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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Reluctantly surrendering himself to the general desire for holidays, the Editor proposes to take a few weeks' respite. The publication of the 'S.O.' will therefore be suspended as from this issue, and the next number will appear on Saturday, September 1st. We trust that the faithful ones for whom the 'S.O.' has become an indispensable week-end diet will bear with us for this short period. The date of expiry of the prepaid subscriptions and advertising contracts will be correspondingly extended. Any correspondence or enquiries received in the meantime will be attended to as usual.

THE PUBLISHERS.

HOME NEWS

A direct wireless telephone service between America and Switzerland was inaugurated last week by a successful conversation between Federal Councillor Scheurer and Monsieur Marc Peter, the Swiss Minister in Washington.

Extremely satisfactory results are recorded by the Swiss Post Office for the first six months of the current year, the surplus to end of June last being 4.59 million francs—over 50% increase on last year's figures. The telegraph and telephone services also exhibit higher revenues, the continued unpopularity of telegrams being more than balanced by the increased use of the telephone.

At the international pistol match held at Loosduinen (Holland) in connection with this year's Olympic Games the Swiss team established a new world record and the present world champion, Dr. Schnyder, retained his title. The performances of the Swiss team were witnessed by a distinguished gathering, including the Dutch War Minister and many diplomatic representatives (See "Extracts.").

The elimination trials held in Lucerne in the course of the Federal Gymnastic Festival resulted in the following team being selected to compete in the Olympic Games at Amsterdam: Eugen Mack (Basel), Georges Miez (Olten), Edi Steinemann (Geneva), Melchior Wenzel (Töss), Herm. Hänggi (Burgdorf), Hans Grieder (Arbon), Gottl. Staufier (Aarau), Otto Pfister (Berne).

A military lorry carrying ammunition caught fire on the Simplon Pass. The men in charge were able to escape in time and watch in safety the tremendous explosions which followed. The road has been temporarily stopped.

The three railway officials, who were charged before the courts in Bellinzona with being responsible for the accident at Castione in October, 1926, causing the death of two passengers, have been acquitted of culpable negligence.

A large block of houses containing 36 separate tenements and known as the "Philosophère" in Le Locle has been partly destroyed by fire.

A spectacular fire last week destroyed the large joinery establishment situate along the banks of the Rhône and belonging to M. Caramaro, of Geneva. No less than 25 hydrants had to be called into action and the damage is estimated at Frs. 300,000. Nearly 200 carpenters are thrown out of work.

A whole family—husband, wife and son—were sentenced by the Basle Courts to terms of imprisonment, varying from eight to three months, for blackmail; knowing that a business friend of theirs was evading full taxation by under-declaring his income they succeeded in extorting sundry amounts totalling Frs. 5,000.

Swiss National Day

GREAT PATRIOTIC RALLY on Wednesday, August 1st

from 3 till 9 p.m.

ON THE

Grounds of the Swiss Rifle Association,
HENDON, N.W.

arranged by the Swiss Societies in London, under the patronage of
THE SWISS MINISTER.

RIFLE SHOOTING
DARTS COMPETITION
CHINESE LAUNDRY
COCOANUT SHIES
BOAT SWINGS
JUVENILE ROUNDABOUT
PILLOW FIGHTS
GALLERY OF PROMINENT SWISS
MIDDLESEX MILITARY BAND.

Tea and Light Refreshments at Popular Prices.

ADMISSION FREE TO ALL SWISS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

As it is anticipated that, given a fine day, many compatriots will spend the whole afternoon on the grounds with their families, care has been taken to supply plenty of amusement for the children. All the side shows will be in continuous operation from three till nine p.m. and, with the exception of the Juvenile Roundabout and the Boatswings are in charge of members of the Swiss clubs. Mr. Schütz and members of the S.M.S. will manage the coconut shies; the Gaillard Double Quartet is in charge of the Pillow Fights and the "Gallery of Swiss Celebrities"; the Darts Competition will be run by Mr. J. J. Schneider and Mr. Finger and other members of Union Helvetia; and the Rifle Shooting is, of course, in the hands of the Swiss Rifle Association. For the latter event ten special prizes are offered for the best scores obtained by non-members of the S.R.A. on the 100 yards automatic targets.

The successful team of the Swiss Gymnastic Society who have just returned from Lucerne will give an exhibition of the massed drill exercises performed at the Federal Gymnastic Festival.

The official part will take place between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m., when the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame Paravicini, will address the gathering in English, French and Schwytzerdütsch. A few words in Italian will be pronounced by Signora T. Lunghi-Rezzonico. This will be followed by an informal reception of the presidents of the clubs and other members of the Colony.

The Community Singing and musical arrangements are in charge of Mr. P. Dick.

HOW TO REACH THE GROUND.

The entrance to the ground is in Edgware Road opposite the Old Welsh Harp at Hendon, through gates marked "Westley Richards' Shooting School." Bus services 142b from Kilburn Park Underground and 60 from the Bank, Charing Cross, Piccadilly Circus, etc. pass the gates, as well as all the trams going north in the direction of Edgware. The nearest railway station is "Brent," on the Golders Green tube, which is about 15 minutes' walk from the ground. A private motor coach service will be run from this station between 2.30 and 6.30.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Politische Umschau.

Langsam legt sich auch die Politik in dieser heissen Julitagen schlafen; aber so wenig wie im Ausland kommt sie bei uns im Inland ganz zur Ruhe. Man fühlt es trotz Sommerhitze immer noch, welch bewegten Tagen wir im Oktober bei den National- und Ständeratswahlen entgegengehen werden. Das sehen wir auch aus dem "Journal de Genève," das in einem Leitartikel die sieben Liberal-Konservativen des Nationalrates, die seiner Richtung entsprechen, bescheiden mit den sieben Weisen des Altertums vergleicht, die allerdings nicht von einem Wahlkörper abhängen, sondern ihre Unsterblichkeit ohne Kampf und Propaganda für

immer gesichert besassen. Im übrigen erinnert das Blatt an die Anstrengungen aller andern Parteien und speziell auch an die stärkste Partei, von der alle andern gewinnen möchten: die der 230,000 Nichtwähler bei insgesamt einer Million Wahlberechtigter. Jedenfalls sind trotz der Ferien alle grossen Parteien schon stiller oder lauter an der Arbeit: So hat der Zentralvorstand der Berner Freisinnigen erfreulicherweise wieder die Aufstellung einer gemeinsamen Liste von Jura und albernischem Teil beschlossen und einen grossen Parteitag im historischen Münsingen für den September angesagt. Auch die Sozialisten kündigen ihren schweizerischen Parteitag für den September an; die Katholiken aber versammeln sich bereits in grösseren Scharen. So fand dieser Tage ein