

Swiss Mercantile Society

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SWISS Y.M.C.A.

75th JUBILEE

Sunday, 5th May 1963, saw the celebration of a major event in the life of the Swiss Y.M.C.A., namely its 75th anniversary. This organization has done so very much to foster the spiritual and social well-being of young Swiss men who for work or study reasons come to this great city of London.

In its earliest beginnings the Swiss Y.M.C.A. was associated with the German group, under its President C. Klemm. In 1888 Rudolf Horner founded the Swiss section. With the outbreak of World War I, many members returned home, but it was still kept alive by the few that remained and was soon flourishing again. In 1921 Mr. Jean Scheuermeier became President and was destined to play an important part in the life of the organization, rendering to it 21 years of valuable and devoted service. In 1932 Mr. E. Wirz was appointed full-time Secretary for a couple of years. Attendance was somewhat hindered by the air-raids of the second world war, but meetings continued nevertheless. In 1943 Mr. Scheuermeier resigned, and Mr. W. Fischer was elected President. We moved to our present home at the London Central Y.M.C.A. in 1958, where our meetings are held every Thursday. The retirement of Mr. W. Fischer in 1962 on account of his returning to Switzerland was a great loss to us all, and he will long be remembered for his faithful work among us and his generous hospitality. At the general meeting held before Mr. Fischer's departure, both he and Mr. J. Scheuermeier were made honorary members and Mr. Strub was elected President. This brings us up to date with the 75th anniversary.

We started with the morning Church service at the "Schweizerkirche", St. Mary Woolnoth, in which the Rev. Wipf likened our life to that of a wanderer in the night, beset by dangers. He quoted Psalm 119, verse 105, in which we are told that "God's word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path". Jesus Christ is the word, and the light of the world, and the Bible is the map by which we are to find our way. The future of the Y.M.C.A., too, is guided by the same light which directs its members.

After the service we set out for the Glendower Hotel, where we had a most delicious meal, sponsored by the generosity of the members of the "August Conference" (Old Londoner) in Zurich. Those who had given of their

time and effort in arranging this occasion must be thanked for having done an excellent service. Everything went according to plan and the atmosphere was most friendly. The meal over, greeting cards were signed, to be sent to those friends not present. We then rose to enjoy the sunshine outside, in nearby Kensington Gardens, and re-assembled for tea, when we heard various speeches from guests, friends and members present, and greetings from friends in Switzerland. Many of those present had come specially from Switzerland to be with us on this great day, and excursions were later arranged for those visitors who were able to stay a few days longer.

We were honoured by the presence of Mr. A. Th. Dejung, President of the "August Conference", who brought greetings from home, and told us how the Association was founded and furthered by Faith. Mr. J. Scheuermeier, our former President, reminisced over the past, and told how he had attended the 25th and 50th anniversaries, and said how delighted he was to attend this, the 75th anniversary of an organization which had meant so much to him. Yet another former President, Mr. Sommer, was there, and also our only former full-time Secretary, Mr. E. Wirz. Greetings from the Swiss Ambassador were brought by M. Wm. Roch, First Secretary. The Central Y.M.C.A., the German Y.M.C.A. and the French-speaking Y.M.C.A. were represented. The Rev. Wipf and the Rev. Stüssi of the "Schweizerkirche" were there, too. It was with much regret that, for health reasons, Mr. W. Fischer could not be with us on this great day. He had devoted much of his life to the service of this organization, bringing young men to a better understanding of the Lord's word and His redeeming grace.

Much of the thanks for this most successful and enjoyable meeting must go to our President, Mr. W. Strub, who has always given such devoted and faithful leadership, leading young men to the light of salvation, through Jesus and the word of God. The meeting was closed with a word of prayer and a hymn.

I am sure all those present at the meeting would like to echo with me their thanks and appreciation to all those who helped so willingly to make this meeting such a joyous and pleasant occasion.

R. J. C. GERBER.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Society held its Monthly Meeting, which was well attended, at Swiss House on Wednesday, 15th May, with Mr. A. Jaccard presiding.

Sunday, 23rd June, was chosen as the most convenient date for the family outing by members' private cars to St. Albans (Cathedral and Roman Verulamium) and Hatfield House (seat of the Marquess of Salisbury). Luncheon at 9/- per head will be available at the Stonehouse Hotel, Barnet By-Pass, Hatfield. A detailed itinerary will be handed to those wishing to participate at the next Monthly Meeting or can be obtained from the Secretary (telephone MUSEum 2892 and 2894).

In his report on the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Vevey on 4th and 5th May, the Chairman stated that the London Section had been represented by himself, Messrs. W. Burren and R. Chappuis, and that Messrs. J. J. Boos

and L. W. Krucker were also present as guests of the Central Committee in their capacity of Honorary Members of the Central Society.

On the recommendation of the Central Committee, Mr. Heinz Büchi, Fondé de Pouvoirs of Swissair in charge of their data processing, had been elected to the office of Central President in succession to Mr. Carl Strickler, who had passed away earlier in the year. At the relatively young age of 36, Mr. Büchi had thus become head of an organisation with a membership of some 70,000. In his previous capacity of 2nd Vice-President he had, however, given ample proof of his capabilities and it was confidently expected that he would give a new impetus to the association in the difficult times ahead.

The Chairman then went on to give details of some of the highlights of the meeting, such as the measures

proposed for dealing with inflation, the creation of a fund for the payment of sickness benefits, medical and pharmaceutical expenses, etc.

Of particular interest was the report on the activities of the Commercial Employment Service by its new manager, Mr. Stephan Baumgartner, who had stated that at the end of August 1962 there had been 645,000 foreign workers with temporary permits in Switzerland, almost 100,000 more than at the same time in 1961. To this number had to be added their dependants and other foreigners with residential permits, which gave some idea of the immensity of the employment problems in Switzerland.

The Chairman concluded his report by conveying greetings to all our members from the chief officers of the association, several of whom were expected at the 75th anniversary celebrations of the London Section in October next.

Following the official business, a most interesting talk on "The Administration of Criminal Justice" was given by a Barrister-at-Law, who, in keeping with professional etiquette, shall remain anonymous.

Dealing with investigations into crime, the formation of juries, identification, etc., the speaker went on to outline the procedure at Magistrates', County and Central Criminal (Old Bailey) Courts. He quoted numerous examples to illustrate how different crimes are dealt with and the difficulties with which the law-officers have to grapple in the administration of justice.

Although many offenders could, unfortunately, not be brought to book, the speaker maintained that the old adage, "crime does not pay", still held good and jocularly advised those present to stick to their present occupations.

The keen interest of the audience in the subject was evinced by the numerous questions put to the speaker. These he answered exhaustively as well as authoritatively, tinged with a great deal of good humour.

In a cordial vote of thanks, Mr. A. C. Stahelin, Hon. Member, expressed the feelings of all present when he stated that this had been one of the most interesting and fascinating talks ever delivered at Swiss House.

W.B.

A DATE TO REMEMBER: 8th JULY NEXT

On Monday, 8th July, there will be a concert by "Les Mouettes", the Vaudois Choir from Morges, and the folkloristic group, "Le Vegnolan", of La Tour-de-Peilz. They will be on their way to the Eisteddfod in Wales and have generously offered to entertain the Swiss Colony in London. There will be singing and dancing, and music by a country dance band.

The artists will perform at the theatre of the Institut Français, Queensberry Place, South Kensington, S.W.7, from 6.30 to 8 p.m. under the auspices of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group), and it is hoped that the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker will be present. Further details will be announced in the next issue of the "Swiss Observer".

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will appear on 28th June. We shall be glad to receive manuscripts and reports not later than Wednesday, 19th June, and short news items by 21st June.

PERSONAL

We announce with deep regret the deaths of Mrs. M. Gerber, of 43 Hervey Close, Finchley, N.3, of Mr. E. Rognon, 350 Chichester Road, Bognor-Regis, Sussex, and of Mr. W. Niggli, 44 Chessington Avenue, Finchley, N.3. We extend our deep sympathy to their families.

* * *

Mr. Charles H. Willi, of 19 Seymour Street, London W.1, at present at Villa Carlemont, Bella Vista, Saint-Tropez (Var.) France, will be celebrating his eightieth birthday on 22nd June. We send him our hearty congratulations and many happy returns of the day.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les *dimanches* à 11h00 et 18h30. L'Eglise est ouverte le dimanche: pour le lunch l'après-midi et le soir; le *lundi* soir: dès 18h30; le *jeudi*: dès 15h00 et le soir.

PASTEUR: Ph. Nicole, 7 Park View Road, N.3; téléphone FINchley 5281.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: At St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, Bank, E.C.3, every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

PFARRER: P. K. Wipf, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone: MOU 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE: St. ANN's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS: Holy Masses at 8, 9 and 11 a.m. with sermon in English 6 p.m. with sermon in German and French.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION: Holy Masses at 7.30 and 9 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEEKDAYS: Holy Mass at 7.30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS in German, French and Italian:

EVERY SUNDAY 1 hour before Evening Mass.

EVERY SATURDAY from 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.

Every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

Every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

At any other time by appointment.

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Joseph Scherer, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: ABBey 2895.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

11 Belsize Grove, London, N.W.3.

(Nearest Underground Station: Belsize Park)

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment

Telephone: PRImrose 4260