European folkcraft exhibition in Liverpool

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sources as before. It is important because it draws our attention to the fact that, whatever reason or pretext for an invasion of Swiss territory may be sought by the Neo-Napoleons, this little country cannot fight for its independence single-handed. It has to rely on substantial support from the democracies. Every Swiss citizen is a soldier, yet these few millions cannot resist a joint attack from the Axis Powers. All they can do is try to defend themselves for a few days, perhaps weeks. The position is easier on the southern frontier, where huge mountains protect the country and the few passes and tunnels can easily be blown up and blocked.

The position is much more difficult on the Nazi side. Open country has to be defended. There are a few thousand specially selected and trained men always stationed on the frontiers, special Frontier Guards. Only some 30,000 men stand behind them in peace time. To these we have to add, of course, ten times as many and more in case of mobilisation. But there is little time to lose should the need arise to defend the integrity and neutrality of the country. There are careful studies worked out by military experts considering the position in case of a sudden attack by mobilised forces. Specialised troops, tanks and so on, might cross the Rhine late one evening and try to break through the first defence lines of the Swiss in an attack in the early morning. That means that a surprise attack may well succeed in depriving the defenders of their natural frontier, the Rhine between Lake Constance and Basle. In such a case it is thought that it would be necessary to keep out the invaders, or rather to stop them near the frontiers, for at least six or seven days until general mobilisation could be effected. The small streets, many bridges across rivers, wide and narrow, constitute obstacles in the way of a mechanised force. The Swiss themselves have abstained from quantities of tanks and armoured cars, since they are only concerned with tactical and strategic defence, and want to make use of their hilly country, as well as to blow up all bridges, streets and roads leading into the interior should the need arise. They have, therefore, some advantage against the mechanised army of an invader, which would be bound to stick to roads and to use bridges.

It would be an impossible situation, however, if the sort of persuasion which has now become almost familiar to the heads of smaller countries should be applied. The Führer may well think it possible to invite some more heads of States to his presence, and threaten to bomb cities mercilessly unless a protectorate or some other form of suicide is adopted. In that case the nations of Switzerland, the old and holy democratic people of that brave little country high up in the mountains, will know how to act. Let us hope it will never come to that. But if it should come let us hope that not only will enemies be enemies but friends be friends.

IGNIS.
(Contemporary Review.)

EUROPEAN FOLKCRAFT EXHIBITION IN LIVERPOOL.

The Union of Girl Guides consisting of over 100 societies in the Merseyside district have organised a European Folkcraft Exhibition and the Corporation of Liverpool has given them handsome appartments in the Walker Art Gallery for the Exhibition. The opening of the Exhibition took place on 4th May, 1939, by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Ald. Sir Sydney Jones) and a very pleasant function it proved to be. The exhibition will remain open almost to the end of May, so that thousands of Merseyside people will see it.

The Swiss Federal Railways in London had the good judgment to send an exhibit which compares favourably with that of other countries. But being a mere man just able to sow on a button if it is absolutely essential, I do not feel myself competent to give an opinion on delicate needlework and other similar handicraft. The above judgment is not mine but that of a lady of the Consular Corps, who was kind enough to examine and explain to me our exhibit and who is entitled to express an opinion. She was particularly struck with the work of a table top embroidery, which she thought was a work of merit. She did not know that it was Miss Livia Paravicini's nor the special occasion (her parent's silver wedding) which prompted this artistic effort. She knows it now.

If your eyes are tired of scrutinising so much delicate work, there are the pictures of the Gallery to look at and amongst these the splendid vision of the Alps by Giovanni Segantini in his picture "The Punishment of Luxury" which hangs on one of its walls.

As some of my friends remarked: We would go to Switzerland for our holidays *if* — that awkward "if" in the European situation which spoils so many plans.

Still the Swiss Federal Railways were probably right in supporting the Exhibition. It can only do good.

E.M.

1ST AUGUST FESTIVAL.

We are glad to inform our readers that the 1st August festival is going to be revived in London this year. Delegates of the different Swiss Societies met at Swiss House on Monday under the auspices of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

Delegates were in full agreement that this function should take place inside, and decided to have a typical National Swiss Rally.

We are greatly indebted to M. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, who has kindly accepted the honorary Presidency.

Full details of this function will be published in due course, and we hope that every Swiss in London on the 1st August will make a point of being present. Admission will be free. There will be Swiss music, Swiss Songs, dancing; and a few surprises we hope in order to make it a most enjoyable evening. Every Swiss should consider it, not only a pleasure, but a duty to attend and celebrate this important National festival. In these days of international upheaval patriotism ought to be keenly displayed by every loyal citizen, and all our compatriots will no doubt take this opportunity of meeting each other, joining in a Swiss atmosphere for a few hours, and rejoice together that our country has been spared from the evils that have undermined or destroyed so many other peoples.

Please all take a note of 1st August at St. Pancras Town Hall, and look out for further details.

Bee.

A FAMOUS SWISS MINERAL WATER.

Our readers might be interested to hear that the well-known EPTINGER mineral water, which is so popular in our country, can now be obtained in this country. (See advert.)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, 16th May, Union Chrétienne de langue française. Causerie — Introduction sur l'Evangile de Matthieu, par Monsieur le Pasteur M. Pradervand. Ladies invited. Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Thursday, May 18th at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Lecture by Missionary J. R. Niklaus, on "The Holy Spirit," Acts. 2. 1-14; at "Westgate House," 28/29, Bedford Place, W.C.1. "All young Swiss invited."

Friday, May 19th, at 8 o'clock (supper at 6.30 p.m.) — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting to be followed by a causerie on "Switzerland's Mission in Europe," by Dr. H. W. Egli, at the "Foyer Suisse," 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Sunday, May 21st, at 4.30 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — 51st Anniversary — (Tea will be served — Ladies and Gentlemen are cordially invited) at Westgate House, 28-29, Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Thursday, May 25th at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Lecture by Missionary B. Segall, on "Can Religion be Defined," at "Westgate House," 28/29, Bedford Place, W.C.1. "All young Swiss invited."

Saturday, June 3rd, at 2.45 p.m. — Swiss Sports and Garden Party — at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds, Burbage Road, S.E.24.

Wednesday, June 7th at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, June 15th — "70ème Fête Suisse," at Central Hall, Westminster.

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Dimanche 14 mai 1939:
11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.
11h. Ecole du dimanche.
7h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

Jeudi 18 mai (Ascension), à 8 p.m., au *Foyer Suisse*, à l'occasion du passage de M. et Mme. Jacot et de Mlle Dupont, missionnaires: Soirée d'adieux. Invitation à tous.

Dimanche 21 mai, 11h. Confirmation des catéchumènes.

Pour l'instruction religieuse et les actes pastoraux, prière de s'adresser au pasteur, M. M. Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003) Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE
(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).
St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(Near General Post Office, St. Paul's and Aldersgate Street Tube Stations (Central London and Metropolitan).

Sonntag, den 14. Mai:
11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst, Pfr. E. Bommeli.
7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst, Pfr. E. Bommeli.

(Nach dem Abendgottesdienst, Probe des Kirchenchors.)

11 Uhr morgens, Sonntagschule, 186 Aldersgate. (Herr Fischer).

Mittwoch Nachmittag: Schwyzerchränzli von 3 Uhr an, im Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Anfragen wegen Religions — bezw. Konfirmanden Unterricht sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer E. Bommeli. Sprechstunden: Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche, Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

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