

Union Helvetia

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First I saw a good many of my colleagues at the *Conférence des Ministres de Suisse en congé*, when for two days we had time to talk about things in Switzerland and things abroad, amongst diplomats and the members of their Government.

Then I visited the Comptoir Suisse at Lausanne on the official day, and I was also at the principal assembly of the "Suisses à l'étranger," which took place in Berne under the presidency of our friend, Professor Lätt.

On each of these occasions I heard a speech, invariably remarkable, made by the President of the Confederation, and, of course, in each instance I did not fail to partake of the equally remarkable and most copious Banquet that followed.

Then, as is only natural, I also discussed certain questions with the various Departments at the "Bundeshaus." This I should not even mention were it not for the fact that amongst other things I had a conference with the heads of the offices specially concerned with the employment of Swiss abroad. On this occasion I heard some appreciative comments upon the activity of the Head of your Employment Department; I was by no means unprepared for this, but such praise is always pleasant to hear. Without going into details I can tell you, and M. Hilfiker, who was present at the conference, can tell you too, that there are chances of still improving the position regarding the employment of Swiss in England.

Now as I said that things are satisfactory in Switzerland I ought to give you at least a few instances. But statistics are a dry dish and I am not going to offer you much of it. Nevertheless, two or three figures compiled for me for your benefit by the Head of my Commercial Division should perhaps be mentioned:

First we have unemployment. The present figure of registered unemployed is 52,000 as against something over 80,000 last year — an improvement of 35%.

Secondly, the tourist traffic, both last winter and this summer, is back at pre-crisis numbers, although it is perhaps not yet as remunerative as formerly.

Thirdly, the railway traffic shows 1,300,000 more travellers this July than in July, 1936, an improvement of 14½%, and the transport of goods shows an improvement of 28%.

To these figures could be added favourable records in many branches of industry, so that we are certainly not going too far in stating that Switzerland is about to turn, or has happily turned, the corner of the World Crisis. But when I say this, mind you, I am speaking about the crisis which started in 1929, and which was then a purely, or practically purely economic crisis.

Unfortunately I have to point this out specially, because to-day we are faced once more with a crisis equally alarming although this time mainly political.

Steady Economic progress would seem to be comparatively easy to-day for our country if there were no political difficulties. Yet countries like ours, that are virtually outside the political turmoil, can do a great deal to have a salutary influence on matters in general.

Like our British friends, we are all for bi-lateral arrangements with other countries. We have been successful just lately more than once in this way, for instance, with the U.S.A., with France, and I see no reason why an improvement of this kind in the Anglo-Swiss trade should not materialise in a near future.

No two countries could be better suited to give each other, even under present conditions, the greatest possible business chances than Switzerland and Great Britain, these two countries which — in that unsettled state of world affairs — are considered by many economists as being, with perhaps one or possibly two other countries, the most stable centres of world trade.

The orator was greeted with loud applause on resuming the "Fautenil Présidentiel."

M. G. Jenne a member of the Council then greeted the official guests and the Ladies.

He expressed his pleasure that so many representatives of Sister Societies and institutions had come to share the evening with the members of the Society. He mentioned that the following were present:

Mr. and Mrs. Boehringer, City Swiss Club.
Mr. and Mrs. Campart, Société de Secours Mutuels.

Messrs. Ensebio and Orelli, Unione Ticinese.
Mr. and Mrs. Dupraz, Fonds de Secours.

Mr. and Mrs. Suter, Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Mr. Brun, senior and junior, Swiss Club Birmingham.

Messrs. Dick and Pellet, Swiss Orchestral Society.

Mr. De Brunner, Trustee of the S.M.S.

M. Rezzonico, Counsellor of Legation.

M. Hilfiker, Vice-Consul and Chancellor of Legation.

Pasteur Hahn and Mrs. Hahn, Swiss Church.
Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer, Swiss Observer.
Mr. and Mrs. Kessler, London correspondent of the N.Z.Z.

Dr. Egli, London correspondent of the "Bund."

Mr. Jenne, who is an old friend of mine then paid a glowing tribute to the Ladies, he said such a lot of nice things about them, that I began to wonder if he really was sincere, and if he really meant what he said, why on earth he had remained a bachelor. As a matter of fact, I quite expected that in the course of the evening he would announce that at last he had said valet to his bachelorhood and was going to marry one of those charming, lovely, radiant creatures of whom he had spoken with such enthusiasm. Nothing happened though, but if he does not do something in this matter soon, I for one will refuse to listen to him, should he again eulogize the Ladies; not that I do not agree with him in everything he said, but how on earth should he know "all about it?" This is a hint and a threat at the same time.

It was left to Mr. Boehringer, President of the City Swiss Club, to voice on behalf of the guests his thanks for the hospitality extended to them, it was noticed with consternation that the speaker said that he did not enjoy the evening, but all was smiles again, when he explained that the reason of his statement was due to the fact that he had to make a speech, and that he would have preferred to sit at a somewhat less conspicuous position amongst his friends far from the top table; where he would be allowed to criticise more freely without the risk of getting into hot water. The applause with which his utterances were greeted proved that the members did not take his criticism too seriously.

The last speech on the list was made on behalf of Charity by Mr. M. Schneider, Hon. Secretary of the Society.

His sincere appeal, not to forget our less fortunate compatriots was successful, an amount of £32 8s. 0d. having been collected.

This concluded the official part of the evening, and let it be said with a grateful heart that the speeches were all "short and sweet."

Dancing, intermingled with two cabaret turns then took place until midnight, when everybody, still smiling, left the Trocadero with the feeling of having spent a happy and enjoyable evening. May this first big function in the Colony prove a happy augury for the future Swiss events of the Social Season.

ST.

UNION HELVETIA. Memorial Service 1937.

Members of the Union Helvetia Society and relatives of deceased members who are buried in the Society's graves in Hendon Park Cemetery held their annual memorial service on Sunday the 17th October, 1937. Over forty persons attended and many wreaths were placed on the graves by friends, relatives and the Society.

Short services were conducted by the Reverend C. Th. Hahn, who offered prayers for both the dead and the living; and, in his address, gave comfort to all who must follow those who have gone on before.

Men stood beside these graves bar-headed and in prayer; sorrow reflected in women's eyes. Men and women, side by side, conscious of that something so little understood; — mysterious, incomprehensible, yet unbounded good: each in turn gazed wistfully at the sky; for each one knew, in time, they too must die ere they could reach the realm above where all is Justice, Beauty, Truth and Love.

H. L. Stubbs,

Secretary.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, October 26th, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock — Swiss Rifle Team — Farewell Dinner to M. W. de Bourg, Counsellor of Legation, at Pagan's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W. (See announcement).

Wednesday, November 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, November 13th, — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — at 2 and 4 o'clock — Film Show: "A Travers la Suisse," at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. Calendars on sale.

Friday, November 19th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — at "Swiss House" 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1 at 7.45 p.m. Monthly Meeting to be followed by a causerie by J. Eusebio, Esq., on: "A few 'Ticinesi' worth talking about."

Friday, November 26th — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball — at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

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EVERY TUESDAY from November 2nd until November 30th 1937, commencing again from the first Tuesday in January, 1938.

In order to avoid disappointment, customers are requested to place their orders early.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLÉE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi 2 Novembre au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Admissions.

Démissions.

Banquet Annual

Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Le Comité.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).

(Langue française).

79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

(Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche 24 octobre:

11h. — Prédication: Mr. Exbrayat.

11h. — Ecole de Dimanche.

6h.30 — Prédication: M. le pasteur Christol.

Le Pasteur Emery reçoit le Mercredi de 11 heures à midi 30; à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2. S'adresser à lui pour tous les actes pastoraux. (téléphone: Museum 3100, domicile: Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.)

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office).

Sonntag, den 24. Oktober 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W. 4 (Telephone: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.