

Des bienfaits de l'illusion à Ashtead

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but because a general idea lay behind the policy pursued by England. She, like Switzerland, has a strong interest in the equal distribution of power on the Continent. She, like Switzerland, is happiest when the influences of the different Continental Powers are fairly evenly balanced. But we must constantly bear in mind that the subtle machinations of diplomatists are at all times deeply influenced by the more irrational tendencies by which the bulk of the peoples are animated. If we have found that there is a material reason for the friendship of England towards Switzerland, let us live according to our insight, let us consciously foster this friendship, which is to our mutual benefit, each of us according to our capacity.

**LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE
GROUPE LONDONIEN.**

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31st.
(Communicated.)

1. Three members were admitted, and notice was taken of two resignations.

2. The President read out several communications:—

- (a) No support was given to the appeal of the Swiss Football and Athletic Association to contribute towards their expenses when competing in London, as this Association received a contribution from us last year which was pooled for this year's events, the competition not having taken place last year.
- (b) A report from Dr. Latt, dealing with the proceedings of the last meeting of the shareholders of the "Neue Schweizer Zeitung," was heard.
- (c) The Committee was asked to deal, in agreement with Mr. Georges Dimier, with an appeal from the Society "Pro Juventute," requesting us to act as their representative in England.
- (d) Circular 29 of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger was read. It deals with the collaboration between the Swiss Abroad and the Bureau Industriel Suisse. This Bureau wants to find contributors amongst the Swiss abroad likely to write regularly for their economic Bulletin about the market conditions. Apply to the Secretary of the N.S.H.

3. The Secretary made a few communications on his press activity. He has published articles about Spitteler and Othmar Schoeck (International Festivals). A contribution of his to the "Saturday Review," in answer to two articles about Switzerland which had appeared in that periodical, was widely commented upon and was copied by "The Swiss Observer" (No. 46) and by the "Anglo-Swiss Review" (May issue).

The Secretary will pay a visit to Bradford, Liverpool and Manchester between June 7th and 9th.

4. In connection with press reports about the Day for Swiss Abroad at Basle on April 24th, the following resolution was adopted:—

"The Council of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, after having gone through the different press reports referring to the Fifth Day for Swiss Abroad of the Swiss Sample Fair at Basle, congratulate the S.S.E. heartily on the great success this gathering has proved to be.

"They would invite the Secrétariat of the S.S.E. to take into account the recommendation made by Felix Moeschlin in the 'National Zeitung' of April 25th re the advisability of preparing some kind of exhibition at the Basle Fair next year of a nature to enlighten the Swiss people and the home authorities with regard to the different kinds of activities of the Swiss abroad.

"The Council of the London Group wants in this connection to express its wish that the necessary arrangements will be made for travelling facilities earlier and more extensively next year in order that the Swiss abroad may be informed of them in good time and avail themselves of the advantages."

5. The President made a few communications with regard to our activity on behalf of the participation of the Swiss Colony in London in the Hyde Park Demonstration of June 24th, as planned by the League of Nations Union. Professor E. Borel will speak on the International Platform about Switzerland and the League of Nations. The Secretary is waiting for replies from the Swiss Societies with regard to the delegations they are willing to send to the procession.

6. The Secretary gave a report on a Joint Meeting of the Central Committee and the Committee for the Swiss Abroad of the N.S.H. which took place in Basle on April 23rd and which discussed mainly the likely position of potential groups in the United States within the organisation of the Swiss Abroad of the N.S.H. In reply to a request made by the S.S.E. the Council discussed the problem and came to the following resolution:—

"We are of opinion that, whenever the case of accepting a group consisting of Swiss living in the United States arises, the meeting of delegates should allow such a group to accept as regular members Swiss citizens having taken out the first naturalisation papers; that it be allowed, however, to accept only as passive members Swiss citizens having acquired the second naturalisation papers."

Dr. PAUL LANG,
Secretary.

London, June 3rd, 1922.

P.S.—Members are reminded that next Council Meeting, to which they are all invited, will take place on June 21st at 7.30 p.m. at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. The next gathering of the Society will be a business meeting with a social, preceded by a dinner, and will be held on September 13th.

DES BIENFAITS DE L'ILLUSION A ASHTEAD.

"C'est comme la Suisse, comme le Jura! Tenez, voilà les Alpes, là-bas, dans la brume légère qui voile l'horizon... Si vous aviez été à Ashtead. Lundi, avec les 84 Confédérés groupés sous l'égide de l'Eglise Suisse, c'est ce que vous auriez pu entendre plus d'une fois ce matin-là. Eh quoi, il fait bon vivre parfois un moment d'illusions, oublier un peu l'asphalte de la grande ville, le bruit des rues de Londres, pour se plonger dans les délices de la campagne silencieuse.

Que ces "commons" d'Epsom et d'Ashtead étaient beaux! Des buissons d'aubépine blanche et rose s'étalaient encore au soleil leur floraison merveilleuse, et la longue file claire qui serpentait parmi eux humait avec bonheur ces parfums printaniers. Puis, farandole légère, elle vint camper sous l'immense chêne dont la frondaison superbe domine tout le bois.

Qui dira tout le charme d'un picnic pris au vert, dans la douce lumière de la forêt, entre amis! On se croyait en course au pays: toujours l'illusion... Mais elle fut complète lorsque, en demi-cercle, nous fîmes monter au ciel, de toutes nos voix, les beaux chants de la patrie absente. L'un après l'autre, ils éclatèrent vibrants, disant tout notre attachement pour elle, toute notre foi en elle, en Lui aussi qui la protège.

Et puis ce furent, tout comme chez nous ensemble occurence, les jeux joyeux et gais qui sièent à la jeunesse: ils y passèrent tous, colin-maillard, polonaise, saute-mouton même. Et quand la lassitude vint, avant d'aller se reconforter par un thé bien mérité, ce furent les productions individuelles de rigueur, sans préjudice de nouveaux jeux dans la prairie, une fois qu'on se fut restauré.

Mais tout a une fin. Quand le soleil baissa à l'horizon, force fut bien de songer au retour et l'illusion d'un jour de fête au pays fut décidément complète: les trains étaient bondés, ils avaient beaucoup de retard, et l'on y chantait!... Oh délices de l'imagination! Nous te bénissons de nous avoir transportés, pour 2/9... presque au pays!... JY. FUS.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le **MARDI 13 JUIN**, au Restaurant **Nuthall** à **Kingston-on-Thames**, et sera précédée d'un souper familier à 6.30 heures (sh. 6/6 par couvert).

Cet avis tient lieu de convocation. Tous ceux désirant y participer sont invités à s'annoncer en temps utile au Trésorier, **M. G. Dimier**, 46, Cannon Street, E.C. 4 (Téléphone: Central 1321).

Les dames seront les bienvenues car l'on dansera après l'assemblée.

Ordre du Jour.

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|----------------|-------------|
| Procès-verbal. | Démissions. |
| Admissions. | Divers. |