

Swiss footballers visit London

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that Germany during the war had considered the possibility of attacking France by invading Switzerland. The French Maginot line ends five kilometres before Basle and the Swiss frontier, according to the old treaty of 1816 that forbade France to establish fortresses in this region. France respected this treaty when she constructed her new system of defence, but there is a rather dangerous hole near the Swiss frontier at Basle which may tempt the German invader to violate Swiss territory and to push as far as Lyons or Creusot, the seat of the Schneider armament works. France is also highly interested in the maintenance of the Swiss economic system. Switzerland is the best buyer of French goods on the Continent, and no less than 10 per cent. of the total of French exports are sent to little Switzerland. The new situation might affect the economic position of Switzerland, which is already forced to buy large quantities of German goods in order to get possession of the millions of frozen marks, the only means by which they can be repaid on their large credits granted to Germany before the Nazi régime. A weakening of Swiss economy and an increase in German exportations to Switzerland would equally affect French economy and exports.

At present, however, the German-speaking population of Switzerland is rather favourable to France. The present Swiss envoy in Paris, Herr Stucki, who is of German-Swiss origin, delivered a remarkable address on the occasion of presenting his credentials to Monsieur Lebrun, President of the French Republic. Herr Stucki said: "It seems to me, and I attach particular importance to this fact, that in these days when democratic institutions are daily attacked, the noblest and highest task is to give to the French Republic a picture of Swiss democracy. I will use all my force and my profound conviction in order to solidify more than ever the relations of friendship which exist between our democracies and to develop their mutual appreciation." It is significant that a Swiss diplomat whose mother tongue is German expressed himself in such vigorous words. Hitherto the German propaganda in Switzerland has had no success. If it is true that the French "Popular Front" and the social experiments of Monsieur Léon Blum have been watched in Switzerland with distrust, it is also a fact that no sympathy has been given to the propaganda of the German press which tried to frighten the Swiss people with the ghost of bolshevism invading Switzerland from France. Also all efforts of Germany to create in Switzerland a feeling of anti-Semitism have been in vain. Swiss tribunals have severely condemned the authors of such propaganda, all the more as they accused respectable Swiss personalities of "being paid by Jews," of "having placed Switzerland in the position of a vassal of France and of being under the rule of international Jewry." Germany, which does not refrain from insulting Switzerland and the Swiss people, finds it compatible with this attitude to pretend that an ever so slight critical remark in the Swiss press is intolerable to German dignity. There are signs that Herr Hitler might try to force upon Switzerland one of his pet ideas, a so-called press truce, which in reality would be nothing less than the end of the liberty of the Swiss press. Austria also had concluded a press truce with Germany!

R. A. FRIEDMAN.

(The Contemporary Review.)

SWISS FOOTBALL TEAM versus ARSENAL.

As previously mentioned in the columns of this paper, the Match arranged between a Swiss combined team (Grasshoppers-Servette) and the F. C. Arsenal will take place on Wednesday next, September 21st, at 5.30 p.m., at the Highbury stadium. We have secured a block of reserved seats so that the London Swiss may give their compatriots the necessary vociferous support. Applications should be made without delay. (Tel. CLERkenwell 2321/2).

The City Swiss Club has invited the Swiss Team to an official Luncheon at the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park on Thursday, September 22nd, at 1 o'clock, and they extend a hearty invitation to all members of the Swiss Colony to attend this function, to which Ladies are also invited. Tickets at 5/-, which includes admittance to the Zoological Gardens, can be obtained from the offices of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2 (Tel.: CLERkenwell 2321/2) by sending cheque or P.O. value 5/-. please enclose stamped return envelope.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
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SWISS FOOTBALLERS VISIT LONDON.

In a few days now, we may see the "white cross in the red field" blowing over the Arsenal Stadium! Our Swiss Footballers are coming to London. — Last summer, the strongest English Football team played on the Continent, beating the German and French National Teams. But in Zurich they were beaten by our Swiss team. Before the match, the English Manager intimated to the Swiss Players, that they might possibly arrange a fixture in England if they played well; a few hours later, the English team was defeated. The English critics stated at this time, that the Swiss team was the best on the Continent. The same Swiss team a few weeks later defeated the Germans in Paris. However, our Footballers were not always so lucky; 1924 was the last glorious year, when our team collected the victories at the Olympiade in Paris. Then followed many years of fluctuating success and our football friends almost lost their belief of the rehabilitation of our Swiss footballers, but they did not lose hope and have worked on with energy and patience, in order to reach again the high standard of football. It is mostly the same Players who now visit London and the following are a few of the particulars:

Huber Willy, goal-keeper, 23 years, student, played 16 times international, very quick and sure catching.

Minelli Severino, 29 years, merchant, played in sixty-four international matches and is one of the best defenders on the Continent.

Lehmann August, 29 years, merchant, twenty-one times international, quick and excellent head player

Springer Hermann, right half, 29 years, book-keeper, twenty-two international matches, former centre-forward, to-day in the best form of his football career.

Vernati Sirio, 29 years, book-keeper, twenty-five times international, centre-half, technique excellent, was selected for the continental team in Amsterdam.

Loertscher Ernst, 27 years, merchant, twenty-four international matches, not a show player, but conscientious in his work as defensive half.

Bickel Alfred, twenty years, skilled engineer, twenty-two times international, first class centre-forward.

Abegglen Trello, 28 years, merchant and Trainer of the F. C. Servette, Geneva, forty-one international matches, played for some years with Sochaux, the French champion, and the best tactical player in the Swiss football team.

Walacek Eugen, 21 years, student, twelve international matches, born in Russia, naturalised Swiss, technique excellent inside-left, good kicker.

Aeby Georges, 27 years, skilled engineer, twenty-two times international, outside-left, very quick and tricky.

Well, I hope our players are not going to play a game "one heart" or "two spades." I expect a contra on every bid from Arsenal! What about a small slam!! ... Slowly — slowly ... But we people, we shall help too, shouting in four different languages, still an united mind — Hopp, Hopp, Switzerland!!!

J.O.A.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, September 21st, at 5.30 p.m. — F.C. Arsenal versus Swiss Wanderers — at Highbury Stadium.

Thursday, September 22nd, at 1 o'clock — Luncheon offered to Swiss Football Team — at the Zoological Gardens. Tickets 5/- including entrance. (See announcement.)

Friday, September 23rd — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting at "Foyer Suisse," 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1 — Supper at 6.30 to be followed by a causerie by *Hanns Vischer, Esq.*, Colonial Office on: "The Swiss and the Empire."

Thursday, September 29th, at 8.30 p.m., Unione Ticinese — "Danza Familiare," at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, November 29th — Unione Ticinese — Concert and Ball in aid of the Fonds des Secours, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

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Dimanche 18 septembre 1938 : *Jeûne Fédéral.*

11h. Culte et Ste-Cène. M. M. Pradervand.

6h.30 Culte et Ste-Cène. M. M. Pradervand.

Le pasteur Pradervand sera absent du 19 septembre au 5 octobre. Pendant ce temps-là, prière de s'adresser à M. le pasteur Hahn (Chiswick 4156).

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

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St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 18. September 1938.

Eidgenössischer Dank- Buss- und Betttag.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Heiliges Abendmahl.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst und Heiliges Abendmahl.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde : C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4. (Telephon : Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden : Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.