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LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE GROUPE LONDONIEN.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, MARCH 15th, 1922.
(Communicated.)

1. Five members were admitted, and notice was taken of three resignations. The Group at present consists of 535 members.

2. Some information was given by the President on the situation of our movement in the United States. The foundation of a Californian Group is now close at hand.

3. An appeal of the Société d'Édition des Feuilles Suisses du Dimanche was discussed. This meritorious creation of the N.S.H., which was founded in order to fight the many cheap German Sunday papers which overran Switzerland before the war, is now suffering somewhat from financial difficulties. The publication is a fortnightly one, and contains on an average 20 pages. The subscription is 12 francs annually. Members are recommended to subscribe to it or to give any financial help they can to the undertaking. Further information will be gladly given at the Secretariat.

4. Invitations for the coming Swiss Industries Fair at Basle (April 22nd to May 2nd) were distributed. Others can be obtained from the Secretary's office.

5. The following arrangements of the Group have been fixed:—March 22nd, 3rd Soirée Concert in the Steinway Hall at 7.45 p.m.; April 21st, Lecture by Dr. Zollinger on "Die deutschschweizerischen Mundarten, ihre Entwicklung und ihr Verhältnis zur neuhochdeutschen Schriftsprache"; May 26th, Lecture by Dr. Lang on "The Attitude of the English Foreign Office towards Switzerland during the 19th Century."

6. Two additional members were elected to the Propaganda Committee.

7. The Secretary made a few communications:—(a) The "Anglo-Swiss Review" has published the third and last instalment of "Some Modern Swiss Writers" in its January issue. Copies can be obtained from the Secretariat at 7d. each. (b) Bulletins were sent out to the English press on the career of the Swiss Minister in Berlin, Alfred von Planta, and the painter, W. Balmer, who completed the Landsgemeinde fresco in the Swiss Upper House. (c) An extensive review of Dr. Waldvogel's book: "Economic Relations between Great Britain and Switzerland" was published by Dr. Latt in Nos. 283 and 316 of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung." The book contains on pages 192–200 a detailed account of the activity of the London Colony, the main part of which is devoted to the foundation and work of the N.S.H.

8. The Secretary gave an exhaustive oral report on the Lex Haeberlin. The attitude of the N.S.H. in Switzerland being neutral towards this question, the study of it will not be pursued any further by the London Group.

Dr. PAUL LANG,
Secretary.

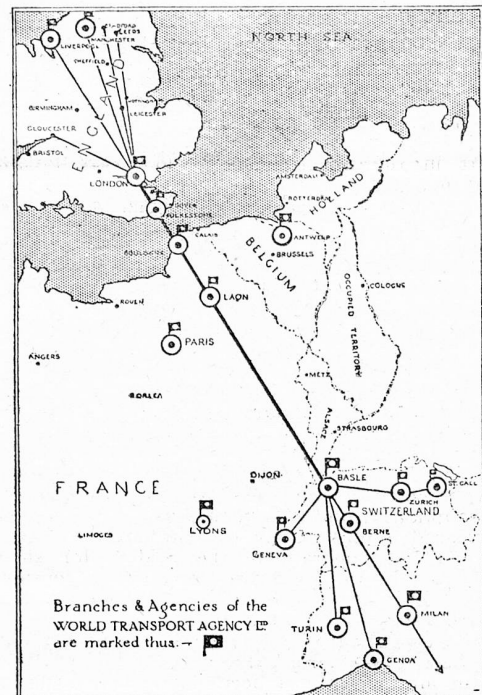
London, March 21st, 1922.

1. The "Ligue Suisse pour la Protection de la Nature," Basle, is applying for financial help from the Swiss abroad. The League publishes a collection of pamphlets in all the Swiss national languages, even including Ladisch and Romansch, for the purpose of educating the children to a better understanding of the beauties of nature. For lack of funds the institution is gravely threatened, and it is hoped that some wealthy Swiss may be found amongst our members who will interest themselves in this enterprise.

2. We have also received an appeal from the "Bibliothèque pour Tous." This is a Swiss Federal Library which was founded recently with a view to providing the inhabitants of all the Swiss villages where there are no public libraries with books on the model of similar American institutions. This library has taken over the stock of the Soldatenbibliothek, founded during the war, but wants to increase it to a considerable degree. It is partly financed by the Confederation. Subventions from cantons and certain big associations are also expected to help it, but it must rely, however, to a great extent on contributions from the general public. Those of our members who would like to do something for this institution may forward their remittance to Postcheckkonto Nr. VIII 6879. The Secretary is, of course, in this as in any similar circumstance ready to give any further information or to assist by forwarding the contribution to Switzerland.

3. The day for the Swiss Abroad for the Swiss Samples' Fair will take place on April 24th. Members who are going over to Switzerland about that time are heartily recommended to attend this meeting. The Secretary would be glad if they would get into touch with him beforehand.

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THE EDITOR'S LETTER BAG.

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

Sir.—I have read with pleasurable surprise and keen appreciation your kind and generous remarks about my person in to-day's issue of your valued paper. On my arrival in this hospitable country a quarter of a century ago I certainly did not dream that some day a mighty Press Organ of the London Swiss Colony would activate its editorial quill in reference to my past doings and services I may have been privileged to render to some of my countrymen.

Your brief article, however, gives me some cause for regret and anxiety, as matters might easily assume a serious aspect. Being naturally elated by the important "social news" conveyed by your organ to all the corners of the globe, I immediately arranged with the S.M.S. Employment Department for additional staff in order that I may be able to promptly deal with the large shoal of letters and congratulations that are sure to pour in upon me, when I noticed to my amazement that the servants of H.M. Postmaster General will be called upon to besiege a wrong address, and give No. 11, Southampton Row, W.C.1 a wide berth.

This breakdown in your Intelligence Department would seem all the more regrettable, since my office stationery is "closely related" to the printers that give life to "The Swiss Observer."

Believe me,

Yours appreciatively,

18th March, 1922.

G. E. DE BRUNNER.

P.S.—The Editor tenders his apologies for having misstated the number of the business address as 13, instead of 11 Southampton Row.