Postage — higher.

Therefore, as in previous years, the "Swiss Observer" will put space for Christmas greetings at the disposal of readers. This arrangement will enable subscribers to wish their friends and a wide circle of compatriots in all parts of the world the compliments of the season at small cost. At the same time, it is a means of additional financial support to the paper.

We propose publishing there greetings in our Double Christmas Number on 13th December. Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Monday, 20th November, together with remittance of 35/-. Prompt response will be much appreciated.

Winter Holidays twice as grand, in Switzerland



Have no fear to sleep up here,
Way up high the air is clear.

Switzerland

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