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THE SWISS ABROAD AND WAR DAMAGES.

I am giving hereunder a translation of an article which appeared recently in the "Avanguardia" of Lugano, and which might be of special interest to some of your readers:—

At the end of November a meeting was held of a commission of the National Council, to examine the question of the damages suffered by our fellow-citizens abroad during the world war. It is now fully ten years that this question painfully drags on before Parliament, various commissions and experts, without finding a solution.

Frankly, never more than in respect of this problem did the Federal Council and the competent Department give better proof of their lack of courage to face the problem in its various bearings. Rather than stand up for the undeniable rights of our countrymen against foreign States the Federal Council took refuge in paying eight million francs out of the funds of the Confederation which, however, means barely 12 per cent. of the effective damages suffered by Swiss who were abroad during the war. Our fellow-citizens are ventilating their grievances, and with just reason, while other experts are called in to advise on the practical possibility of obtaining compensation from the foreign States where they were resident and suffered serious damage.

The issue numbered 543 of the "National Zeitung" contained an article by J. B. Rusch in which the question is dealt with and from which we translate the following essential points:—

It is now ten years that the Swiss abroad are fighting to have their rights acknowledged not by the foreign States who caused them the damage, but by the Federal Council. The latter does not want to admit that our fellow-citizens have any valid claims against the belligerent States because by admitting that the Federal Council would have the duty to represent and defend our countrymen in respect to such foreign States.

As however any just reason is lacking for such an attitude on the part of our central administrative authority, so it is ten years that the Federal Council anxiously declares to all the Swiss who knock at the door, very often reduced to complete poverty, that there is no legal basis for their claims.

The Federal Council asked Prof. Dr. Burckhardt for expert advice, and he took care to point out that, even if it were still in time to do something the result would be problematic. It is to be noted that, not even from their own adviser was the Federal Council able to obtain a general discharge, which would have enabled it to reject the motion submitted by National Councillor Duft. It is a very sad story, that of our fellow-citizens who suffered damages abroad. In 1921 the Federal Council declared that it could do nothing for them. They did not believe it, however, and asked that the Federal Council should deal on their behalf with the foreign States, seeing that the damages suffered amounted to about 75 million Swiss francs.

Then the Federal Council granted them 8 million francs. But our countrymen had not asked the Federal Council for any money at all, and merely wanted that it should act for them towards foreign countries. They were, however, told that the legal means and the legal basis were lacking for enforcing a claim of such a nature. Nobody must therefore be surprised that those who suffered are seriously complaining.

It is a very old principle of the law of the nations that private property may not be damaged, not even in time of war, and that where reasons of military exigency compel the dispossession of the private owners, this can only be done by equitably compensating them. It is true that this principle has been trodden underfoot during the war, but a breach of the law does not destroy the foundation of the law itself. The principle of the inviolability of private property has moreover found its place in the treaties of peace—the reparations rest on this basis.

The attitude of the Federal Council would be understandable if it were a fact that there is no legal basis for the claim against foreign countries, but this basis is not at all lacking and there are precedents of undoubted validity. In the course of the proceedings which followed the confiscation of the Nitrogen factories in Upper Silesia the Referee of the International Tribunal closed its verdict with the words: "Whether in time of peace or of war or in time of revolution it is always the duty of the State to respect and protect the property of foreigners."

The decision of the Commission of the National Council to submit the question to a fresh set of experts gives a ray of hope that Switzerland will yet be capable of protecting the interests of her citizens abroad. It is, fundamentally, not only a question of fairness but, mainly, one of national duty."

O.B.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD & COOKERY EXHIBITION.

"OLYMPIA," LONDON, W., JAN. 14th-25th.

We are informed that feverish activity takes place in the milieu of La Société Culinare Suisse at 1, Gerrard Place, W., to prepare for the forthcoming battle of culinary art at Olympia in a few days' time, and we understand that the valiant President and 32 staunch adherents are "all out" to gain victory and prove to their Swiss compatriots in London, and the Provinces for that matter, that "the will to succeed" is a very helpful adjunct in any enterprise undertaken.

All the "gourmets" as well as the "gourmands" in our Colony are invited to visit the Exhibition and pay tribute to the commendable team work which is carried on at considerable sacrifice in money, time and energy, by the Members of La Culinare Suisse, for the reputation of our native country as "le pays d'Hotels par excellence."

Appreciative thanks are expressed to our Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, who has kindly consented to become the Patron for the forthcoming Exhibition, and it is hoped that the results of this annual international contest will prove highly gratifying to everybody concerned.

The work and expenses entailed to ensure success are, however, of quite a formidable nature and it is hoped that there may be some readers who will endorse the efforts of "La Culinare Suisse" by subscribing as generously as they wish, or can, to the "Exhibition Fund," to which the Colleagues of Birmingham alone have already contributed the sum of over £13—a very striking testimony of their sentiments of solidarity and patriotism. In addition to the hearty thanks already conveyed to them, may these supporters and well-wishers of the London Swiss Chefs Society derive the pleasure of seeing their confreres carry off the highest honours and awards.

Be it noted also that by special request the Swiss team will exhibit a replica of the Menu prepared some time ago for the famous "V.C." Dinner. On January 24th La Culinare Suisse will hold its first Banquet at the "First Avenue Hotel," and it is anticipated that there will be a record gathering of members and friends, including certain competing teams from Switzerland, Germany, etc. Please reserve your evening for this occasion and if you have anything to spare "pour le bien de la cause," kindly address your remittance to Monsieur A. Juriens, Chef, De Vere Hotel, Kensington, W.8.

GARDE-MANGER.

List of Subscriptions received so far:—

BIRMINGHAM:	£	s.	d.
Mr. P. BRUN	1	0	0
Mr. F. BEER, Chef, Grand Hotel	5	0	0
Mr. P. BOLTER, Chef, Kunzle's	1	0	0
Mr. R. HOFELIGER, Chef, Imperial	1	0	0
Mr. R. SUTTER, Chef Patissier, Queen's	10	0	
Mr. R. WYSS, Chef, Y.M.C.A.	1	0	0
Mr. D'ALBERT, Chef Saucier, Grand	10	0	
Mr. C. KUENZLE	5	5	0
Mr. M. SCHNEIDER, Garde Manger, Grand	10	0	
Special Collection UNION HELVETIA	2	0	0
SWISS CLUB	1	1	0
Monsieur MONTAG, Swiss Consul, Liverpool	1	1	0
Mr. M. BERSER, London Wall Restaurant	5	0	0
Mr. LAUBNER, Chef, Gloucester Hotel, Weymouth	3	0	0
Mr. Leon JAEGLI, 26, Woodville Road, Golders Green	5	0	0
Total	£32	17	0

SWISS WATCHMAKING INDUSTRY.

If one compares the volume of exports from year to year one finds that there is no appreciable variation. Thus, from the 1st of January to the 30th of August the consignments of pocket watches remained at the same level; but, an interesting fact, the different categories show decided changes. Whereas watches made of non-precious metals have increased in number (from 4,122,000 to 4,246,000) gold and silver watches have fallen off slightly. With regard to wrist watches the same tendency appears. Nickel and steel time-pieces have risen from 2,381,000 to 2,882,000, while the pretty gold and silver bracelets have been exported in somewhat smaller numbers.

Let us note in passing, as we are on the subject of sales, that the export of works destined to be encased abroad, has risen slightly: from 3,248,000 to 3,472,000 during the first eight months of the year. A fact which should be treated with the greatest reserve, because, as we have so often pointed out, the only authentic Swiss watch, worthy of complete confidence is the one which has been encased and regulated at the factory here in Switzerland.

During the present year, exports to central Europe have risen considerably. In Austria and Techeoslovakia there is a growing trade for Swiss watches of good quality, as also in Yugoslavia where, however, the rise is much more moderate. A slight increase is also shown in the consignments to France. As regards Great Britain, Germany, Hungary and Poland there is a marked decline. As to the second of these four countries, the fall is explained easily enough by the slight reduction in the duty, importers not being inclined to renew their stocks on the eve of a reduction in the tariff. On the whole, what with one country and another, sales are roughly on a par with those of last year.

Everywhere work remains plentiful. On all sides, too, the great success and admiration which the exhibits of the chief Swiss horologists encountered at Barcelona is being freely commented upon. The foremost of them vied with each other in taste and luxury in the presentation of their choicest chefs-d'oeuvre, which are of an astonishing variety, ranging as they do from the tiny wristlet watch to the grandfather clock and the electrically controlled time piece. This successful publicity augurs well, both for the future of our trade in Spain, and for our approaching advertising and selling campaigns in the majority of those countries whence came the thousands of visitors who passed through Barcelona during the summer and autumn. S.I.T.

THE SCINTILLA MAGNETOS.

The beginnings of the world-famous Swiss watch-making trade can be traced back to about two centuries ago, when watches were made at home by the inhabitants of the Swiss Jura. This fact easily accounts for the high quality of the precision work done by workmen born and bred in these parts.

Taking advantage of the favourable conditions for work, a new precision industry was founded at Soleure about 12 years ago: the manufacture of ignition magnetos for motor cars and aeroplanes, and at the same time the manufacture of every kind of apparatus necessary for lighting and starting motor vehicles.

Owing to the rapid development of explosion motors, the ignition apparatus previously in use no longer sufficed. Efforts were made on all sides to improve the existing systems, and to adapt them to the development of explosion motors. Ceaseless attempts finally enabled the Scintilla A.-G. at Soleure to place a magneto on the market, which can cope with the highest number of revolutions of a rapid explosion motor. The construction of this apparatus was only made possible by reversing the construction of the previous systems and fixing the more delicate parts, such as the spool and the condenser, firmly, only allowing parts which can stand more wear and tear, such as the permanent magnet, the cam, etc., to rotate. Scintilla Magnetos are supplied for 1 to 18 cylinder motors with spark adjustment by hand lever control or by an automatic arrangement, for motor cars, aeroplanes, ships or stationary combustion motors.

As stated above, complete apparatus for lighting and starting (dynamos, starters, switches, projectors, direction finders) for motor cars, omnibuses, motor boats, etc. are made with equal precision in these works. The construction of these apparatus is also a proof of the pioneer work of the Scintilla who have largely employed entirely new methods.

In spite of the comparatively short period of time which has elapsed since the foundation of the works, 1,200 workers are now busy at Soleure, and about 700 in the licenced works at Sydney (New York), whilst large numbers are also employed in the eight chief European branch factories in Paris, London, Brussels, Prague, Berlin, Madrid, Vienna and Warsaw.

As early as 1922 a considerable number of the most important motor races, such as the Grand Prix de France, the Grand Prix de Belgique, the Grand Prix d'Italie, the Grand Prix du Mans, and the Grand Prix of Peña-Rhin were won by cars of varied makes fitted with these apparatus. Equally successful results are still being achieved. Thus five first prizes in the great international alpine races in 1928, and quite recently the Targa Florio of Divo were won by Bugatti cars with Scintilla apparatus.

The victorious career of those apparatus in aviation began in 1924, with the result that they now almost have the monopoly. It must be mentioned that the Scintilla apparatus were used in all transatlantic flights, such as those of Lindbergh, Chamberlain, Byrd, of the "Bremen," "Friendship," "Maitland," "Southern Cross," "Jesus del Gran Poder," the world flights of Pinedo, Broch and Schlee, Costes and Le Brix, the North Pole flights of Byrd and Wilkins, the great South African flight of Mittelholzer, the most famous record flight in the history of aviation, the six days' flight of the "Question Mark," which has recently been beaten by the seven days' flight of the "Forthworth," etc. America has adopted the Scintilla Magneto as the standard magneto for civil, naval and military aviation.

An ever increasing number of motorists and motor car makers now build-in this apparatus, on account of its reliability and absolute efficiency,—qualities which have become more and more essential for cars. For aeroplanes the choice of parts must be still more carefully made, on account of the responsibility for human life borne by the makers. In spite of this, the magnetos for motor cars are made with exactly the same care and precision as those for aeroplanes. This remark also applies to all our other apparatus, such as dynamos, starters, projectors, switches, etc. The persevering diligence which has always been shown by all workers in, and heads of this factory has helped to acquire world-wide fame for the *Scintilla Magneto* in a comparatively short space of time, thus adding to the excellent reputation of Swiss exports, with regard to quality and reliability. S.I.T.

Women on Swiss Railways.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that very few women are employed in the Swiss railway service. Among the 34,000 officials of the Swiss Federal Railways there are altogether but 1,070 women, of whom 760 are barrier keepers; only 59 women are in charge of small wayside stations. Last year, during the high season, the Swiss private railways—that is to say, the small, mountain railways—employed a staff of 6,700 men and 300 women, of whom 180 were doing the barrier service. The work women do as barrier keepers, however, is very responsible in these days of heavy traffic over level crossings, especially during the high season. It calls for energy, exactness, a sharp eye, and a smart sense of duty.

CHRISTMAS FAIRIES.

Once upon a time good fairies who had their abode in a little Swiss Villa, somewhere in a far away village called Highbury, where there still exists a Leigh Road, conceived the idea to give a Christmas treat to the children of exiled Switzers, in the great city of London. The one who particularly cherished the plan, has long since left this large city. She returned to the shores of the blue lake where she was born, but should you enquire for Mlle Marguerat in Lausanne you would still be able to find her, a dear little octogenarian, full of life and loving thoughts for her compatriots in London.

For the success of her plan she enlisted the active interest of a beneficent goblin, now one of the mighty ones in the world of finance, who gathered amongst his friends the silver and gold coins with which they light the stars in the skies and the candles on the Christmas trees.

And so it came to pass that a cheque for £19 11s. 0d. signed "Hans Jenne," reached the writer, on December 3rd, 1909, and allowed a group of friends of the little ones to organise the first Swiss Christmas tree party, which was held in Tottenham Court Road, on January 9th, 1910.

Since then, that institution has developed by leaps and bounds. Think! only 46 children were gathered at Shearn's 20 years ago, while Saturday last, for the 21st Anniversary of the Fête, the happy crowd numbered 380! What a family! And how happy they all were, these little ones, when the conjuror heaped tricks on tricks and made them sing, laugh and shout. And think of all the good things in the bags, which each of them got after tea, while marching passed the windows of Victoria Hall, where the treasures were all heaped up in alphabetical order.

The Annual Christmas Tree party has become a big item in our Colony of first importance to all our children, naturally, but of importance too, to us, the grown up, as a means of keeping a slight link between these hundreds of little compatriots and their fathers' or mothers' country across the sea.

We seize this opportunity to thank most heartily all those who took a share in Saturday's fête, either by their kind donations, written into Mr. Campart's little black book, or by their active help in organizing the proceedings.

It wanted a lot of good will, energy, wisdom and all, but the gracious staff was quite up to the mark and all the children went home happy, I hope.

We shall still do better next year, so God wills!

FATHER CHRISTMAS.

Mistakes.

When a plumber makes a mistake he charges for it.

When a lawyer makes a mistake it is just what he wanted, because he has a chance to try the case all over again.

When a carpenter makes a mistake it's just what he expected.

When a doctor makes a mistake he buries it. When a judge makes a mistake it becomes the law of the land.

When a preacher makes a mistake nobody knows the difference.

But when a printer makes a mistake—Good night!

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

F. Schmied, Zurich: "India." A. Delapraz, Vevey: "The Swiss Army." A. Menoud, Neuchâtel: "Wall Street." A. Deutsch, Romanshorn: "A Swiss Industry." H. Gertsch, Thun: "Manchester." H. Ries, Lenzburg: "London." A. Roth, Langenthal: "London." Miss E. Seiler, Basel: "My first day in London."

An interesting lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, on "A visit to Bourneville Works," was given on Friday evening by Mr. B. Davis, B.A.

Saturday—Visit to St. Paul's Cathedral, conducted by Mrs. J. H. Pinard, B.A.

THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

IN PRAISE OF KYBURG.

A Hint to Swiss Wine Importers.

Dear Sirs,—Please find enclosed my subscription for 1930, for two issues of the *Swiss Observer*—one for myself here at Somerton, the other to a friend at Peseux, near Neuchâtel. She loves her S.O.—I must also say that I greatly enjoy mine and am very pleased that "Kyburg" has resumed his articles. I was always looking forward for them and regretted very much when he gave up. His articles are delightful, he has such a sense of humour!

I also receive from Lausanne "*La Petite Revue*." The *Viticulteurs* seem much distressed over their over-abundance of very good wine! Strange, is it not, having too much of this world's good things? The authorities have taken the matter in hand and are trying to help the sale.

Now, would not the members of the Swiss Colony in London enjoy that good Dezaire, etc? I do when I am in the Canton-de-Vaud—si beau! I am very seldom in London and only for a short time when there. Would there be no means to get a good supply of that good Swiss wine in London? I feel sure it would be greatly appreciated—the "1929."

With kind regards and best wishes for the prosperity of our Swiss London Colony.

Yours sincerely,

MARIE LOUISE DUPUIS.

Somerton, Castleknock,
Co. Dublin.

PERSONAL.

SUSANNE M. ECKENSTEIN †

With deep regret we have to announce the death of Madame Susanne Marie Eckenstein, née Blard, the wife of Dr. Eckenstein. She died at the age of 47 after a long and painful illness on the 1st of January in her home. The deceased, who was born in Normandy, was married to Dr. Eckenstein just after the war.

The funeral service, a full Mass with organ recital, was held at the Eglise de Notre Dame de France in Leicester Square on the 7th of January. Amongst those present at the service were the French Ambassador, the Military Attaché of the French Embassy, two French generals and Swiss friends, whose last gifts of flowers made a most beautiful array. On behalf of our readers and ourselves we express our deep sympathy to Dr. Eckenstein.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue in which the subscription expires.)

A. C. Baume (479), P. Bucher (478), A. Brunner (453), J. Lanz (438), P. Lambert (476), G. Laemle (479), F. Beyli (479), A. Semadeni (440), G. Chaudoux (479), A. Schupbach (479), E. Fehrli (477), Miss M. Jans (440), R. Gutzwiler (455), Miss A. Achermann (453), Miss E. Gutmann (440), A. von Dach (453), Dr. M. Schroeter (479), P. de Maria (478), C. T. Lehmann (469), E. Leutenegger (478), Ch. A. Barbezat (479), W. Theiler (449), J. Hirter (439), H. C. Saalenbach (470), V. H. Rossat (477), Mrs. R. Rudin (440), P. Casparis (446), Miss I. Keiser (479), L. Schmidlin (474), E. Bachofen (479), A. Walchli (479), W. Tschuy (477), H. Senn (477), E. Widman (452), E. Wepf (479), H. Koch (479), C. H. Lullin (479), F. Dietiker (479), H. Buser (479), O. Bartholdi (478), R. Sanger (479), W. A. Hofflin (479), Miss R. Bricar (453), Mrs. C. Wurth (478), H. Ott (479), G. E. Schoopp (440), F. Zimmermann (479), C. A. Blanchet (479), F. Golay (479), M. Albrecht (479), O. Wirth (479), E. Burge (463).

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY'S NEXT CONCERT WILL BE GIVEN AT CONWAY HALL, LONDON, W.C. ON FEBRUARY 19th. TICKETS 8s. FROM THE SECRETARY, S.I.O.S. 35, FITZROY SQ. W.I.

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Deposits - - £43,000,000

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Tickets at 12/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from
Members of the Committee.

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Dimanche 12 Janvier—11h. Mr. Marcel Pradervand.
6.30h.—Mr. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Archway 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag den 12. Januar 1930.

11 Uhr morgens Gottesdienst & Sonntagschule.
7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und Religionsunterricht sind erbeten an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telefon: Chiswick 4756.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche.
Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

DEUTSCHE KATHOLISCHE KIRCHE

Sonntag, den 12. Januar, morgens—hl. Messen um 9 Uhr.
10 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Deutsche Predigt um 9 Uhr und 11 Uhr.

Abendgottesdienst um 7 Uhr mit deutscher Predigt.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, January 15th at 7.35 p.m.—
NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Ordinary
Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, January 24th at 7.45 p.m.—SWISS
CULINARY SOCIETY: Annual Dinner & Ball, at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, January 25th at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS
CLUB: Dinner and Dance at the Hotel
Metropole, Northumberland Avenue.

Saturday, February 1st at 7 p.m.—SWISS
MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and
Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel.

Wednesday, February 5th at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ
DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74,
Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, February 12th.—SWISS INSTITUTE
ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY: Concert at Conway
Hall, W.C. (see advert.)

Tuesday, March 11th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual
Banquet, Ball and Cabaret at The Monaco
Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W.1.

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