

# To our subscribers

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tions among member countries. The talks are expected to last 4 to 6 months. On 2nd November, a general meeting of the GATT countries will take place, at which problems ranging over a wide field will be discussed. Switzerland has decided to be officially represented by an observer at this general meeting.

#### British-Swiss Negotiations.

It is expected that the Swiss Parliament will ratify the Swiss participation in the European Payments Union in its special session at the end of October. British-Swiss talks have now already been arranged in order to adapt the existing British-Swiss Monetary Agreement to the new situation. These talks will take place in Berne in the first half of November, when all aspects and side questions of the Swiss entry into the European Payments Union will be examined in connection with their effects. The talks will cover a wide range of problems — financial as well as trade and touristic items. The Swiss Colony in Great Britain will be informed of the decisions made during these talks.

#### Swiss-U.S. Trade Agreement.

The trade agreement still in force between our country and the United States was concluded on the 9th January, 1936. Notice was given by the American Government on 10th August, 1950, for the termination of this agreement unless the Swiss Government be prepared to accept, before the 15th October, 1950, the inclusion of the so-called "escape clause" in the agreement. The meaning of this "escape clause" is that it is open to each partner to withdraw unilaterally, but without thereby terminating the agreement, tariff concessions, the maintenance of which would, in his view, cause harm to any branch of his economy. The Swiss Government has now acceded to the American request so that the Swiss-U.S. agreement remains in force. Such an "escape clause" is, however, contrary to our economic practice. The Federal Council had, however, no choice but to agree if it wanted to avoid an open trade conflict. Moreover, the negotiation of a new trade agreement would have been made dependent by the Americans on the inclusion of the "escape clause", since an American law (the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act) stipulates that no new agreements can be concluded without this clause. The Swiss authorities hope that the Americans will not find it necessary to make practical use of the "escape clause".

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### A SCHOOL-GIRL'S CHOICE.

Bernice, aged 14, one of my little friends living around my homestead, has recently returned from the Continent. It was a school educational tour of Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland. During our conversation she described each place of outlook, beauty and food. Very carefully Bernice related what she had seen during her visit to each country. But the most outstanding place of her choice was Switzerland. "The lakes and mountains are wonderful, and there is *so much* to see", Bernice said. I asked her what she liked best of the food. "Oh, Swiss butter! I have never tasted anything like it in all my life."

Her blue eyes opened wider and her mouth appeared to taste the Swiss butter again, as she told me. Needless to say I am very happy that Bernice has been able to see with naked eye — Exquisite Switzerland.  
*Mary Brandwood.*

### "GUIDE TO THE SWISS COLONY."

Second Edition.

The second edition is in preparation. Everyone is cordially invited to help making an even bigger success of it than the first edition achieved. Please communicate names and addresses of firms "*mainly or largely Swiss owned or Swiss managed or otherwise particularly associated with the Colony,*" for inclusion in the new Guide, to:—

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Please let us also have any corrections and suggestions for improvements by the middle of November. It is our hope to make the Guide more and more complete and useful with every new edition.

*Dr. E.*

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