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(Voir sur les droits de Douanes en Grande-Bretagne notre communication économique parue dans la Feuille Officielle Suisse du Commerce du 27 mars 1920.)

Jusqu'ici, et malgré plusieurs réclamations, les bracelets de métal (bracelets extensibles), même s'ils étaient importés à part avaient toujours été considérés par les Autorités douanières britanniques, comme partie intégrante de la montre et frappés également du droit de 33½%.

A la suite d'une décision récente de la Cour de l'Echiquier de la Haute Cour d'Ecosse (Exchequer Court of the High Court of Scotland) dans l'affaire Bercott contre le Lord Avocat, les Commissaires britanniques des Douanes viennent de porter à la connaissance des intéressés que les bracelets de métal pour montres de poignet (metal bracelets for wristlet watches) importés séparément ne sont pas considérés, à l'importation, comme susceptibles d'être frappés d'un droit de douane.

Dans les cas où le bracelet et la montre forment, lors de leur importation, un article complet, la partie bracelet n'est pas non plus considérée comme imposable, et, dans la fixation du droit de douane, sa valeur est déduite de la valeur de la montre complète.

### GLEANINGS FROM THE ENGLISH PRESS.

An exhaustive monthly report on the comments of the British Press about Switzerland is regularly published in the "Anglo-Swiss Review." Here we can only record very briefly a few of the more notable articles:—

*The Economist* (11/12) and others quoting from the "Rapport sur le Commerce et l'Industrie de la Suisse," published by the Vorort, give the following statistics on Anglo-Swiss trade:

Exports from Great Britain to Switzerland. (In Million Francs.)				
1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
112.0	159.5	269.2	247.7	363.0
Exports from Switzerland to Great Britain. (In Million Francs.)				
1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
355.1	424.0	361.5	268.6	347.1

*Engineer* (3/12) and others:

"The Swiss Government, which has been exploring for iron ore deposits for several years, has discovered one of about 1,500 acres in the Frick valley. According to a contemporary, some 15,000,000 tons have been estimated, with less than half of the deposit explored. A furnace plant is to be established, with the State as part owner. Electrical smelting will be employed, with a saving, it is anticipated, of nearly three-fourths of the coke burnt in ordinary furnaces."

*The Times* (11/12) and others report the failure of the Picard-Pictet Company, loss 24,000,000 francs:

"It is understood that the motor works are definitely closed, but that Vickers will take over the turbine branch. Share capital of 10 million francs (£450,000), of which Vickers have a considerable proportion, is lost. Further heavy losers are the Swiss Bank Corporation and other Swiss banks and private industrialists."

*The Board of Trade Journal*, *Electrical Review* (3/12) and others advise exporters to conform to the business

methods of the client, quoting from a report of the British Consul at Berne:

"A complaint increasingly raised is that offers from the United Kingdom are made in British money, measures, weight, etc., the British manufacturers leaving all the trouble of calculating, and all the risk of loss by exchange, to their would-be customers. This trouble and risk should be assumed by the sellers, not by the buyers, if the offers are to lead to business."

*The Daily Express* (14/12) learns that an American army expert will arrive at Dübendorf by air from Coblenz on an official mission for his Government to try Mr. Birger's invention which completely suppresses the noise of aeroplanes. "If the trials are satisfactory he will buy the patent, since the Swiss Government refuses to grant a subsidy to the invention."

*The Daily Herald* (14/12): "The Congress of the Swiss Socialist Party discussed the dictatorship of the proletariat, and passed by 274 votes to 9 a resolution couched in moderate terms to the effect that the political power of the working classes shall be exercised under the form of a dictatorship of the proletariat. The revised programme was then adopted unanimously."

*The Times Literary Supplement* (25/11) contains an excellent article on *Carl Spitteler*, by Dr. Paul Lang, a member of our colony. The same paper on the 9th December reviewed favourably *Schweizer Literatur Briefe*, by E. Corrodi, literary editor of the N.Z.Z. In another column we find an exhaustive article on *The Life of Horace Benedict de Saussure*, by Douglas W. Freshfield, the well-known Alpinist.

*Nature* (9/12) reviews N. Brunie's book "*Le Parc National Suisse*."

In various numbers of *The Daily News* a lively correspondence has been carried on about Swiss elementary schools, which are pointed out as model institutions.

*The Illustrated London News* (4/12) contains Spitteler's portrait and a eulogy of the winner of the Nobel prize.

Illustrated papers in general are full of Swiss views and alluring prospects of fine winter sports.

*Pro Helvetia*, *English Herald*, *Anglo-Swiss Review* are publishing special winter sport numbers.

*The Westminster Gazette* even publishes the daily weather reports of the Swiss meteorological bureau.

*The Manchester Guardian Commercial* (weekly) reserves a full page to industrial Switzerland. This most interesting review is written by Mr. A. Carroll, who has just succeeded Mr. J. Cameron as editor of the *Anglo-Swiss Review*.

*World's Work* (November) has a powerful plea in favour of the free Rhine, by Mr. S. T. James. From Hansard we report the Prime Minister's reply to Mr. Gilbert's question on the British Government's attitude re the free Rhine:

"Article 358 of the Treaty of Peace with Germany, which, while giving France the right to take water from the Rhine, provides that the exercise of this right shall not intervene with navigation and that all proposed hydro-technical schemes shall be laid for approval before the Central Commission of the Rhine. The Central Commission includes representatives of Great Britain, whose attention has been directed to the considerations mentioned by the Hon. Member."

Various papers record the remarkable progress made in Switzerland on the field of electrification of industry and transport. *The Railway Gazette* (13/12) holds that the motor lorry is becoming a serious competitor of the railways:

"Lausanne, to take one Swiss town only, has already discovered that within a radius of about 30 miles or slightly more it is cheaper to send heavy goods by van than by rail."

*Schweizerland* has a special number in French on navigation on the Rhine.

The new pamphlet in English, *The Free Rhine*, by Mr. Gelpke, is being distributed by the Verein für Schifffahrt auf dem Oberrhein.

A pretty little pamphlet on *Geneva, the seat of the League of Nations*, has been issued by the Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva Branch.

## LIFE AND WORK OF THE COLONY.

### CITY SWISS CLUB—ANNUAL DINNER.

We are now able to publish a more complete account of the speech of our Minister, M. Ch. R. Paravicini, and to give in full those of Mr. P. F. Boehringer, President of the City Swiss Club, and Mr. G. Dimier, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

M. CH. R. PARAVICINI, SWISS MINISTER: The Swiss Minister, after having referred to the old tradition of the City Swiss Club to extend their hospitality to all Swiss citizens, whether residing in the United Kingdom or coming to London on a temporary mission, said that in spite of the difficult times we are living in, there is no reason for discouragement. If we all do our duty and our work as our country expects us to do it, we shall see—in any case, our children will see—that better times will not fail to follow, thanks to our endurance and to the confidence and energy of those of our countrymen, either abroad or in Switzerland, who are determined to preserve our old Republic as the country of order and liberty.

M. Paravicini then pointed out that in the course of the last summer some of the most prominent Swiss have visited this country. For six months M. Calonder, President of the Confederation in 1918, took his residence in London in order to study English politics and the practice of English law. He was on more than one occasion the guest of the City Swiss Club, before he left London in October, on a mission of the League of Nations in connection with the Aaland Islands. M. Paravicini said that it was of special comfort to all of us to know that M. Calonder had thoroughly regained his health, which, towards the end of last year, had greatly suffered from the tremendous overstrain to which he had been exposed during the war and after the armistice in his difficult position of Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs. Every Swiss knows, he said, what a great deal M. Calonder has done for our country and that it was he to whom, no doubt, in the last instance, is due the fact that Switzerland joined the League of Nations and has to-day the honour to act as hostess to the General Assembly. He was certain that at any moment this eminent statesman with large views and a generous heart would answer the call of his country whenever it appealed for his help.

M. Paravicini then spoke about M. Gustave Ador, who had been in London on various occasions in connection with questions referring to the entry of Switzerland into the

League of Nations. It is due to M. Ador that the neutrality of Switzerland has been accepted as an established principle and recognised as being in the interest of all nations. There was no need to insist upon the merits of our great countryman. All Swiss, and not only the Swiss, know what he has done, not only for his country, but for the whole world.

To both these men, whom Switzerland has long ago honoured by bestowing upon them the highest distinctions, the City Swiss Club may be allowed to send on this occasion a heartfelt and patriotic message of gratitude.

The Swiss Minister then was glad to have an opportunity, in presence of that representative assembly of the Swiss colony, to express his thanks to Mr. Castelli, Chief Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London, and to Mr. Palliser, official adviser to the Swiss Government on various special questions. He said that each of the two gentlemen, who were that night the guests of honour of the Club, had deserved in the largest way the thanks of all the Swiss of this country, Mr. Castelli by lending us his much appreciated assistance, technical and material, during and after the war, Mr. Palliser by obtaining on numerous occasions considerable facilities for Switzerland on the part of the British Government. Concluding, the Swiss Minister said that all British may be assured that we, the Swiss living on the soil covered by the Union Jack, will never fail to appreciate the kind and fair spirit in which we are always received by this great people.

MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER, PRESIDENT OF THE CITY SWISS CLUB: "Monsieur le Ministre, Mesdames, Messieurs et chers Compatriotes, c'est la première fois que m'échoit l'honneur, en qualité de Président du City Swiss Club, de prendre la parole au banquet traditionnel annuel, qui réunit aujourd'hui dans ce cadre aussi brillant que sympathique, un nombre considérable de nos Confédérés de Londres. Ce n'est donc pas sans une émotion bien compréhensible que je vous demande de me prêter votre attention durant quelques instants et de me faire l'objet de votre bienveillante indulgence.

"Je voudrais tout d'abord retracer rapidement la vie de notre Club au cours de la longue et douloureuse époque que nous venons de traverser, et qui n'a pas encore fait place à l'Eden de paix et de concorde aperçu un instant, au moment de l'armistice, comme un rayon de soleil à travers un nuage. Au lieu du ciel brillant et joyeux que nos désirs étaient en droit d'attendre, nous nous trouvons dans une ère de reconstruction hérissée de difficultés économiques, de frictions politiques, de guerres non ou mal éteintes, de mouvements sociaux inquiétants.

"Aujourd'hui que nous sommes, en Suisse, en tout ou en partie, libérés de ces dures épreuves, nous rendons grâce au Très-Haut, qui nous a si merveilleusement protégés dans cette débâcle mondiale, et nous adressons un hommage ému à la mémoire de tous ceux qui ont sacrifié leur vie pour leur pays.

"Pour des raisons de sentiment, du reste fort naturelles, et sur lesquelles il serait donc vain de m'étendre, le Club a cessé, depuis 1914, d'organiser des banquets annuels dans le genre de celui-ci. Mais, à l'effet de garder entre compatriotes, le même contact étroit et confiant que celui qui nous réunissait avant la guerre, le Club a organisé des soirées moins solennelles, plus modestes, où tous les cœurs pensaient d'autant plus à la patrie qu'elle avait été à plusieurs reprises en face de problèmes embarrassants, tels que la conflagration européenne, la mobilisation générale qui en fut chez nous la conséquence, et les lourdes chaînes mises à son commerce et à son industrie, entravés depuis