

News from the colony

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British subsidiary is set for a bright future as attested by the recent extension of the Administrative Block and present plans for new investments. It presently controls 20 per cent of the British meter market in a tight competition with three other firms – General Electric, Ferranti and Sangavo – and is the first British exporter in this field thanks to its strong position in Commonwealth markets. It is gratifying to know that a Swiss firm is helping Britain's balance of payments problems and defending Britain's technological reputation abroad.

(Continued from Page 8).

members of the Federal Government in Berne.

To fill these three vacancies some 12–15 names of possible candidates have already been mentioned and are, indeed, being canvassed. Who the three new Federal Councillors might be is, as yet,

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quite impossible to say. But in spite of this uncertainty and in spite of the large number of "papabili", it can be said with certainty that the power structure between the four governing parties will not undergo any changes. This power structure which provides for two Liberal-Democrats, two Social-Democrats, two Christian-Democrats and one People's Party Representative to share the highest responsibility has its writ running from 1971 to the end of 1975 and is, consequently, today exactly in its halftime. The three retiring Federal Councillors belong to the Christian-Democrat Party (Mr. Roger Bonvin), the Liberal-Democrat Party (Mr. Nello Celio) and the Social-Democrat Party (Mr. Hans Peter Tschudi). This means that each one of these three parties will, without any doubt, nominate its own new candidate for the election on 5th December.

With near certainty it can also be said that the three regions Romandie (French speaking Switzerland), Ticino (Italian speaking Switzerland) and Deutsche Schweiz (German speaking Switzerland) will once again insist on being represented in the Federal Government in Berne. This system and the famous formula of 2: 2: 2: 1 are of a certain rigidity and are sometimes complained of as impediments against the choice of the best men. They have, however, on the whole, served the country well enough and are anyway the price of Federalism as such.

In view of all this the race, for which many starters have already been unofficially named, will be taking place *inside* the three named parties, and not in rivalry between them. For the first time, incidentally, the name of a lady is being mentioned – a lady who has been one of the first ones to be elected to become a member of the Federal Parliament in Berne. She is Madame Girardin from Geneva. With the appearance of her name amongst the candidates the question "Is Switzerland ripe for a female Federal Councillor?" has cropped up and is being discussed in the press.

Is Switzerland ripe for a female Federal Councillor? It is to be hoped so. Equally it is to be hoped that the three parties will not simply present one name each as their final choice to the United Federal Assembly. For if this were to be the case, the two chambers of the Federal Parliament could, on 5th December, do no more than become the rubber stamps which sanction what three political parties have decided beforehand. But if each of the three parties had the political courage to submit at least two names, then the election of 5th December would not only become a real one, but one which could be quite fascinating. At any rate, the race for three seats in the Federal Executive in Berne is on. And it takes place in a somewhat uneasy kind of atmosphere, with everybody agreeing that the inflation has to be fought, but nobody as yet really knowing how to beat it.

MANCHESTER

For Friday, 28th September, 1973, the *Swiss Club, Manchester*, had arranged a new type of social come-together which took the form of a "Disco-Dance". For a modest fee and thanks to the cordial hospitality of the Clayton Aniline Co. Ltd., at Clayton, near Manchester, we could assemble in their very lovely new canteen. Dr. A. V. Lang and his charming lady acted as hosts and made us very quickly welcome, everybody sitting down to enjoy the splendid selection of a free buffet. Cold or warm drinks also being available, everything contributed towards a warm and happy atmosphere.

Although the invitations stated that no-one was too old to attend, nevertheless it turned out to be an evening for the young, as it was meant to be, and of what I heard afterwards, the aim of the organisers was fully achieved, our young friends expressing the hope for an early repetition of the event. It was on this happy note that the evening came to its close around midnight, to be remembered as most enjoyable and successful affair.

E.B.

LEEDS

Our friends from the Yorkshire Swiss Club inaugurated the Winter Season with a special meeting at the Leeds Council of Social Service, St. Mark's House in Leeds. The President, back from the Ausland-Schweizer-Tagung in St. Gallen, was able to give a short but comprehensive talk about it and his general impressions. Slides taken in St. Gallen and the Appenzeller-Land could not be shown because of the strike situation at the Kodak works.

It turned out to be a specially happy and lively evening and besides doing some useful work we could taste the exquisite refreshment provided by our ladies, drinks being offered by our President. We were specially pleased to make the acquaintance of the Swiss Vice-Consul of Bergamo, Italy, and his wife, who were on a prolonged visit to England. It was felt that they were both very happy to sample northern hospitality – somehow different from what they are used to across the Alps.

E.B.

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PERSONAL TRIBUTE

Following the announcement of the death of Monsieur Jean de Stoutz in our last issue, we should like to pay a personal tribute to the man who left such a mark whilst being Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy in London from 1961 to 1964.

During these four years, Mr. de Stoutz had made countless friends in the Colony. He was a member of the Consistoire and as a dedicated Christian played a most active part in the activities of the Swiss Church in London. All those who knew him will remember his distinction, culture and kindness. He was a fine personality, — what one might call the epitome of a diplomat. Mr. de Stoutz, who had no children, leaves a widow, to whom we should like to extend our sincere condolences.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Enrico Tosie (Berne) celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary on 24th October.

Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Egli will have been married for 37 years on 6th November.

Mr. P. Savoie was 83 on 17th October, and Ambassador J. Revilliod (Geneva) was 68 on 20th of the month. Dr. E. M. Bircher (Bissone, Ticino) was 78 on 23rd October, the same day as Mr. E. Ritzmann (Anlesheim) had his 72nd birthday.

Mr. N. H. Leuzinger will be 76 on 31st October, and Mr. J. Oertli, 77 on 10th November, Mr. A. Kunzler will have his 77th birthday on 15th and Mr. W. Pellet his 86th on 19th November, Mrs. R. Weber will be 84 on 21st of the month, and Mrs. H. W. Egli will have her birthday on 23rd.

Mr. F. Burri will be 61 on 2nd December, and Mrs. W. Renz has her birthday on 3rd December. Mr. J. H. Baumann will be 86 on 6th and Mr. M. Ehrsam, 77 on 14th December. Mrs. F. Delaloye will be 86 on 15th of the month.

Many happy returns to all these readers and any others who will be celebrating birthdays or anniversaries before Christmas.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, 10th NOVEMBER — Swiss Club, Manchester — Annual Dinner and Dance.

THURSDAY, 15th November, 7 p.m. — London Group of Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Open Meeting — Discussion on "Political Rights for Swiss Abroad" and Report on St. Gall Assembly in August, 1973. Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, NW3.

FRIDAY, 16th NOVEMBER — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball — Dorchester Hotel.

TUESDAY, 18th DECEMBER — City Swiss Club — Christmas Dinner.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTS

WANTED — Retired lady, widow or married couple to take charge of house and two teenage daughters when parents are occasionally away on business trips. Must be dog and country lovers — Hertfordshire — Phone: Potters Bar 56747.

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CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As in past years, the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Churches in London are endeavouring to prepare the little extras which most of us associate with Christmas for those compatriots who, for reasons of age or illness, are not able to provide for themselves and their families.

We have always found a generous response to this appeal from our many friends in the Swiss Colony and we are sure that this year again, you will relish that we cannot attain our goal without your help. We should, therefore, be most grateful for any donations or gifts of new clothing, processed cheese, chocolates, biscuits and the like.

Please send your gifts in kind to the Swiss Benevolent Society, if possible before the 1st December. Cash donations, cheques and postal orders may be sent to the following addresses:

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London W1P 5HL.

The Rev. M. Languillat, 7 Park View Road, London N3 2TB.

The Rev. U. Stefan, 1 Womersley Road, London N8 9AE.

The Rev. P. Bossard, John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

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SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois. **LUNCH,** tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 8 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.



SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15, and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme."

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.



SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, every Sunday at 9.45 a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Liturgical Service takes place every second Sunday in the month. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service at John Southworth Centre. Every second Sunday of the month at morning Services at Eglise Suisse. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUP S.E.21 and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme."

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 7 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the month from 12 noon onwards at the Eglise Suisse.

MOTHER'S REUNION: third Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eglise Suisse.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTERS: Pfr. U. Stefan, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.