

# Begrüessungsrede von Bundespraesident G. Motta, anlaesslich der Eroeffnung der Reparations Konferenz in Lausanne

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## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

From the 25th to 29th of July, an International Congress on Commercial Education will be held in London.

The Congress will be opened by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, and on the conclusion, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will receive the delegates.

We are informed that the following of our countrymen will attend this Congress:

Doctor Junod of the Verkehrszentrale, Doctor Däniker of the General Direktion of the S.B.B., and Director of the Zürcher Kantonalbank, Professor Rüst, E.T.H., Professor Schiess, Ecole supérieure de Commerce, Lausanne, Professor Youga, Neuchâtel, Rektor Broghe, Basle, Rektors Bernet, Fischer and Burri, Zurich, and Professors Frei, Huber, Latt, Kolatschek, Oertli, and many others from Swiss Commercial schools.

In order to acquaint our readers with the aims of the International Society for Commercial Education, we publish herewith an article from the pen of Doctor Latt, the secretary of this institution.

The present International Society for Commercial Education was founded in Zurich (Switzerland) on September 25th, 1926, in the same place where exactly a quarter of a century before the old "Society for the Promotion of Commercial Education" had been founded. We shall have the pleasure of welcoming in London some veterans of Commercial Education who were among the founders of both the old and the new societies. In the first place, there is Dr. A. Junod, our Président d'honneur, who was acting president from 1909-1911, and again from 1926-1929; Rektor Bernet of Zurich, who was Dr. Junod's most constant collaborator and is still one of our most influential advisers on questions of pedagogics and organisation; Dr. Ottel, the head of the Austrian Department for Commercial Education, and Dr. Bela Schack, the G.O.M. of Commercial Education in Hungary. We shall, unfortunately, not have the satisfaction of seeing amongst us Dr. Schmid, of Braunschweig, who was the intimate friend of the founder and first president of the old society, the late Dr. Stegemann of Braunschweig.

Thirteen countries sent delegates to Zurich when we met again for the first time after the War, now we are represented in 41 States. The number of individual members has increased ten fold in six years. It now stands at about 2,400, that of collective members has surpassed 500. The increase has been strongest during these last years of crisis, which is a sure sign of the Society's vitality and the usefulness of its work. We are hopeful that the success of the two very important London meetings — the Economic Course (14th-21st July 1932) and the International Congress (25th-29th July 1932) — will bring us a good many new members also from overseas countries.

The aims and purposes of the Society as outlined in the statutes are:

1. To group the existing national associations and other institutions, private or public, which are interested in the promotion of Business Education;
2. To organize international meetings and congresses;
3. To arrange for international courses for commercial expansion and the study of languages;
4. To discuss questions of general interest bearing on Business Education;
5. To institute a central information office;
6. To issue a Review and other publications on Commercial Education;
7. To distribute to newspapers and periodicals information regarding the development of Business Education in various countries;
8. To encourage educational tours and visits;
9. To co-operate with other associations and official institutions aiming at the development of economic, technical and linguistic education.

The collaboration between the various national and international organisations is assured by the constitution of the Society and its various committees. Every country with at least 20 members (collective members counting double) is entitled to one member and one deputy-member on the Central Committee which meets at least once every year. The maximum representation of one single country may be 10 members and 10 deputy-members. These figures have so far been attained by Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. It might be an interesting study to try and find out why some of the small countries are strongly represented in the Society and some of the big ones only very modestly. How is it, that countries like Hungary and Czechoslovakia beat France four times and Italy twice? — Whilst England holds a good position in respect of collective members, we should like to see a vastly bigger

number of commercial teachers and others interested in Commercial Education join up as individual members. (The annual subscription for collective members is 25 Gold-Francs, that for individual members only 3 Gold-Francs).

The actual administration lies in the hands of the President and an Executive Committee of 6 members. The Secretariat, with which is combined the editorship of the Review, was left in the hands of the present writer when the Headquarters of the Society, which had first been in Switzerland, were transferred to Holland in 1930. The deliberations of the Central Committee are published in the Review which is issued twice a year. It has already published series of articles in five languages, comparative studies in Commercial Education, on the Schools of Commerce and similar institutions in various countries. The Secretariat has naturally become a kind of international information bureau on Commercial Education. Innumerable letters requesting information have to be dealt with, most of them bearing on methods of teaching, legislation, organisation of schools and curricula, the supply and formation of teachers of commerce and languages, efforts at international exchanges of students and young business men, study tours, courses and congresses, literature on a wide range of economic and pedagogic subjects. On two occasions we published (in 3 languages) synoptical tables showing the actual state of commercial schooling in about 30 countries.

The most important and meritorious work of the Society are, no doubt, its annual Economic Courses and its triennial International Congress. These meetings were at first held in conjunction with those of the Technical and Industrial Education. Our records mention meetings held in Bordeaux 1886, London 1896, Antwerp 1898, Venice 1899, Paris 1900. The Congresses of Milan 1906, Vienna 1910, Budapest 1913 and Amsterdam 1929 dealt with Commercial Education only. The rapid growth of commercial schools of all grades by far outpaced the development of all other types of technical and vocational education. It is no exaggeration to say that it has everywhere received the most enthusiastic support of Businessmen and authorities, and that it is to-day animated by an admirable spirit of initiative and a strong sense of responsibility towards the future, which is a guarantee of further success. We are sure that the London Congress will not only be an occasion to renew old friendships and to rekindle the flame of enthusiasm in our minds, but a starting point for new developments in many countries and in many ways. We have long wished for an opportunity to compare notes with English and American educationalists, whose methods we know to be excellent though different from continental methods, and we are looking forward to discussions which will be productive of new lights and resolutions.

If German-Switzerland twice had the honour of giving birth to the Society itself, French-Switzerland, both before and after the War, opened the series of Economic Courses, "International Courses for Commercial Expansion," as they were first termed. The Lausanne Course of 1906 was so successful that it was soon followed by others almost every year; 1908 Mannheim, 1909 Le Havre, 1910 Vienna, 1911 London, 1912 Antwerp, 1913 Budapest and 1914 Barcelona. The latter was sadly dispersed by the outbreak of the World War. When we met again in 1927 it was for a combined Language and Economic Course at Neuchâtel. In 1928 we went to Braunschweig in Germany, in 1929 to Rotterdam, in 1930 to Copenhagen and in 1931 to Vienna. For this year we are England's guests in London, next year we are going to Italy and later on to Paris and Prague. Some day we are, no doubt, going to America. Canada had extended an invitation for an Economic Course some time before the War.

The lectures held at many of these economic courses, like the papers and proceedings of the congresses, were collected and printed. They are documents of lasting value because every country tries to do its very best in hospitality to the distinguished visitors who attend these courses and to have them addressed by its own most eminent economists and political and industrial representatives. There is, indeed, no finer opportunity we could think of, for commercial teachers, businessmen and students of Economics in general, than these courses devoted to the study of foreign countries and their commercial life. Mr. P. Delombre, a former French Minister of Commerce, in the preface to the volume "Le Havre" comprising the lectures of the 1909 Economic Course, puts it this way: "The world is getting smaller and smaller, we are travelling in order to see things on the spot with our own eyes. That is what Economic Courses are offering us. Each year they are held in different countries but on similar lines, it being our aim to form merchants true to their calling and commercial teachers worthy of their name. We want them to get into touch successively with the life, manners and institutions of different countries. We do not talk one language exclusively, but by adopting the language of the country whose guests we are, we

gradually learn to practice all the great commercial idioms of the world. Our meetings take place during the summer holidays, the most convenient time for excursions and the most favourable one for students and teachers who never enjoy learning more than when they are out of school (3). Hailing from different parts they are all united by their common will to see and to study. In learning more about each other they learn to respect each other; prejudices are removed and friendships made."

This spirit of friendship from land to land is one of the most valuable traditions of our organisation. It has always made our congresses great events in the lives of all their members. This friendship is not merely intellectual and "professional," it is based on more personal and solid grounds. In studying one country after another we are particularly anxious to get clear notions about each of them, to see things as the natives do, to understand their point of view even in international matters. Was that ever more necessary than now? Have not we leaders in commerce and guides of the rising generation of businessmen an important duty to fulfill? In a period when nationalism in so many countries is doing its worst we want to carry high the flag of international solidarity in the spirit of fairness and venture which has at all times distinguished both the great traders and the great educationists.

In coming again to England for an Economic Course after 21 years, and for a Congress after 36 years, we know that we shall still find alive among you the qualities which have placed you at the head of commercial nations. We have come to discuss with you and barter for ideas; because on intellectual grounds we know you to be just as incurable free traders as we are ourselves. In organising this year's Economic Course and Congress the British Association for Commercial Education has shown great courage in the face of very serious difficulties. We can assure you that all the members of the International Society most gratefully appreciate your effort. We also have doubt as to the success of both meetings. We never had a more varied and interesting programme for a Congress and we particularly congratulate Sir Francis Goodenough and his Committee on being able to commandeer the best men and so many of the most celebrated leaders of industry and commerce for the Economic Course.

Their lectures will not only do England credit, they will win her many new and influential friends in many lands and thus contribute towards the work of reconstruction and mutual confidence, which we all know to be the greatest need of the day.

## BEGRUESSUNGS — REDE VON BUNDESPRAESIDENT G. MOTTA, ANLAESSLICH DER EROEFFNUNG DER REPARATIONS KONFERENZ IN LAUSANNE.

Meine Herren Delegierten!

Der schweizerische Bundesrat, die waadtländische Kantonsregierung und die Stadt Lausanne heissen Sie durch meinen Mund auf dem Boden unseres Landes herzlichst willkommen.

Wir wissen den Beweis der Achtung und Freundschaft, den Sie uns geben, indem Sie sich in dieser Stadt vereinigen, wohl zu würdigen und sprechen Ihnen für die Ehrung, die uns durch die getroffene Wahl, und Ihre Gegenwart zuteil wird, unsern lebhaftesten Dank aus. Wir stehen Ihnen gerne zur Verfügung, um Ihnen die äusseren Arbeitsbedingungen zu erleichtern, und wir werden es uns zur Pflicht machen, Ihre Konferenz mit einer Atmosphäre wohlwollender Zurückhaltung zu umgeben.

Ich bitte um Entschuldigung, wenn ich mich einer allzu oft gebrauchten und darum abgenutzten Formel bediene und Ihnen sage: die Augen der Menschheit sind in dieser Stunde auf Sie gerichtet. Auf Ihre Konferenz angewendet, ist diese Formel indessen kein blosses Bild, sie ist der Ausdruck der Wirklichkeit.

Eine Krise, die an Ausdehnung nicht ihresgleichen hat, herrscht auf der ganzen Welt; kein Land, kein Erdteil, der von ihr verschont geblieben wäre. Frühere Geschlechter haben nach langen Kriegen gleich wie wir Zeiten der Prüfung erlebt; aber die Arbeitslosigkeit, d.h. der erzwungene Müssiggang, zu dem 25 Millionen Menschen, die sich und ihre Familie redlich durchbringen wünschen, verurteilt sind, ist nie in solchem Ausmass und solcher Stärke aufgetreten.

Der Gütertausch ist unterbunden, die Grenzen sind halb geschlossen; der freie Verkehr von Land zu Land ist gehemmt. Der Umlauf der Kapitalien hat aufgehört, die Initiative der Industrie ist erstickt. Die Preise decken die Produktionskosten nicht mehr; der Bestand der Währung ist bedroht. Eine unbestimmte, aber tiefe Beunruhigung hat sich der Menschheit bemächtigt, und das politische Misstrauen findet so jeden Tag neue

Nahrung. Von da bis zu ungesunden Gärungsprozessen, zu den Massenpsychosen und den sozialen Umwälzungen sind nur noch ein paar Schritte.

Sie sind hierher gekommen, meine Herren, um diese tragische Lage miteinander zu prüfen und um nach Möglichkeit rasche und wirksame Abhilfe zu schaffen. Allerdings ist der eigentliche Gegenstand Ihrer Beratungen die Lösung des Problems der aus dem Weltkriege herstammenden Reparationen und politischen Schulden; aber dieses Problem kann unmöglich von andern, noch umfassenderen Problemen losgelöst werden. Alles hängt zusammen. Selbst jenes grosse, überseeische Land, das sich nicht hierher begeben zu können glaubte, dürfte — ich hoffe es — nicht lange abseits von Ihren Verhandlungen bleiben können. Die Anwesenheit mehrerer Regierungschefs und Mitglieder in Lausanne legt deutlich genug Zeugnis ab für die ausserordentliche Bedeutung, die Sie Ihren Verhandlungen beimessen.

Während Sie hier versammelt sind, tagt eine andere Konferenz in Genf. Zwei Schweizerstädte, an demselben See gelegen, scheinen für einige Zeit gewissermassen zu zwei Brennpunkten des internationalen Lebens geworden zu sein.

Der Erfolg der Konferenz für die Herabsetzung und Beschränkung der Rüstungen hängt im sehr grossen Masse davon ab, welches Ergebnis die Reparationskonferenz zeitigen wird. Ohne eine billige Regelung der Reparationen und politischen Schulden würde das gegenseitige Vertrauen nicht wieder erstehen und ohne dieses Vertrauen würde man vergeblich an die Aufgabe herantreten, die Rüstungen so weit herabzusetzen, dass der Friede endgültig gesichert bleibt.

Auch ohne diese uns alle verbindende Solidarität, die eines der Merkmale unserer heutigen Zeit ist, hätten die in Genf vertretenen Staaten schon allein um des Werkes willen, zu dem sie sich zusammengetan haben, ganz offensichtlich ein unmittelbares Interesse daran, dass die Lausanner Konferenz nicht zu Ende gehe, ohne eine befriedigende Einigung zwischen allen beteiligten Regierungen erzielt zu haben. Ein Misserfolg hätte die unglücklichsten Folgen nicht nur für Ihre Länder, sondern auch für alle andern.

Ich habe die Überzeugung, dass ich nicht fehlgehe, wenn ich erkläre, dass Sie, meine Herren, das Schicksal des Friedens und damit dasjenige der Zivilisation in Händen haben. Ich weiss wohl, wie verwickelt und schwierig Ihre Aufgabe ist, aber ich weiss auch, dass sie Ihre Einsicht und Ihren guten Willen nicht übersteigt.

In meiner Eigenschaft als Bundespräsident, im Namen des Bundesrates, der waadländischen Regierung, der Stadt Lausanne und des gesamten Schweizervolkes und, für einmal, auch als Wortführer aller Staaten, die unter Ihnen nicht vertreten sind, gebe ich den schlichlichsten Wünschen für das Gelingen Ihrer Bemühungen Ausdruck und empfehle ich Sie, gemäss unserer alt ehrwürdigen eidgenössischen Grussformel, in Gottes Machtschutz."

**NEWS FROM THE COLONY.**

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LIMITED.**

The Ordinary Monthly Meeting was held at Swiss House on June 15th. A supper was served at 8 p.m., to which the successful competitors at the Swiss Sports were invited. The Chairman, Mr. W. Lehmann, President of the Society, in opening the proceedings read a letter from Mr. P. Brun, President of the Swiss Club, Birmingham, contemplating a rally of all Swiss residing in the United Kingdom, chiefly London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, etc. The venue will be the Zoological Gardens, Whipsnade, on July 3rd. A lengthy discussion on the subject ensued and it was decided that the Swiss Mercantile Society should take the lead and arrange for such amenities as would be fitting for the occasion.

Mr. E. Hardmeier, Chairman of the Education Committee, announced that the College had arranged a special excursion train to Port Sunlight to visit the works of Messrs. Lever Brothers. The fare for the journey of some 200 miles was reduced to about one third of the ordinary fare. Mr. Hardmeier urged the members present to make use of this singular opportunity and to bring their friends. The excursion will take place on Tuesday, June 28th.

Mr. Hardmeier then reported that the Education Committee at its last meeting elected as Vice-Chairman of the said Committee, Mr. W. Meier. The attendance at the College has now reached the figure of 260, a very good number in view of the present economic conditions. It was learnt with satisfaction that our Headquarters, through the intermediary of its General Secretary, National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, were successful in obtaining an increase from Frs. 50,000 to Frs. 70,000 for burserships granted to young Swiss going abroad for the purpose of studying foreign languages and markets (Aus-

landstipendien).

Mr. J. Pfandler, Manager of the Employment Department, read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Dr. A. Latt, former Secretary of the N.S.H., London Group, Secretary of the International Society for Commercial Education, informing us that a delegation of some 20 heads of Swiss Commercial Institutes and leaders of Swiss Commerce and Industry, was coming to London to attend an economic course at the London School of Economics and at Oxford as well as the International Congress on Commercial Education. It was decided that the Swiss Mercantile Society should entertain this contingent in a fitting manner one evening on a date to be fixed on.

A motion that, as in previous years, no monthly meetings be held during the months of July and August was duly adopted. The meeting authorised the General Purposes Committee to carry on the work during the recess and to grant the necessary credit for the aforementioned function, subject to the Council's confirmation.

The President then welcomed the athletes, who, for the third time in succession, won the Georges Dimier Challenge Cup at the Swiss Sports Meeting on May 28th at Herne Hill, thus making it the property of the Society. They further secured the Challenge Cups for the 1 mile Relay Race as well as the Veterans' Race, and the Veterans' Walking Handicap. Mr. W. Burren, as Delegate on the Swiss Sports Committee and trainer of the team, thanked on behalf of the competitors and made a full report of the Sports Meeting. The "loving cup" was then passed round, filled with the "esprit de Neuchâtel" and the meeting was concluded with some merry songs, Mr. F. von Bergen acting as soloist, accompanied on the piano by Mr. R. Chappuis.

WB.

**"OBERHOLZER MEMORIAL" FUND.**

On Saturday, June 4th, at 3.15 p.m., a large number of Gymnasts from the various British Gymnastic Institutions, and a few representatives of the Swiss Colony in London, assembled at the Great Northern Cemetery, New Southgate, N.11, to witness the unveiling of the "OBERHOLZER MEMORIAL," beneath which lay the remains of one of the most famous of gymnasts, teachers and instructors of physical culture, the late Mr. Rudolf Oberholzer, who departed this life early last year. Thanks to the many collaborators a really magnificent gravestone was erected, bearing the inscription:

Erected to the memory of  
**RUDOLF & MARIE OBERHOLZER**

by  
Colleagues, Pupils and Friends.

April 1931.

"To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."

which, in a very touching ceremony, the Rev. A. J. Gillson, M.A., Vicar of St. Michaels, New Southgate, dedicated to the memory of our compatriot. Pure white and red lilies placed in the large granite vase at the foot of the grave represented our departed friend's national colours. The large attendance especially on the part of the various British Institutions, was a striking proof of the popularity and great esteem our fellow countryman enjoyed during the past 15 years amongst his English Friends particularly as instructor of the Northampton Polytechnic Institute.

The results of this Fund thus proved a most gratifying reward for the untiring efforts of the Organizing Committee, the various collectors and the very many contributors to this cause.

Anyone wishing to view the above memorial, please note the Number of the Grave: No. 497, Row A. E.A.N.

**CONCERT NEWS.**

The winds from the four points of the compass blow all the arts of the world to London. On Wednesday night, at the Rudolf Steiner Hall, a wind — not "la bise" — blew us the Swiss dancer from Geneva, Marcelle Valerie, who seemed still to be tossed upon its gusts, so light was she as she put Schubert's famous "Waltz" and his "Autumn Dances" to the physical rythm of the dance. But it was an older wind which had blown Gustave Ferrari into our midst. He has been all over the world with that greatest of French *disenues*, Yvette Guilbert, and supplemented her art with his own. He gave his own incomparable interpretation of the song story of the naughty monk who enters, who sups, who embraces...

Madame Valerie then gave us an ingenious and witty interpretation of dances by Poulenc; her Puncchinello dress was in itself an inspiration. And to say that the dance "lived" after the perhaps finer art of song, is praise indeed, proof of its vitality and vividness.

In the second half of the programme, M. Gustave Ferrari showed us an even finer turn of the early classic humour of France, particularly

in, *L'Heureux Vagabond*, *Vive Henri IV* which showed that there is sadness as well as humour in this art.

After this consummate art of the *comédie française*, it was left to Marcelle Valerie to lead us, as it said "up the garden" to simpler things such as Johann Strauss's waltz "Roses of the South," which she danced with a sweet and appealing grace.

**OBSERVATIONS OF AN OUTSIDER.**

Last week a copy of the "Swiss Observer" came into my possession, and I did a strange thing. I read it.

Perhaps my meaning will be clearer if I explain that my father is Welsh, my mother Irish, and that I was born in England. Further that I have never been to Switzerland, and that I know no Switzers — or should it be Switzerlandmen?

What, then, was I doing reading the "Swiss Observer"?

Answers to this problem may be submitted to the Editor, whose decision will be final. No prizes are offered.

Very well, then, I hear you ask, and what did you think of it? Oddly enough, that is just what I was going to tell you.

I will begin by saying that though it most certainly does observe — of that there can be no doubt whatever — it scarcely seems to me to observe the right thing.

To explain, I picture to myself the Swiss Colony in Great Britain as a necessarily unhappy group of exiles dwelling perforce in a strange country and in the midst of a stranger people. I visualise them as home sick for the sound of the Edelweiss and longing to smell once more the perfume of the Yodel. Here, I said to myself, is a band of unfortunates whose lives need brightening. Their hearts may be heavy, but their lips can be made to smile. And surely, I thought, it is to the pages of the "Swiss Observer" that these poor people will turn when they feel the need of that light-hearted laughter which so eases the burdens of all unhappy lives.

And yet what do I find?

Prominent on the front page of the number I have before me I read the following:—

75,000 francs have been stolen from a lady in Zurich. No clues have been found.

There has been a serious motor accident in Berne — also an attempted robbery with violence. A Bookkeeper has been arrested in Aarau for embezzlement.

An explosion in a garage at Vaud has caused one death and much damage.

And, finally, three other deaths are reported, two from natural causes and one from a fall from a balcony.

I shook my head sadly. Are there no cheerful happenings in the whole of Switzerland, I asked myself. Does nobody ever get married, and are there no births, for instance? Or is it that these people, too, like us miserable English, "take their pleasures sadly"?

Turning these questions over in my mind I sat down and wondered what I could do to bring joy and gladness into the lives of these grief-stricken colonists.

Alas! I am still wondering.

Vaughan Owen.

**PERSONAL.**

We are pleased to inform our readers that Dr. Rüfenacht, 2nd Secretary of Legation in London, has been promoted by the Federal Council to 1st Secretary of Legation. Dr. Rüfenacht is a son of Minister Rüfenacht, who is shortly retiring from his post in Berlin. We take this opportunity to extend to Dr. Rüfenacht our heartiest congratulations.

\* \* \*

We wish to express to M. Oscar Schneider, Secrétaire de chancellerie, at the Swiss Legation, our sympathy, his father, M. Joseph Alb. Schneider, having died at Gossau (St. Gallen) at the age of 72.

\* \* \*

D. C. G. Gattiker, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gattiker, of Boreham Wood, Elstree, in the Natural Science tripos at Cambridge University, graduated with first class honours, and also was awarded a bachelor's scholarship by his College. Our heartiest congratulations.

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