

Nouvelle société helvétique

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UN POUR TOUS, TOUS POUR UN.

Under this heading we published in 1936 a series of appeals in this paper, asking our compatriots for help for our brethren in Spain. The response was a splendid one. Within three months we were able to send a cheque to the Relief Committee, amounting to £513 9s. 10d.

Our example was followed by a number of Swiss Colonies abroad and the result of the various collections greatly helped our comrades, who through no fault of their own had to undergo many privations and great hardships.

A month ago, a compatriot of ours, Mr. Charles Strubin, of Messrs. Chas. Strubin & Co., Ltd., 27, Creechurch Lane, E.C., on his own initiative sent the following consignment to our compatriots in Spain:

- 1,000 tins of sweetened milk
- 1,000 lbs. of Coffee
- 10,000 cigarettes
- 1,000 packets of toilet soap.

This "beau geste" has been greatly appreciated by our countrymen in this unhappy land, and we are very pleased to publish herewith two letters addressed to Mr. Strubin by the Swiss Authorities in Barcelona. We too express our sincere thanks to Mr. Strubin for this really patriotic act.

Barcelone, le 15 septembre 1938.

Monsieur Chas. Strubin,
27, Creechurch Lane,
Leadenhall Street, London.

Monsieur,

Faisant suite à ma lettre du 14 courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous notifier que j'ai pris possession des produits que vous avez en la généreuse pensée de me faire parvenir, à titre de donation destinée aux suisses demeurés dans notre zone. Le seul article qui ne nous ait pas encore été délivré est le tabac; mais il nous sera remis aussitôt certaines formalités accomplies.

Je viens vous présenter ici, au nom des colonies suisses de l'Espagne républicaine et en mon nom, nos sincères remerciements pour votre présent, doublement précieux par le secours matériel qu'il nous procure et parce qu'il nous apporte le consolant témoignage de votre sympathie et de la part que vous prenez aux épreuves de vos compatriotes.

Je me suis fait un plaisir de recevoir le capitaine T. R. Thompson et de m'entretenir avec lui. Quant aux envois que votre lettre du 31 écoulé nous permet d'espérer, je vous serais très obligé de bien vouloir me les adresser à la Légation de Suisse qui, ainsi que je vous le notifier par ma lettre d'hier, a été transférée à Barcelone. Je me permets d'insister sur ce détail qui nous facilitera considérablement les formalités douanières et l'obtention de l'entrée en franchise de droits.

Tout en vous réitérant mes remerciements, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, les assurances de ma considération distinguée.

Le Ministre de Suisse:
EGGER.

Barcelone, le 11 septembre, 1938.

Monsieur Chas. Strubin,
27, Creechurch Lane,
Leadenhall Street, London.

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 31 août écoulé, par laquelle vous m'annoncez l'arrivée d'une importante expédition, comprenant des articles choisis parmi ceux dont nous nous trouvons actuellement le plus privés, que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser à titre de donation, à l'intention des suisses demeurés en Espagne républicaine.

Votre généreux présent fera beaucoup d'heureux et permettra de soulager de nombreuses détresses; il est, à nos yeux, un témoignage réconfortant de la fraternité qui unit, malgré la distance, les enfants de notre chère Patrie.

Très touché de votre geste, je me fais un plaisir de vous exprimer ici, au nom de tous ceux qui en bénéficieront et en mon nom, notre sincère et profonde reconnaissance.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, avec mes remerciements réitérés, les assurances de ma considération distinguée.

Le Consul de Suisse:
GONZENBACH.

SWISS CHURCH.

No doubt many of our compatriots already know that the Rev. C. T. Hahn, after an activity in London extending over 14 years, has accepted a nomination at Sierre, Valais, and as a result we regret having to inform his many friends that he will be leaving us at the end of November.

Now that the union of the two branches of the church has become an established fact, we should have wished Mr. Hahn to have continued his much appreciated labours in conjunction with the newly appointed minister, Monsieur M. Pradervand, for the benefit of our church and its many supporters. We feel confident that the extensive work in the two communities under the spiritual guidance of these two pastors of mutual good will and understanding would have been a very successful and happy one.

Whilst this is so, we can appreciate Mr. Hahn's desire to return to Switzerland after the many years of his ministry in Austria, Italy, and England, and we do so with sincere thankfulness for the many services which he has rendered to our cause and for the conscientious way in which he has discharged his manifold duties.

A Joint-farewell service will be held at St. Anne's church, 9 Gresham Street, E.C.2, on November 27th, at 11 a.m. to which we herewith extend a cordial invitation.

The Consistoire.

It is the desire of his friends to wish him GOD's speed at a little farewell dinner on Friday, November 18th (Time and place to be published later), when it is proposed to present Mr. Hahn with a suitable souvenir. Anyone who wishes to attend the dinner (cost about 5/- excl. of drinks) is requested to notify one of the under-mentioned members of the consistoire, as soon as possible, in order that the necessary arrangements can be made in good time. Contributions to the presentation will also be thankfully received by them. A form for this purpose is enclosed in this issue.

- W. Fischer,
30, North Villas,
Camden Square, N.W.1.
- G. Jenne,
41, Woodside Park Road,
Finchley, N.12.
- P. G. Sommer,
Hepple Lodge,
Holly Park, N.4.

SWISS SPORTS COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Swiss Sports and Garden Party Committee and Delegates was held at Swiss House on Thursday, October 6th.

The President, Mr. R. de Cintra, was in the Chair and the meeting was well attended.

The accounts for the year under review were dealt with and showed a surplus sufficiently large to cover the deficit of the previous Swiss Sports meeting.

The Committee was unanimously re-elected for another term of office.

A proposal to revert to the original number of three Delegates for each Society instead of two was defeated by a large majority. The point was, however, stressed that the various Societies should only depute such Delegates who were really interested in sports and willing to attend the Committee meetings regularly as well as to render assistance at the Sports Meeting itself. It was found that the brunt of the work rested with just a few staunch members who could well do with some additional help.

The last Sports Meeting, despite the inclement weather, was a great success both from the social as well as the financial point of view. The change of venue and the additional attractions proved a great incentive. Encouraged by the support of the Swiss Colony at the last Sports Meeting, the Committee decided to book the ground at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, for July 1939.

The Committee thus hopes that the Swiss Sports will again become an outstanding function in the social activities of the Swiss Colony and no efforts will be spared to that end.

It is anticipated that the full support and collaboration of all Swiss Societies can again be relied upon for future arrangements.

W.B.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

The London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique resumed on the 23rd September, at the Foyer Suisse, its activities for the coming winter and the Chairman, Mr. A. F. Suter, expressed his pleasure at being able to greet a large circle of old and new members, in addition to a good many friends of the Society. In addition to the promise of a most interesting talk from an eminent compatriot, other factors, we feel, had their share in bringing together such a strong gathering. The desire, for one, of greeting old friends after the summer vacation, but above all the wish to close the ranks as the immediate future looked so uncertain. True the crisis had not then assumed the seriousness which the following week was to bring, but the portents were ominous enough to induce anyone to seek comfort and strength in the company of fellow countrymen.

At the conclusion of an informal supper, which is always such a pleasant feature of the Society's gatherings, the current business of the Group was disposed of in a minimum of time. The Chairman informed the meeting that in order to bring our winter Film Shows in line with modern requirements, it was proposed to hold future shows in a hall affording the necessary facilities for the presentation of sound films. Arrangements were being made to secure Kingsway Hall and the meeting gave its wholehearted support to the suggestion, which will doubtless be equally welcomed by all those who have derived enjoyment from past Film Shows. The hope was expressed that contributions would in due course be forthcoming from the Colony to cover the greatly increased expenses which this new departure will involve.

The Chairman then introduced the speaker for the evening, in the person of Mr. Hanns Vischer. Although a stranger to most of those present, Mr. Vischer soon succeeded through his natural eloquence in making friends with his audience. "The Swiss and the Empire" was the subject of the causerie and no one could have treated this theme in a more interesting manner than Mr. Vischer, who besides being a Swiss has the added advantage of being attached to the British Colonial Office. His association with that Office dates back to 1900, when fresh from Cambridge — and his "Rekrutenschule" in Liestal — he was sent to Nigeria in charge of a military expedition against a cannibal tribe which had the reputation of attacking peaceful trading caravans. The speaker related how a fourteen days battle was fought, in which poisoned arrows were used from one side and fire-arms from the other; after delicate negotiations, led by our compatriot, peace was secured and he remained alone with the tribe to supervise the making of roads imposed upon them as a punishment for their past misdeeds. The British Government were quick to appreciate his high qualities as an organiser and coloniser and Mr. Vischer worked in different parts of Africa until 1923, when he was recalled. Eventually, he was asked to report on the possibilities of emigration to the Empire and the conclusions of our compatriot on this all important subject may be summed up as follows:

The British Empire has room for young men endowed with the necessary qualities, i.e. a singleness of purpose and the will power to carry it through. But above all, work among the natives requires, besides a keen sense of humour, a strong belief that these men of another race, given equal opportunities, can evolve on the same lines as ourselves. The old conception that the success of colonisation depends on the prestige of the white man is out of date and future efforts must be based on mutual understanding between white and black men. The secret of Empire building lies in bringing the natives to a standard of living, which will tend to make them faithful to the King and the Home Country, and this is not to be achieved by force but by sentiment. Emigration is not to be considered simply as a means to relieve a nation of those who cannot find work at home or again to provide for the individual an occasion to make money in as short a time as possible and to return to boast. Emigration must be looked upon as a duty to one's country and a service to fellow men; it consists in imparting to others the benefits received at home, either in the form of State education or from traditions inherited. In this respect, the Swiss are particularly well favoured and Mr. Vischer emphasised how his own Swiss upbringing had helped him in his work.

At the outset of his address the speaker had made a short review of Swiss emigration to the British Empire through the ages, mentioning here and there the names of Swiss who had particularly distinguished themselves in their respective fields of activity; one heard of such famous names as De Pury, De Watterville, and of the more recent work done by the Basle Mission, the Baldegger Schwestern and other organisations.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
at every meal - for Health!

The Chairman endorsed the sentiments expressed by Mr. Vischer and his high and noble conception of emigration and the audience thanked the lecturer most heartily for his interesting and illuminating address.

M.R.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We have received very favourable comments from members who were fortunate enough to attend the last meeting which has been termed as one of the best, most interesting and amusing monthly meetings that the City Swiss Club has had for a long time. We understand from the Secretary that the committee has another little surprise in store for the November meeting, and the committee look forward to a still greater attendance. Members will be welcome with as many guests as they wish to bring.

ST. GALL FABRICS AND EMBROIDERIES.
At the Swiss National Exhibition 1939 Zurich.

St. Gall has undertaken to co-operate in the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich next year with a display of the finest products of textile industries. The display will include both materials and embroideries. A good deal has been written about the embroideries of St. Gall — the familiar "Swiss net," "Swiss embroidery," and so on — but while the St. Gall fabrics are well known in themselves, little has as yet appeared in print about them. The following brief notes may therefore help to make this section of the exhibition more interesting to the visitor.

The name of St. Gall has been associated with textiles for centuries past, and as early as 1500 we find mention of linen-weaving. It might be mentioned here that St. Gall has a very ancient tradition of fine handicraft. In the 7th century Irish monks settled there to found the great Abbey, bringing with them a superb illuminated Gospel, now in the Abbey Library, which was the model and impulse for an art which was to flourish in St. Gall for a long time to come. The cultural life of the place was completely dominated by the Abbey, and it is therefore not surprising to find the St. Gall linen-weavers renowned far and wide for their skill. Linen-weaving remained the staple industry of the place until well into the 18th century.

About 1720 the first records of the hand-weaving of muslins make their appearance, and in the course of time this industry completely ousted the linen-weaving. By the middle of the 19th century, we find the St. Gall muslins largely replacing the superfine fabrics imported into Europe from India. The fashions both for men and women prevailing at the time promoted their use and they reached a degree of delicacy almost unknown to-day. Their beauty, however, might well recommend them to the attention of our contemporary fashion dictators. Not so very long ago connoisseurs used to take a delight in passing these muslins through their fingers simply to appreciate the fineness of their texture.

The linen, and the later cotton fabrics were prepared for the market in the neighbourhood by bleaching and dressing, and the latter industry steadily developed and improved. The simple bleaching of the plain material yielded to more complicated methods. A process was invented in St. Gall by which ordinary cotton muslin was hardened and made translucent by dressing. This new fabric, called *organdie* or transparent, was produced both plain and embroidered, and is still high in favour for summer dresses. A further process was also invented here for producing artistic designs in this material; the *organdie* finish was applied only in parts, the resulting opaque patterns being left smooth or worked into crepon effects. The whole either remained in plain colours or was printed in colour-designs. These stuffs, known as *imago*, *crêpe organdie*, *organdie cloqué*, *hetex*, *crêpe bosselé*, etc., manufactured in our neighbourhood and exported all over the world, rightly go by the name of "St. Gall materials," whether they were prepared for the market on plain or fancy fabrics. The weaving and finishing are equally important and share equally in the beauty of the finished article.

As regards the development of the embroidery industry the first records in St. Gall go back to 1753. According to some accounts, St. Gall merchants who had settled in Lyons and employed Turkish women to embroider for them there, introduced the industry into their native town. One of these Turkish women is said to have been sent to Appenzell to teach the women there to embroider as a means of livelihood. Other accounts say that the art of hand-embroidery which had flourished in the local convents for centuries past inspired the linen and muslin weavers with the idea of industrialising the em-

broinery of their materials. About 1780 some 30,000 women are said to have been regularly employed in hand-embroidery. It was, however, a slow and expensive process, and hence inventive spirits devised the embroidery machine which was destined to undergo so remarkable a development. Nowadays hand-embroidery still goes by the name of "Appenzell embroidery," and is as delicate and rich as ever. Machine embroidery and the designing connected with it are centred in St. Gall itself and its products are exported all over the world.

The simplification of women's dress due to the war, the long crisis and the popularity of sports fashions led to a practical total decline of the industry. For some time past, however, girls and women have begun to realise that trimming adds charm to dress and that lace and embroidery lend it a feminine note. This change in fashion-feeling has brought about a revival of the use of St. Gall materials.

Last year, at the Paris Exhibition, we were able to display some of the achievements of our industry. Next year, at the Zurich Exhibition, we hope again to show what St. Gall fabrics and embroideries are, not only in the piece, but made up in dresses, blouses, collars, flowers or whatever may then be in fashion. We even contemplate setting up an embroidery machine, so that visitors may see the filmy stuffs growing before their eyes. We hope too that a few Appenzell women, in their beautiful and becoming local costume, will let us see them at work on their exquisite hand-embroideries. There will also be a display of hand-woven materials from Appenzell.

FR. HUG.

Commercial Director of the
Chamber of Commerce.Telephone : MUSEum 2982
Te'grams : Foyssuisse London

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, October 16th at 4 p.m. — Union Helvetia — Annual Memorial Service — at Hendon Park Cemetery (Private bus will leave 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, at 2.45 p.m.). Service conducted by Pastor C. Th. Hahn.

Wednesday, October 19th, at 8 o'clock — Union Chrétienne de Jeune Gens de Langue Française — Conférence publique en anglais avec Projections lumineuses, sujet "Soviet Russia To-day" by Mr. W. J. Wiseman, agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Thursday, October 20th — Symphonic Social Choir — Weineifest — at the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund), 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, October 21st, at 7.45 p.m. — Monthly Meeting — Nouvelle Société Helvétique at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square. The meeting will be followed by a causerie by Fred. E. C. Ferraris, Esq., on: "The Swiss Watch Industry," illustrated by a film.

Thursday, November 3rd, at 8.30 p.m. — Swiss Orchestral Society — introducing Mlle. M. de Siebenthal, Pianist and Violinist at a Concert given in Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, November 12th, from 3 to 5.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — "A Traverses La Suisse," Film Show at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2. Admission Free.

Friday, November 25th — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Tuesday, November 29th — Unione Ticinese — Concert and Ball in aid of the Fonds de Secours, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

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Dimanche 16 octobre 1938 :

11h. — Culte. — M. M. Pradervand.

11h. — Ecole du dimanche.

6h.30 — Culte. — M. M. Pradervand.

Pour l'instruction religieuse et les actes
pastoraux, prière de s'adresser au pasteur,
M. M. Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road,
N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003) Heure de
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SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 16. Oktober 1938.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntag-
schule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Am 6. Oktober wurden getraut :

Erich Ernst Schneider von Berlin und
Elisabeth Barbara Schatzmann von Lenzburg
und Windisch (Canton Aargau).Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmanden-
stunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten
an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn,
43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4. (Tele-
phon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden:
Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.Printed for the Proprietors by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO.,
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