

# A departure

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(WB)

### A DEPARTURE

Once again, the Swiss community in London has to say farewell to dear friends. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Boller, of "Aberdare", Cross Road, Tadworth, Surrey, are leaving for Switzerland.

Mr. Boller was born at Agasul,

Zurich, on 8th May, 1899. He went to primary and secondary schools at Illnau in his home Canton and to the *Ecole Supérieure de Commerce* in Neuchâtel.

After his apprenticeship with Volkart Brothers, Winterthur, he was transferred to Bombay and spent 12 years in India. On his return to Switzerland in 1931, he worked with a firm of building contractors and later joined the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade (OSEC).

In 1940, the Swiss Federal War Transport Office called in Mr. Boller to help with the organisation of their Sea Transport Section, a most responsible task. He rendered invaluable services to Switzerland in provisioning the country during the war. At the end of the war, Alfred Boller was invited

by the International Red Cross to go to Greece as Vice-President of the *Commission Mixte pour les Secours en Grèce*. He returned to Switzerland in 1945 and joined the *Société Generale de Surveillance S.A.* Soon he was sent abroad again, this time as Director of their subsidiary in the United Kingdom, Cargo Superintendents (London). He became Chairman in 1966.

In 1927, he married Miss Elisabeth Escher, and the happy couple had two sons. She will be remembered with affection and respect by many, for she did a great deal of unselfish and devoted work in the Swiss community. Her death in 1957 was a great blow. But Mr. Boller's many friends were delighted when, in 1960, he married Miss Marguerite Frey from Lausanne. Together they have been taking part in

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the life of the Swiss community in London. Mr. Boller has been a member of many Swiss societies, including the Economic Council, N.S.H., City Swiss Club, S.M.S. He and his wife also belong to the Swiss Church, and at one time, he ran the service for Swiss children's annual holidays in Switzerland, the "Pro Juventute" scheme now operated by Mrs. Kaluza.

Now the Bollers are retiring to Switzerland, and we shall miss them. But Mr. Boller's love of travelling will ensure frequent visits to Great Britain, we hope, where both of them leave behind not only many friends, but also a little bit of their hearts. Many happy years to come!

(MM)

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

On 18th May, Mr. and Mrs. R. Senn will celebrate their Silver Wedding. On 20th May, Mr. Adolf Haengi, of Crofton, Yorkshire, will be 80 years old. Mr. W. Schedler will be 67 on 24th, and Mr. F. Burgunder (Los Angeles), has his birthday on 29th May. Monsieur l'Ambassadeur A. Weitnauer will celebrate his birthday on 30th May, and on the same day, Mr. A. Zullig will be 64. On 9th June, Mr. E. Gysin (Basle) will be 81, and on 11th June, Miss R. Preiswerk (Basle) will be 66. Dr. Erika Sutter (Northern Transvaal) will have her birthday on 14th June.

Many happy returns and best wishes!

## "DANGERS FACING SWITZERLAND FROM WITHIN AND FROM OUTSIDE"

### Forthcoming Open Meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique

All Swiss and their friends are invited to hear a lecture by Dr. Albert Hunold, on "Dangers facing Switzerland from within and from outside". It will be given (in English) on Thursday, 20th May, at 7.45 p.m. at the

Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

Dr. Hunold is a distinguished writer and lecturer of repute, having given many lecture tours in several countries, a number of them in the USA, once as a Rockefeller Fellow. He studied in Zurich, Geneva and at London University and London School of Economics. Having taken degrees in natural sciences and mathematics, as well as in economics, Dr. Hunold followed a successful career in banking. He was also Delegate of the Swiss Institute for Foreign Research and is President of the Wilhelm Roepke Foundation. His writings include books on "Economic Freedom as International Problem", "Swiss Labour Peace", "The Free World in the Cold War", "Freedom and Serfdom—an Anthology of Western Thought", etc. The evening promises to be extremely interesting.

## NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE APRIL MEETING

Members of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique heard the Central President of the movement, Mr. Jean Claude Nicole, speak on its meaning and prospects. His talk was in a melodious and limpid French and reverberated with hope and idealism. He spoke primarily on the future role of the NSH, and this led him to examine what the future could bring to Switzerland.

He reviewed the present political and moral state of the country. He referred to planning and environment and emphasised the importance of *Prospective*, a French term describing the science of future possibilities. Mankind, he said, was now in a position to control its own future to a greater extent. Modern man could avoid allowing his descendants to be the victims of his own mistakes if only he took the trouble of investigating the consequences of his acts and decisions. In this respect, the national vote on federal land planning of 1969 was a vital and necessary step. In the course of his exposé, Mr. Nicole came to mention many startling facts.

For example, the proportion of foreigners among the Swiss population was higher in 1914, when the NSH was founded, than it is today. But its composition was different. Nowadays the great majority of foreigners settled in Switzerland are working people; before the first world war they were a kind of elite. Another interesting fact mentioned by Mr. Nicole was the influence of communal belonging in polling attendance. A survey in Geneva had shown that 53.5 per cent of citizens hailing from the town went to the polls in a particular year, 45.5 per cent of other French-speaking Swiss and only 38.6 per cent of the German Swiss. These figures had a bearing on the development of communal democracy. Owing to the migration of population within the country, many Swiss no longer lived in their commune of origin, or indeed had never lived there. These conditions put a strain on the survival of an active local democracy.

Mr. Nicole's talk was followed by a number of questions. It was a particularly interesting evening. (PMB)

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CITY SWISS CLUB Card Evening on Tuesday, 25th May, 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester. Annual Summer Dance at the "Thatched Barn" on Friday, 25th June.

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD. Last weekend of August at Brunnen on Lake Lucerne. Please apply early to the Auslandschweizersekretariat, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne.

HEBDEN BRIDGE LANDGEMEINDE. Third Sunday of June at Hebden Bridge.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. Thursday, 20th May at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. Talk by Dr. A. Hunold on the "Dangers facing Switzerland from within and from outside".

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. Forthcoming meetings at Bisley: 23rd May and 6th June.

Cultural Event: 20th May—27th June, Hodler-Boecklin Exhibition at the Hayward Gallery.

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