

# Letter box

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stand together helping each other when they are in difficulties.

When you came together last time at the Monico, it was to say good-bye to my friend and predecessor, Monsieur and Madame Paravicini. With your permission I would like to suggest that we send them a wire of greetings across the Channel.

I have come to this important post in very earnest times. The British Empire and France, Switzerland's neighbour to the West, are at war with Germany, our neighbour to the North and East. Along the border of France and Germany there are two parallel chains of tremendous fortifications: the Maginot Line and the Siegfried Line. They both end to the South, right on our borders. They even stretch out their arms to the left and right along our frontiers. It is therefore evident that Switzerland, in spite of its size, has become from a political and military point of view considerably more important.

Under these circumstances and in an age where international confidence is getting rare, it is good to know that Switzerland's neutrality is absolutely trustworthy. We have proved it, neutrality is part of our tradition, since centuries it has been our policy to remain neutral and we have kept our neutrality in many difficult moments of our history to the benefit of everybody. But this does not mean that we would allow anybody to violate it, we would immediately resist any aggression to our utmost.

That is why at the beginning of this war Switzerland quickly put its whole army on the borders. Ever since every fifth male Swiss is under arms. We spend daily three to four million Swiss francs for our defences. Besides, in view of the difficult times, our Government and Parliament have long before the war taken farsighted economic and military preparatory measures which meant an additional expense of several hundred millions.

We are spending this hard earned money without grudge. Our soldiers faithfully stand guarding the borders. On our farms, in the factories, in the offices, men and women carry on with strongly reduced staffs and labour without complaining. Everyone is doing gladly his duty with determination and a cheerful heart knowing that they are thereby guarding the freedom of every single Swiss, our families, our institutions, the freedom of our beloved country, Switzerland.

The address of the Minister, which was at times interrupted by hearty applause, earned him a tremendous ovation.

Before this happy gathering came to an end, the Minister and Madame Thurnheer shook hands with a great number of those who were present, and if all the good and sincere wishes they received are fulfilled the Minister's "séjour" amongst us will be a happy one.  
ST.

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## LETTER BOX.

**M. F.** — Pleased to hear that you like extracts from the English press. We have purposely not reproduced the article from the "Evening Standard" (21.2.40) as apart from a few inaccuracies such as "our army horses hauling 16inch guns" it contains nothing new to Swiss readers. The article has since appeared in several provincial papers but with a more engaging portrait of General Guisan; his counterfeit in the "Evening Standard" leisurely drawing out the last juice of a "Stumpe" certainly suggests that the photographer forgot to tell him to look pleasant.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, March 13th, at 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting, at 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: *Rectification*:

Friday, March 15th, 1940 — Monthly Meeting — at the "Foyer Suisse," 12, Bedford Way, W.C.1. Supper at 6.30 sharp, to be followed at 7.30 by a causerie by Henry C. Balsler, Esq., on "Things in General."

## Divine Services.

Dimanche 10 mars 1940: à l'**Eglise Suisse**, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du dimanche.

6h. Culte en allemand au Foyer Suisse.

Mardi 12 mars, à 2h.30, Réunion de couture au Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 10. März 1940: in der **Schweizerkirche**, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

11 Uhr. Gottesdienst.

6 Uhr. Gottesdienst im Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Für Amtshandlungen u. alle Anfragen wende man sich an Pfr. Stutz, 23, Womersley Road, N.8. (MOU. 4649).

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