

Recent activities of the Nouvelle société helvétique

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RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE, LONDON GROUP.

The London Group of the NSH took advantage of the presence in London of Dr. Arnold Saxer, Direktor of the Swiss Insurance Office in Berne, to ask him and his Chief Advisers on 20th May to address Members on: "Schweizerische und englische Sozialversicherung". The lecturer, an acknowledged authority on social insurance problems and one of the pioneers of the AHV Scheme in Switzerland, gave members a very clear picture of the differing social insurance schemes prevailing in both the U.K. and Switzerland. He stated that the U.K. Health Scheme is much admired abroad for its bold comprehensiveness and its centralisation whereas the Swiss schemes lagged somewhat behind largely because there was little compulsion and each Canton had its own rules. Insurance in Switzerland is to a large extent in the hands of private societies. An animated discussion brought the meeting to an end at an unusually late hour.

On 17th June Mr. T. Haller, London Correspondent of the Swiss Broadcasting Company and of the "Basler Nationalzeitung", Member of the Council of the NSH, London Group, spoke to members in his own inimitable style on "Am Rande der Objektivität, Betrachtungen über Radio- und Zeitungs-Reportage". The subject that appeared at first glance rather austere came brilliantly to life under Mr. Haller's scrutiny and the lecture convinced the numerous audience that the activities of an "Ausland-Korrespondent" call for qualities of patience and tact that might not be possessed by everybody!

At the conclusion of this stimulating lecture the President drew members' attention to the forthcoming Journee des Suisses à l'Étranger, to be held at Baden on 30th and 31st August, and to the SAFFA Exhibition at Zurich. It is to be hoped that many Swiss from the U.K. will take part in the deliberations at Baden and also visit the SAFFA. At Baden details will be disclosed of the planned Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad and of the Ausland-Schweizer Kommission's Scheme for increased membership recruited from Swiss abroad.

As usual, no meetings will be held during July and August. *W.R.*

CONTINUING UPTREND IN SWISSAIR'S FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

Swissair report an increase in freight traffic of over 40 per cent for the first four months of 1958 compared with the same period a year previously. Freight tonne-kilometres performed from January to April this year totalled 5,961,806. A considerable part of the increase was due to the heavy demand for freight space on the Far East route.

In the first quarter of the year Swissair performed 4,457,325 freight tonne-kilometres, corresponding roughly to the company's freight traffic for the whole of 1953.

Freight traffic in Europe rose in the first quarter by 22 per cent over the same 1957 period; on the North Atlantic it increased by 17 per cent and on the South America route it was more than four times as great as a year previously. In Near and Middle East traffic, however, the volume of freight did not reach the level of the first quarter of 1957, which was exceptionally high because of the Suez crisis.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 11th July 1958. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: O. Wuest, Mrs. R. Hill, E. R. Cottet, A. Abplanalp, J. W. Frick, E. Chatelain, Paul Lehrian, A. Kiener, Carl Nater.

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