

Arthur Eugster †

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From here he took to flight again, reaching the near by hamlet of Monticello, where he killed a villager aged 60 and mortally wounded his wife. He also made good his escape from here, crossing the border into the Grisons, committing suicide at San Vittorio before the police could get hold of him.

Four men were killed by the murderer outright, and it is feared that some of the wounded victims will succumb to their injuries.

We beg to draw our readers' attention to the advertisement appearing on this page, and to the following letter which we have received from the Director of the London School of Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Mr. Percy B. Ingham, B.A., outlining forthcoming features which have been arranged for our distinguished compatriots:—

To the Editor "Swiss Observer."

Sir,—Monsieur Jaques Dalcroze's methods of teaching are steadily spreading in this country, but the English general public does not, I think, realise that he is a prolific composer of distinctive style. I think the time has come to try and enlighten our public, and for this purpose I am arranging two Concerts in the Æolian Hall on the evenings of February 15th and 21st, at 8.15 p.m. All the compositions played will be by Monsieur Dalcroze. Madame Dalcroze will sing at both Concerts. On the first date also the Spencer Dyke Quartette will play Monsieur Dalcroze's "Quartette in E Major." At the second Concert Miss Daisy Kennedy will play his "Poème" for Violin and Piano (second concerto). Monsieur Rodolphe Gaillard, Baritone, will sing duets with Madame Dalcroze.

The Dalcroze Society of Great Britain and Ireland is entertaining Monsieur and Madame Dalcroze at dinner at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday evening, Feb. 22nd. The President, Sir W. H. Hadow, will be in the Chair.

Yours, etc.,

PERCY B. INGHAM.

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ARTHUR EUGSTER †

(Late "Landammann" and National Councillor).

By a London Correspondent.

When Landammann Arthur Eugster, of Megglenhöhe-Speicher, decided, during last year, to retire from the National Council, of which he had been for nearly 20 years a prominent and distinguished member, it was generally known that failing health had induced him to take that step.

It was the prayer of those nearest and dearest to him, and the ardent hope and desire of his countless friends and admirers, reflected in the press throughout Switzerland, that, thus relieved of onerous duties, the late statesman might gradually regain his former strength and be spared to his fellow-citizens and his country for many years to come. This, alas! was not to be; his recuperation was not maintained, in spite of everything that was attempted, and done towards that end. So, after month upon weary month of a long and brave struggle, on Saturday, January 7th, 1922, his eyes closed for ever.

A long funeral procession followed his remains on the following Wednesday to the beautifully situated church of Speicher, where the first part of the Service was conducted; later the same afternoon the body was cremated at St. Gall.

It was a wonderful gathering at the church of Speicher, which testified to the high regard and esteem in which the deceased was held by everybody in all stations of life. Representatives from Berne, from the local Governments, from many associations and societies came to pay their last tribute, and a hushed silence reigned inside the church, from the organ of which floated the soft strains of the late Landammann Eugster's favourite hymn:—

Ueber den Sternen da wird es einst tagen,
Da wird Dein Hoffen, Dein Sehnen gestillt;
Was Du gelitten und was Du getragen,
Dort ein allmächtiges Wesen vergilt.

The beautiful and impressively touching service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Pestalozzi, Speicher, and Arthur Eugster's old and intimate friend, the Rev. Mr. Zuchler, Herisau, who both spoke of him who had passed away with that reverence and eloquent warmth that is born of sincere friendship and deep affection. Landammann Dr. Baumann, Herisau, also spoke, not only in the name of the Government of Appenzell A.Rh., but likewise as an old friend and colleague for many years. Choral and orchestral tributes brought the Speicher service, with its rich, tender and affectionately personal note, to a worthy close. The sympathy was deep and general; everyone present knew and felt that a great leader had passed away. The heart of the people went out to those to whom Arthur Eugster had been even more than a shining example and true friend: The widow mourned in him a most devoted and loving husband, son and daughters a fond parent who was everything to them.

Arthur Eugster was born in New York on April 5th, 1863. He was the second son of Jacob Eugster, of Speicher, and Elisabeth, his wife (née Tobler). His mother died soon after his birth, and the father returned in the autumn of 1865 to Switzerland and to Speicher. However, in the following year the father also departed this earthly life, but not before he had entrusted his two sons of tender years to the protection of Him above and into the loving care of his brother Arnold (later Gemeinde-Hauptmann of Speicher) and his sister Elise. With these good foster-parents, who were ever mindful of their sacred trust and devoted all their love to Howard and Arthur Eugster, the two boys spent their happy youth "auf der Röhrenbrugg," Speicher.

Arthur Eugster, after having passed through the local Primary and two classes of the Secondary school, moved in 1877 up to the Gymnasium of the Lerber School, Berne, where the foundations were laid of his wide general knowledge, and where his receptive mind and good heart were mightily stimulated. Clever, adroit, and of cheerful disposition, our young friend soon became leader and first boy; while diligent in his studies, he was also keen on sport, so that by the time he very successfully passed his maturity exams, he had grown into a tall, handsome young man, ready to enter with confidence the arena of serious life. However, a great cloud had obscured the bright skies already during his studies at Berne: his beloved foster-father died rather suddenly; but from that time he found in the Rev. Mr. Lutz an ever-ready, sympathetic counsellor, to whom he remained deeply attached to the end.

Bright though he was by nature, the great losses he so early sustained in life inclined Arthur Eugster to a serious turn of mind, the more so as a like spirit pervaded the family circle in which he moved while at Berne.

He was given a full free choice as to his future calling, and he decided to pursue his studies in the vast field of Theology. With this aim he attended the "free" theological faculty at Neuchâtel, under Prof. Godet; later he migrated to Bâle and Berlin, eagerly acquiring the most excellent training for his chosen vocation, but at the same time keeping an open and ever receptive mind with regard to the happenings in other spheres of study and life itself.

During these years of preparation he founded many excellent friendships; he was an ardent member of "Zofingia," and while at Bâle, their president. When in later life and in the execution of his manifold duties in official capacities he again met a host of these friends of former years, it was always a source of great pleasure to him.

Yet before the final close of his studies Arthur Eugster was called and designated as minister of Rente (Appenzell A.Rh.), where he preached his first sermon on Sept. 23rd. 1886. After his last exam. his definite election for Rente duly took place, and the Rev. Arthur Eugster was ordained at Speicher in 1887.

Up to this time the two brothers had passed their years of early life and pursued their studies together, but now their new duties parted their ways. During the same year (1887) the Rev. Arthur Eugster married Bertha Eugster, of Speicher in whom he found a wife of rare qualities, who stood at his side throughout his wonderful career as a loving, understanding and helpful wife, and whom as his chosen partner in life, he loved and revered until the last.

At the parsonage in Rente, and later at Trogen, to which living the Rev. A. Eugster advanced in 1891, his wife bore him five children: two sons and three daughters. The elder son, however, who was the apple of his father's eye, died in early life, just when he was about to unfold and develop his promising talents at the local Gymnasium. This bereavement was a grievous blow to the parents; but their pride and pleasure was the greater when their second son (now a member of our Swiss Colony in London) terminated his studies at the Swiss Federal Polytechnic with great success. Meanwhile, two of the daughters left the parental roof in order to get married, and the greatest joy of the late Landammann in later years were his three grandchildren, upon whom he lavished his affection; in short, his home and family always served him as a retreat, where he found his sweetest pleasures and his favourite recreation, after the great labours of the day which were the lot of his onerous position.—

But now let us retrace our steps. While at Trogen, the Rev. A. Eugster was in 1895 elected a member of the Appenzell A.Rh. Cantonal Council, where he immediately made his mark. Swiss people—and perhaps Ausserroder in particular—are apt to regard somewhat askance a Protestant parson who takes up politics. In this case, however, it became at once evident that, turning his attentions and energies to politics Arthur Eugster had found his true and great vocation. As a young member of the Economic Committee he became the author of two profoundly interesting reports dealing with the most urgent financial problems of the day: The one dealt with the necessity of a new Finance Act, the other with reorganisation of State subsidies or grants-in-aid to unfavourably situated parishes. He was asked to draft a new Finance Bill, and this he did so promptly and successfully that the "Landsgemeinde" of 1897 accepted it forthwith and passed it into law. This Finance Act was a sound piece of work, answering all the requirements of its day, and is partly still in force at the present day. After this success it was a foregone conclusion that Arthur Eugster would soon advance to membership of the Appenzell A.Rh. Cantonal Government. First, however, he enjoyed the distinction of being elected President of the Cantonal Council, but in 1900 the "Landsgemeinde" at Trogen elevated him to a seat on the Government, after which he resigned his position as Pastor of Trogen and took up his residence once more at Speicher; this time as the head of a family, but in the same house ("auf der Röhrenbrugg"), where he had spent his boyhood.

Once a member of the Government, which he adorned for 10 years, it was an open secret that he would be its next "Landammann," and this actually came about as early as 1901. He acted as head of the Government for the customary period of three years, but in 1907 the electorate, with unshaken confidence and in unmistakable fashion, made him their "Landammann" once again from 1907—1910.

Those who attended the open-air Parliaments of that period will always gladly remember the exemplary and dignified manner in which Landammann Eugster conducted the "Landsgemeinden" and many a young man might profit by turning up and reading

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the lofty and eloquent speeches which he delivered on those occasions.

It is impossible to mention here all the great and lasting services which Arthur Eugster, during his 10 years' tenure of office, rendered to his native Canton of Appenzell. Many of them may never become known to the uninitiated, but one thing is certain: if ever a man was the true head and focus of his Government, it was Arthur Eugster during his two periods as "Landammann."

His principal work in local government was without a doubt the Cantonal Constitution of 1908. In hammering out that great work, many different ideas and points of view had to be reconciled, and it required infinite tact and a thorough grip of everything to succeed in presenting in the end a useful and workable whole. Landammann Eugster was a born diplomatist, who had the knack of balancing opposing views and who always managed, while seemingly making concessions, to retain that which was important and paramount.

In 1902 the deceased was elected a member of the Swiss National Council, which he served for nearly 20 years. His eminent diplomatic gifts on the one hand and his wide grasp of financial questions on the other secured Councillor Eugster the same rapid successes in the politics of Switzerland which marked the earlier stages of his cantonal activities. No sooner had he been made a member of the National Council than he found himself elected upon various important committees of that body, until in 1916 the Swiss National Council chose him for its president. To Arthur Eugster belongs the great distinction of having been the first Appenzeller to attain this honour.

In 1915 the deceased was asked by the National Council of the International Red Cross to serve on the Select Committee which was charged with visiting, inspecting and reporting on the state of camps, for war prisoners, both in France and Germany.

It is only fair to state that the Federal Council asked Arthur Eugster on two occasions whether he would be prepared to accept the post of a Minister-resident abroad; likewise could he have entered the highest executive had he so desired. Whether it was his great modesty, his love for dear Speicher (where in latter years he had built himself a charming home-stand on "Meggenhöhe") or his many-sided activities that prompted him to remain, it is idle to speculate. At all events, his time was fully occupied, for after retiring from office in the Cantonal Government, large and important concerns invited him to join their boards, where again his great ability in financial and economic questions made him a man of the first rank. He devoted his great energy and ripe experience particularly to the Ateliers de Construction à Oerlikon, of which concern he was chairman of the board until last year, when he resigned on account of failing health; signs of its breaking down having already become apparent in the autumn of 1919. In spite of every care, things went the wrong way; the old seemingly indestructible energy and joy to work would not return, and the illness was diagnosed as nephritic disorder and calcification of the arteris. The more Councillor Eugster realised the nature of his illness, which so sapped his strength, the more depressed he became, as can easily be imagined with a man of his great record, whose life had been one of gigantic tasks and great successes. At Christmas his son's visit brought Councillor Eugster a last ray of sunshine; after that the decline was rapid, and on Thursday, January 5th, a very serious relapse set in, from which he did not recover, until on Saturday, January 7th, at 7.30 in the evening, surrounded by his family, he passed peacefully away. He was only in his 59th year, and whether the vast amount of work and the heavy strain of office during the war years undermined his constitution can only be conjectured. As the "Appenzeller Landes-Zeitung" truly remarked, human life might be likened to flames of fire. Those that burn intensely and give great warmth die down sooner than embers that only smoulder. Hail to the country that produces men who are proud and ready to lead like flaming torches, not counting the cost to themselves! Arthur Eugster was one of these men, a great worker, a true patriot, a shining example, whose memory will live on.

Peace to his ashes!

GALLUS.

UNIONE TICINESE, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Questa nostra patriottica Società di Mutuo Soccorso "Unione Ticinese," teneva la Domenica 29 p. Gennaio, la sua prima Assemblée Generale per decidere, tra altro, sul Rapporto della Commissione di Revisione della Gestione 1921 e per la nomina della nuova Direzione. Dopo udito il ben elaborato rapporto, l'assemblea unanime con vivi ringraziamenti approvava l'operato della passata Direzione.

La proposta che la scaduta Direzione fosse rinominata en bloc, fù votata all'unanimità tra i più calorosi applausi. La Direzione quindi è composta di W. Notari (Presidente), S. Bianchi (Vice-Presidente), Oscar Gambazzi (Segretario), G. Delmuè (Vice-Segretario), E. Biucchi (Cassiere), C. Moresi (Collettore), A. Bolla G. Camozzi, P. De Vincenti, C. Togni, A. Urietti (Membri).

Per dare una idea dell'attività e successo del nostro sodalizio non posso far meglio che sommarizzare la splendida relazione che il Benemerito Segretario Sig. Oscar Gambazzi faceva all'Assemblea sulla posizione materiale e morale della nostra Società.

CARI CONSOCI:

Dal bilancio a tutti spedito potete vedere lo stato finanziario della nostra Società, ed osserverete che durante l'anno sotto revisione il nostro patrimonio sociale è aumentato di una somma molto confortante. Osserverete ancora che questo aumento non rappresenta il bilancio vero del guadagno reale, perchè alle uscite troverete delle poste di sussidi e contribuzioni che sono frutti finanziari attivi alla gestione in corso. Questo attivo annuale a cosa è dovuto? Non alle tasse e contribuzioni dei Soci, e neppure agli interessi dei risparmi capitalizzati della Società che da soli non basterebbe neppure a coprire le spese d'amministrazione. La posta di miglior appariscenza è il profitto della festa sociale tenutasi il 28 Aprile, in £109 record nella lunga serie dei nostri trattenimenti, e £57 circa frutto della festa famigliare in Dicembre distribuito parte all'Ospedale Bleniese in Patria e parte al Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses Pauvres in Londra. Se merita lode è dovuta alla Direzione, lode speciale e quasi intera va data ai grandi amici dell'Unione Ticinese. Distinta Signora Linda e Figlio Arturo Meschini, che col loro valido appoggio materiale e morale ci hanno reso possibile tale splendido risultato.

Delle spese generali ordinarie non voglio fare critica, poichè queste abbracciano puramente le spese amministrative. Tocco invece le spese straordinarie. Trovate donazioni ad istituzioni filantropiche in Londra, prova che il nostro Sodalizio ha cuore non solo per i propri Soci ma che s'interessa di altri sfortunati, pensa a quelle istituzioni (Fonds de Secours—Ospedale Italiano—Ospedale Francese) che cercano di fare del bene ma che hanno bisogno di aiuto materiale per poter continuare il proprio lavoro. Trovate però anche poste a favore di istituzioni in Patria (Ospedale Bleniese—Sanatorio Cantonale—Culla Bambini Gracili) nuova prova dello spirito patriottico dell'Unione Ticinese. A parte di tutto quanto concerne soccorso ed aiuto l'attività della nostra Società si estende anche nel seno della Colonia Svizzera.

Il nostro Sodalizio manda ogni anno una delegazione a far parte del Comitato Swiss Sports. E questa una festa meritevole d'incoraggiamento, ritrovo generale dell'intera Colonia Confederata. L'Unione Ticinese è poi per mezzo del suo Presidente rappresentata sul Consiglio della N.S.H. Se non possiamo spiegare grande attività in questa Società è dovuto al fatto che le condizioni di lavoro a cui attende la quasi totalità dei nostri Soci, non permettono loro di poter presenziare le sedute nelle ore in cui sono indette. Il Sig. G. Cusi che finora era stato in nostro rappresentante non potendo più farlo per mancanza di tempo, è surrogato dal nostro Presidente Sig. W. Notari. Quale altre attività Ticinese negli affari della Colonia, dirò che il nostro Presidente è pure rappresentato sul Comitato del "Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses Pauvres à Londres," e che io da diversi anni venni onorato colla carica di Vice-Presidente. Teniamo pure ottime relazioni con tutti gli altri Sodalizi Svizzeri in Londra.

Mi ricordo molti anni addietro allorchè l'Unione Ticinese era quasi sconosciuta nella Colonia, ed i Ticinesi godevano ben poca considerazione. A poco a poco però seppe farsi conoscere, si fece strada, si acquistò prima l'amicizia poi la stima nella Colonia Svizzera. Gradatamente si fece avanti, il suo spirito patriottico, il suo spirito organizzatore venne compreso, approvato, lodato e imitato. Grazie al lavoro delle diverse Direzioni l'Unione Ticinese arrivò ad occupare nella Colonia Svizzera in Londra, quel posto d'onore che indusse il Sig. G. Carlin, già Ministro Svizzero alla Corte di St. James, in occasione del suo ritiro quale rappresentante diplomatico in Inghilterra, di appor-tarci speciali menzioni di lode, che ispirò il Sig. Dr. Latt, già Segretario del gruppo Londinese della N.S.H., di manifestare all'esimio nostro Concittadino Cons. Fed. Sig. Giuseppe Motta, lo spirito altamente patriottico dei Ticinesi.

Il seme gettato porterà col tempo quel frutto che eleverà vieppiù la stima che i Ticinesi godono nella Colonia Svizzera. Purtroppo l'attività dei Soci lascia molto a desiderare. Nelle poche assemblee durante l'annata si constata quasi sempre la presenza dei medesimi Soci. Il totale dei Soci non rappre-