

My "Swansong"

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MY "SWANSONG"

BY ST

The Publishers and the Advisory Council of the "Swiss Observer" have recently appointed Mr. Pierre Hofstetter, as Editor of the Colony's official organ.

On relinquishing the post as Editor — after thirty-two years — a chapter of one's life comes to its close, and almost a lifetime's work is ended. Casting a look back one asks oneself whether anything useful and lasting has been achieved, and whether high hopes have reached fulfilment.

It is hardly for me, however, to pass judgment on what has been achieved, and I must leave that to my readers to form their own opinion.

During these many years, I have tried conscientiously to keep what I had promised to undertake on taking over the editorship from my old friend, Dr. H. W. Egli, to keep the Colony together and to maintain and foster close ties with our homeland, a task which was not always easy.

The paper, owing to an obviously restricted circulation, has been continually handicapped by financial difficulties, and the support one would have expected has not always been forthcoming, and at times this has caused much disappointment. Fully aware of many shortcomings, we have nevertheless been able to keep this publication alive for the last 42 years, which is itself, I humbly consider, an achievement. Many Swiss papers published abroad are faced to-day with similar difficulties owing to ever increasing costs of production and lack of support, and are threatened with extinction.

At this parting hour, I remember with gratitude the help which I have received from many quarters, and I wish foremost to mention the Publishers. Both the late P. F. Boehringer — founder of the paper — and later on his son, Oscar Boehringer, have given me their wholehearted support; without it the "Swiss Observer" could not have survived. We have perhaps not always seen eye to eye, but all in all it has been a happy relationship which I shall always remember with sincere gratitude.

Thankfully I acknowledge the help given me by present and past collaborators, who by supplying me with articles have thus considerably eased my task; no less helpful was the always friendly collaboration of the Advisory Council.

The various Swiss Ambassadors and Ministers, and their collaborators, *en poste* in London, have at all times given me their moral support, and I would especially mention the late Monsieur Charles Paravicini, the former Swiss Ambassador in Washington and late Minister in London, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, and our present Ambassador, Monsieur Armin Daeniker. Valuable support I have also received from the various Swiss Consuls past and present, especially from the former Swiss Consul in Scotland, Mr. E. Hofstetter, Mr. J. J. Huber (now in New York), and Mr. E. Ribl, the present Consul.

I have been greatly obliged also to the many advertisers; without their continuous support the

paper could not have survived. This applies equally to all subscribers who so generously sent a "little extra" when their subscription was due, and to the various Swiss Societies, especially the City Swiss Club. The management of the Agence Telegr. Suisse, by supplying the paper, free of charge, with their bulletins has been a great help.

My professional colleagues representing the Swiss Press in this country have given me their unstinted support, which I have greatly valued, and I wish to single out my old friend, Mr. Gottfried Keller, foreign correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten" and London editor of the Swiss Telegraph Agency, who has given me many valuable hints and tips.

The staff of the Frederick Printing Company Ltd., has assisted me greatly by getting the paper ready for distribution without undue delay, even when the printing works suffered not inconsiderable damage owing to air raids during the last war.

Last, but by no means least, I wish to thank all the subscribers, who have remained faithful to the paper, and I trust that they will continue giving their support also in the future.

I wish to thank the many subscribers who have, since the announcement of my retirement has been mentioned, sent me personal letters, which I have much appreciated. I hope to acknowledge each one of them in the near future.

Heartiest good wishes for success I extend to my successor, Mr. Pierre Hofstetter, hoping that under his direction the "Swiss Observer" will enter a new, and perhaps more prosperous, period. It is intended to give the paper a "new look" in the future, and extend its appeal to a wider circle. My colleague and collaborator, Mr. Derek Meakin, has made valuable and helpful suggestions in this direction. This will, however, require some time, and can only become a *fait accompli* when the new Editor — who is still somewhat a stranger in the Colony — has become sufficiently *au courant* with his work. Remaining in this country, I shall give him my wholehearted support, and I hope, in my time of leisure, occasionally to take up my pen again.

I take with me into my retirement untold and treasured memories of happy times spent in the Colony, both in London and the Provinces. If the work has not proved very remunerative as far as finances are concerned, it has, however, given me an opportunity of making many friendships, which I shall always treasure highly.

May I be allowed, on laying down my pen, to strike a personal note, and thank one, who has served me well and faithfully, who has shared with an unfaltering spirit my anxieties and disappointments in connection with the paper, who sat at my side listening to often never-ending speeches and discussions at innumerable functions, and who has never complained of the many evenings spent alone —

My Wife.