

# Swiss events

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The three southern districts of Courtelary, La Neuveville and Moutier have decided (by a very small majority in some areas) to remain within Berne. Some towns, like Moutier, are very seriously divided between the pro- and anti-Separatist factions. The fact that the South decided to resist the Separatist Campaign was due to several factors, the main ones being that its German-speaking population is larger, and that it is nearer to the economic influence of cities like Biel.

The verdict at last year's vote will certainly not spell an end of the Separatist campaign to have a completely

unified Jura. The Rassemblement Jurassien does not consider the results of that poll as the last word of the campaign that was started in earnest in 1947. The creation of the Canton of North Jura was a first and important step towards the final goal. That this stage should have been reached without violence and in respecting our federal traditions speaks well for the Swiss system and the discipline of the Swiss people. But, as shown by the two sociologists referred to above, it also indicates, by the very slowness with which this result has been achieved, an ingrained conservatism and resistance to change.

## More thoughts about home

I was interested in your article. I too have visited Switzerland in the last seven months, after an absence of six years. My impressions were almost identical, I felt simply insufficient to comprehend such affluence, it was cold and stiff and terribly impersonal and selfish. Most of my conversations with the people I know well were concluded with the vague worry that things might not go on like that, that some recession is in the offing. There was I, ready with all the apologies I had prepared for the dreadful economic performance of my adopted country, but there was simply no one

interested in it in the slightest. I was amazed, had I not worried about their impressions for years? Surrounded by the pampered Swiss and their consumer-oriented talk I felt nostalgia. It took me back to our farm in Luzern, during the war, trying to grow wheat and harvesting it with out bare arms. At 14 working an 18-hour day in the summer's heat and getting ill from overwork. Leaving school at 14-and-a-half and spending our school-days in the rickety old wooden building. Was I in the same country only 30 years later, or was it a Wellsian time-switch?

I did not like it much and came back to England quite contented. The English wanted to know alright, but then they had always been interested. For 25 years they have given me all the important things like love and kindness, affection and an education in civilisation. The gifts have not diminished over the years, not

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with the country's poverty. I love the English; I sometimes hate their stupidity, shortsightedness, thriftlessness and I could weep for them and feel exasperated, but I am so grateful for their kindness.

Perhaps there is a moral somewhere. Is prosperity completely absorbing, is its exclusive pursuit wrong? Perhaps the Swiss wife of the English husband living in the suburbs is lonely sometimes, her effort to tap the resources around her is very worthwhile, there is much to be had. For man does not live on bread alone nor the selfishness of materialism.

Mrs. A.S.F.

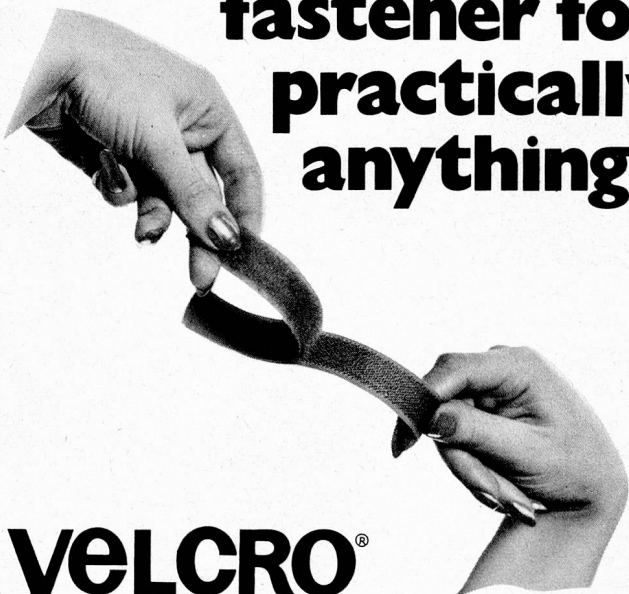
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