

Good news for the Swiss abroad

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EASTER THOUGHTS

On another page of the "Swiss Observer" a report is published on the opening of a Swiss Hall at the British Pestalozzi Children's Village in Sussex. The picture overleaf seems linked up with it in a way. And it reminds me of an Easter message by the American Pestalozzi Foundation, published last year in the "Swiss Journal" in San Francisco. It read as follows:

"Forty days of Lent seem all too short to bring to focus the bedeviled patterns of this kaleidoscope world. In a modern pass-over, our astronauts have contemplated the flickering quarters of the globe: in the Europe of the East where, hopefully, tensions at long last seem to show some signs of easing; in the Far East where such have reached the boiling point; in our own land where marching feet are attempting to prod torpid minds and stir unresponsive hearts.

"In response to the myriad of calls, it is difficult not to seek out some white horse and, mounting, dash off

in all directions at once. This, because of a mirage where not greener grass but dustier drought lies over the horizon.

"In the confusion of his times, Pestalozzi was not diverted from his tasks in hand, but bent his will to first-things, first; and performed his duties as we should do now. Within our fences are problem sores which can be cured only locally and by good will. If we Pestalozzians link arms to form a life-line and not a barrier to frustrated yearnings; if we join mind with mind in the knowledge that only in the child lies the final answer to grown-up problems; if we beat heart to heart to confront the devils of today, instead of pressures of eyeball to eyeball wherefrom all that can be squeezed is tears, we will prevail."

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.

A thought for Easter with its message of Eternal Life.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE SWISS ABROAD: No parliamentary opposition to the Constitutional Article

On 8th March, the National Council debated the draft for a Constitutional Article for the Swiss Abroad. Seven M.P.'s took part in the deliberations, during which the possibility of some civilian service possibly with developing countries, the question of war damage compensation and the importance of the Swiss abroad as pillars of Swiss foreign trade came up. Federal Councillor Spuehler praised the loyalty of the Auslandschweizer to their country and said the proposed Article should be some kind of monument to them. Finally, the proposal was accepted by 131 : 0.

The Council of States which had already accepted the draft, will have to consider a small difference in the wording.

(A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".)

APPOINTMENTS

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Bernard Turrettini, at present Ambassador in Venezuela, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, as Permanent Observer with the United Nations in New York, in succession to Ambassador Ernesto Thalman who has been appointed Chief of the Section for International Organisations in the Federal Political Department.

Minister Dr. Jakob Burckhardt, the new President of the Swiss School Council, has been elected member of the Swiss Science Council.

The new Director of the Federal Air Ministry is Dr. Werner Guldimann, Chairman of the *Eidgenössische Flugunfall-Untersuchungskommission*. The new head of the *Eidgenössische Alkoholverwaltung* is Dr. iur. Viktor Kuehne from Rieden/St. Gall.

The newly elected Central President of the *Schweizerischer Musikpaedagogischer Verband* is *Musikdirektor* Werner Bloch of Solothurn, in succession to President Otto Uhlmann who is retiring after many years of service.

A Swiss was elected last autumn as President of the International Federation of the Leather Trade (UNICUR), Monsieur Léon Pellet from Lausanne. This is not only the first Swiss President, but also the first representative of an EFTA country.

[A.T.S.]

THE 36th GENEVA MOTOR SHOW

A record number of 1,178 exhibitors from twenty-two countries took part in the Geneva Motor Show held from 11th to 20th March. All major European manufacturers exhibited, and firms were represented from Japan, Canada, Israel, United States and Australia, and for the first time, Rumania. Germany had again the largest number of exhibitors (269 stands), followed by Switzerland (212), France (161) and Great Britain (140).

Altogether, more than one thousand exhibitors offered a complete panorama of the developments and trends in the world-wide automotive industry, including body styling, accessories, special vehicles and garage equipment. The entire exhibition covered more than 40,000 sq. yards, both inside the "Palais des Expositions" at Plainpalais and inside the giant inflatable tent.

Also for the first time in Geneva, this year's Show included a special racing car section consisting of some thirty racing cars and record breakers of today and yesteryear.

The *Salon* was opened by Federal President Schaffner. The whole show was a great success. It is one of the five largest events in the international world of motoring. This year was a record not only as to the number of exhibitors, but also with regard to attendance: nearly 475,000 visitors, 1,200 journalists among them. The Show was closed on Sunday evening, 20th March, with the traditional hooting concert. Next year's *Salon d'Automobiles* will be held from 9th to 19th March.

(Based on news from A.T.S. and the Geneva Press office.)

"MAN IN THE ALPINE CLIMATE"

The first international congress of its kind, will be held from 6th to 9th June in Lugano and Locarno. The conference is thematically related to several events held last year as part of the "Year of the Alps" celebration. It is under the patronage of Federal Councillor Dr. Hans-Peter Tschudi and will be chaired by Geneva professor Dr. K. Walthardt, while doctor and climatologist Dr. Joseph von Deschwanden will act as General Secretary.

(S.N.T.O.)