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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

October 5th, 1950.

A. Stauffer, Esq.,
Swiss Observer,
London, E.C.2.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I have read with great interest the article by Dr. Egli on the "Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger." It no doubt gives a full account of what he said, suggested and commented during these days. There were of course, 250 Delegates whose contributions were concrete and useful in many instances. If the individual Delegates from Great Britain did possibly not all agree, the outstanding contribution to the Congress came, however, from Professor Inebnit, of Leeds, so much so that he was asked to broadcast his ideas.

I have no desire to discuss the matter in detail, but may I be allowed to make the following remark:

On the question of the voting rights for the Swiss abroad, I felt that it was better diplomacy to consult on one side several Members of the Swiss Parliament and find out what their views were and also to take into consideration the feeling of the majority of the Delegates. I think it is more advisable to do this rather than to impose one's own and sometimes isolated opinion. It appears to be obvious that no one can vote on any typical Swiss question unless he has resided for a fair period in Switzerland; it is also unfortunately too apparent that Swiss abroad are not particularly well informed nor keenly interested (I speak of the average Swiss) in Swiss politics. Our Parliamentarians are not very much in favour of the idea of "Auslandschweizer" voting if they happen to be in Switzerland and no one would favour special trips for Swiss to go home to vote!

The intervention of Prof. Inebnit came on the question of Art. 10, saying that a Swiss woman marrying a foreigner should take the nationality of her husband. He felt that Dr. Egli had no right to speak on behalf of all the Swiss in Great Britain and defended the Swiss girl's right to keep her nationality. I must say that I intervened on the same question asking the Congress not to prepare a law under the shadow of war clouds and to consider further and foremost our ultimate aim, namely to create a "second generation" worthy of our traditions. This obviously is largely due to the influence of the woman and I expressed what I am sure is what we all feel and know, namely that

we owe a tremendous deal to the thousands of Swiss born wives who maintain the traditions of our country and earn the respect of people abroad. The joy which we men have in producing our Swiss passport when we arrive at the frontier, to be treated as a citizen in our own country is a privilege which surely our women folk ought to enjoy. Furthermore when through death or other circumstances a Swiss born woman finds herself without a husband she ought surely not have to live as a foreigner for a whole year in Switzerland before she is entitled to be treated as a Swiss Citizen.

The views which the "Romands" of the Delegation from Great Britain have expressed seem to have carried a great deal of weight and even General Guisan in his most moving and outstanding speech at the Château de Chillon supported most warmly the views expressed by Prof. Inebnit in his admirable *exposé*.

I certainly agree that this Parliament of the Swiss abroad is gaining great consideration in Switzerland and there is no doubt that the attendance at all Meetings not only of Members of the Government but of a large array of high officials from all departments of the "Bundeshaus" prove how much value is attached by our authorities to these Meetings.

I whole-heartedly support the suggestion that a larger Delegation ought to go from Great Britain. Frankly, I must say that I do not think that the "instituted" Council of Presidents can be recognised as an institution in our Colony nor its Delegates can in any way claim to speak on behalf of all Swiss in this Country. Its sole purpose can only be to try and co-ordinate some of the activities of the Colony and I would have thought that it should do this before dealing with problems which the Presidents who attend those Meetings cannot possibly settle in the course of a few Meetings which are already facing very heavy agendas. They gave less than an hour to the problems which faced the "Journée" while the Swiss in France met for 3 days to discuss them. I must in all fairness also state that the impression is given here that the N.S.H. are the obvious Representatives of the Colony at such Meetings. It will interest many to know that out of 82 groups of European countries who had sent Delegates, only three (including London) represented the N.S.H. It will be, therefore, open to the other Societies who are in several instances more numerous and much older institutions than the N.S.H. to discuss in advance the important questions which come before the Parliament of the Swiss abroad, and if an outstanding personality can be found in this Colony to act

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as leader, I am quite sure that better co-operation will lead to greater results, although I would say that the Delegates from Great Britain did very well this year

Yours sincerely,

ALFRED RENOU.

DR. EDWIN FREY †.

The Swiss Colony have heard with deep regret of the sudden death of Dr. Edwin Frey, Secretary of the "Vorort des Schweizerischen Handels-und Industrie-Verein", Zürich.

Dr. Frey was for nearly 10 years a permanent member of the Swiss economic delegation for the United Kingdom and the Sterling Area. Since 1941, he regularly came to London, first with Prof. Keller and later with Mr. Schaffner, and represented Swiss economic interests in most difficult times. Those who knew him realise what an extraordinarily gifted and tactful defender of our interests disappears with him. Together with his great intelligence and energy he had great personal charm, which makes his loss the more immeasurable. If commercial relations between Great Britain and Switzerland have developed satisfactorily, it is due largely to Dr. Frey. Nothing much of his activity transpired outside its own sphere, but in spite of this he provided through his unremitting efforts bread and work for thousands of Swiss in the home country as well as abroad. He was always ready to give advice and assistance to our colonies abroad, and Swiss businessmen in England have also benefited by his great knowledge. Dr. Frey was present at many functions of the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Economic Council and the Swiss Mercantile Society. He read before the latter a paper on British-Swiss problems, which attracted much attention. He died at the age of 38, and was buried on the day for which he had invited his friends to his wedding. To us all his death gives great, great sorrow. Dr. Frey accomplished in the few years of his life a task that few have done in so short a time. We offer our deepest sympathy to his mother, Mrs. E. Frey-Schefer, in Zürich, to his fiancée, Miss S. Honegger, in Rüti (Zurich), and to the Vorort des Schweiz. Handels-und Industrie-Verein.

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BARTOLOMEO ALBERTOLLI †.

On Thursday, 5th October, 1950, we said farewell to one of the oldest members of The Unione Ticinese, who passed away on Sunday, 1st October, in Portsmouth, in his eightieth year.

Bartolomeo Albertolli, came to London from his native Semione, as a youth of 15. After serving as a waiter at Gatti's, Monico's and various other fashionable establishments of the Metropolis, spurred on by the spirit of adventure, which animated our young Ticinesi emigrants of those days, he went to Portsmouth where, with his brother, the late Battista Albertolli, opened in 1893 a restaurant which flourished and became very well known. After a time the brothers separated and whilst Battista founded the Swiss Restaurant in Edinburgh Street, Bartolomeo opened the Continental Café in Commercial Road, and both these establishments prospered and today are amongst the most reputed establishments of that City.

The deceased was a very popular figure in Portsmouth, and was invariably seen wearing a red buttonhole and smoking a "Toscano".

He was a life-long member of the Unione Ticinese never failing, whenever possible, to come to London from Portsmouth so as to participate at our Dinners and Dances.

With his departure we lose a Dear Member and a Faithful Friend.

To his sorrowful Widow and to his sons, Elvezio and Alfredo, both active members of the Society, and to his Daughter Maria of the Sezione Femminile, we express our deepest sympathies.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, October 27th, 1950.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: E. Forster, O. Wuest, M. A. Leuba, C. Genoud, G. Keller, W. Weber, W. Flory, C. O. Brullhard, J. B. Brutsch, Swiss Club, Manchester, H. Monney, A. Wymann, Ch. Fer, A. Diethelm.

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