

Appreciation

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The only connection the Swiss Government has with radio is that the Department of Post, Telephone and Telegraph undertakes to collect the licence fees and turn them over to the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation. At that point governmental interference ends. Theoretically anyone else could set up a similar system, in competition and it is not legally impossible, if they wish for the Swiss to have the original Government concession changed and to embrace sponsored radio on the American pattern.

Swiss broadcasting on a national scale dates back to 1931 when the Swiss Broadcasting Company was founded. Seven separate organisations combined to form the company; Radio Geneva, Radio Lausanne, Radio Zurich, Radio Basle, Radio Berne, The Eastern Swiss Radio Society in St. Gall and the Co-operative Society for Radio Broadcasting at Bellinzona in the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino.

These various associations were representative of given regions and, in forming the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, they all brought their own operating rules into conformity with the Corporation's agreement with the Government which had granted it its original licence to operate.

The result is that Swiss radio for home listeners now broadcasts regularly every day, in all three official languages as well as, less frequently, in the little-known tongue, Romantsch, which is spoken in the Grisons. A separate transmitter serves each language group; for the French the transmitter at Sottens, for the German-speaking group that of Beromunster and for the Ticinesi the transmitter of Monte Ceneri on the southern slopes of the Alps. Because Monte Ceneri is separated from the rest of the nation by the great Alpine massif, it is sometimes said that it can be picked up more easily in Africa than in Berne.

Broadcasting itself is done by six studios located in Geneva, Lausanne, Berne, Zurich, Basle and Lugano. Because the transmitters are powerful, these local broadcasts are widely heard beyond Switzerland's frontiers.

Swiss radio has few taboos, but those which exist, carefully established in the original government concession, are enlightening for non-Swiss to contemplate. They are but two: Swiss radio may not carry either religious or political propaganda. That is to say, Swiss radio may remain a forum for learning, a means of hearing good music, a channel for receiving light entertainment or unslanted news broadcasts. But no politician can advocate over Swiss airwaves his political panacea.

Though radio in Switzerland is not an agency of the government, it is regarded as a national responsibility. Its true masters are the people

themselves who pay twenty Swiss francs (about thirty-five shillings) per year for the privilege of maintaining it.

AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAG, 1952

We are informed by the N.H.G. Bern, that the annual Conference of Swiss living abroad will take place at Burgenstock from Friday, August 29th, to Sunday, August 31st. The programme includes an address by the Federal President, Mr. Kobelt; discussions regarding several interesting subjects of Swiss in foreign countries; Excursion to Rutli and around the lake of Lucerne.

Any compatriot visiting Switzerland this year should attend these important celebrations. For details communicate direct with Auslandschweizerwerk, Wallgasse 2 Bern.

APPRECIATION

Mr. and Mrs. P. Cattin and families wish to express their most sincere thanks to all the members of the S.B.S., who so kindly paid regular visits to Mrs. Cattin while she was a patient at the Mater Hospital, also for the beautiful flowers which gave her no end of pleasure. She is progressing favourably now and is able to get about again.

Paul Cattin.

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Max Buchmann, 47 Edenvale Road, Mt. Eden, Auckland.

Mr. Hans K. Burgin, c/o Mrs. Bell, Green Mt., East Tamaki.

Mr. Arthur Buhler, c/o Post Office, Rotorua.

Mr. Simmy Hartmann, 29 Krull Street, Wellington.

Mr. Paul J. Huber, c/o Mr. Bently, 5 Wynyard St., Auckland.

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Mr. Josef Keiser, c/o Mr. Lachland, 34 Water-view Rd., Auckland.

Mr. J. Schelbert, Box 20, Normanby, Taranaki.

Mr. Hans Tresch, Nibble Nook, Ltd., Tauranga.

Mr. Karl Waldvogel, c/o Central Hotel, Ngaruahia.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

Although subscriptions have come in regularly, there are still about 50 per cent. outstanding. Some compatriots have even overlooked to remit their 1950-51 fees and we wish to remind all our friends to kindly pay the small fee due, either to their district collection agents or to the Secretary direct.