

# Distinguished visitors

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of over forty voluntary helpers. Some sixty articles were written for the Swiss press, and records reveal that over 200 articles, communiqués, corrections, etc., were sent to the British press during the first two years. The Group subscribed to sixteen periodicals and was sent free of charge another twenty-five. Within the two years, the library grew to over 300 volumes.

The Group worked in close co-operation with the authorities at home and the Swiss organisations in the United Kingdom. The British Government gave them all facilities with regard to censorship, war time travelling and documentation, and invited members to join journalists in their visits to the industrial front, internment camps, etc. Amongst the records of the N.S.H. is a letter from John Buchan at the Foreign Office, in which he says "I am particularly glad to see that while your Society wishes to cultivate a strong national Swiss spirit, it also intends to do all that is possible to bring about a complete understanding between the British and Swiss peoples".

Activities of the Group included efforts in favour of University Exchanges, finding Swiss correspondents for English papers, the formation of a study commission on economic and commercial questions (in conjunction with the S.M.S.), of founding other N.S.H. Groups, etc. And finally, it was instrumental in creating in Switzerland the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.

The work done in those early years was of vital importance to Switzerland. To what extent the authorities in Switzerland appreciated the activities of the London Group of the N.S.H. and its Secretary was reflected in the fact that the Federal Military Department in Berne granted Dr. Laett exemption from military service, an unusual concession at that time.

In 1919, a few influential members of the N.S.H. and the City Swiss Club gathered round Mr. Paul F. Boehringer of the Frederick Printing Company and launched the project of a new paper for the whole Swiss Colony in Great Britain. The "Swiss Observer" came into being, and Dr. Laett was invited to be the first Editor, an honorary office which he could combine with his work as Secretary of the N.S.H.

That then was the beginning of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Its founders were united by "la malice du temps". They left a great and solid foundation which, though shaken during a difficult period after the last war, was strong enough to survive. For the founders, the group's activities were a means of growing closer to the national, cultural, moral and intellectual life of Switzerland, of strengthening the image of the homeland in the British Isles.

The Society today is different as are the circumstances in which its work is being carried on. In many ways it is more difficult, but the ideals are the same.

#### PRO HELVETICA DIGNITATE AC SECURITATE MM

*We have since been informed by Mr. J. Zimmermann that the above-mentioned study group on economic questions was started by the Swiss Mercantile Society in conjunction with the City Swiss Club already in 1915. Later, the N.S.H. took an active part in the Commission's work which was mainly to study the desirability of a Swiss Chamber of Commerce. The outcome was the appointment of a Commercial Attaché at the Swiss Legation.*

*The Commission carried on until 1918. Mr. Zimmermann was its Secretary and a founder member of the N.S.H. We should be glad to hear from any other founder members still alive.*

#### APPOINTMENTS

The Federal Council has appointed Minister Dr. Paul Jolles, Delegate for Trade Agreements, as Director of the *Eidgenössische Handelsabteilung*;

Minister Dr. iur. Albert Weitnauer as Delegate for Trade Agreements and Special Missions, with the title of Ambassador;

Ambassador Anton Ganz (USSR) as Ambassador to Algeria;

Dr. August Lindt (Delegate for Technical Co-operation) as Ambassador to USSR;

Ambassador Marcuard (Algeria) as Delegate for Technical Co-operation at the Federal Political Department;

Monsieur Henri Monfrini (Regional Representative for UNO Development Programme in Gabon and Central African Republic) as Ambassador to the Ivory Coast;

Ambassador Jean Humbert (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador) has also been accredited to Panama;

Consul-General Othmar Rist (Istanbul) as Consul-General in Bombay;

Consul Fritz Albrecht (Bregenz) as Consul-General in Istanbul;

Dr. Georg Stucki (resident in Libya) as Honorary Consul at the new Swiss Consulate in Tripolis;

Federal Judge André Panchaud as Swiss representative at the International Court in the Hague, in succession to Prof. Georges Sauserhall;

Dipl. Ing. agr. Friedrich Friedli, Schaffhausen, as new Director of the Trafipro Co-operative Society in Rwanda;

Charles Hummel as General Secretary of the Swiss UNESCO Commission at the EPD.

The new American Ambassador to Switzerland is Mr. John S. Hayes (O.B.E. and other war decorations), journalist by profession, President of the Executive Committee of "Washington Post".

Hans Haeberli, Herzogenbuchsee well-known aviation pioneer has been made a General of the Bolivian Air Force. [A.T.S.]

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Among many distinguished visitors to Switzerland during the past couple of months were the President of the Republic of Liberia, Mr. Tubman, and the Israeli President of State Mr. Salman Shasar. Various Ministers also visited Switzerland, the Israeli Foreign and PTT Ministers, the Under Secretary of State of the Italian Foreign Ministry and the Danish Minister of Culture. The British Minister of State Roy Mason visited the Nuclex Exhibition in Basle and the British Carpet Exhibition in Zurich. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Mr. Peter Smithers paid an official visit to Berne, and the Mayor of Rotterdam honoured Basle with a visit. Parliamentary delegations of the German *Bundestag*, the Bavarian *Landtag* and 175 Mayors from Baden went to Switzerland, the latter group to the Thurgau.

Two high dignitaries of the German Church spent a holiday at Pontresina, Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, and *Weihbischof* Cleven from Cologne. Cardinal Beran, Archbishop of Prague, visited several Swiss towns, whilst the Archbishop of Tripolis and the Lebanon spent a short visit at Crans. The Italian philanthropist and social reformer Danilo Dolci visited Switzerland earlier in the summer. Thirty-five sons and daughters of Japanese hotel owners have spent three months as *stagiaires* in Swiss hotels. [A.T.S.]