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work of a similar character to the present it is clear that he has supplied a long-felt want.

Mr. Waldvogel gives in the first part of his book an interesting historical sketch of Anglo-Swiss relations, political, literary and economic, which forms an important introduction to the study of conditions governing the two countries at the present day. The many interesting statistical tables included in this part of the book give a pleasant picture of the pre-war condition of Anglo-Swiss trade—the good old days before the advent of chaotic exchanges and prohibition tariffs.

In a table of exports from Switzerland to England (given on page 141) we see the enormous increase in the figures for all commodities exported between 1892 and 1912. Mr. Waldvogel is of the opinion that this remarkable progress in business with Great Britain during the twenty years preceding the war was due chiefly to the Free Trade policy of the English, particularly as during this period other countries were adopting an exaggerated policy of protection.

Interesting as is this historical sketch, the concluding section of Mr. Waldvogel's book dealing with the economic relations of Great Britain and Switzerland during and after the war will be found to be the most important part of the whole work. It must have been a difficult task to dive into the mass of archives—official and otherwise—in order to obtain an idea of the effects of the war on the economic conditions of the two countries. We are thankful to have had such a competent author as Mr. Waldvogel to spare us this task! Mr. Waldvogel deals at length, but without ever becoming wearisome, on the war measures affecting the commercial relations of Switzerland and Great Britain. He shows the disastrous effects of the modifications in the English tariff system (which practically put an end to the regime of Free Trade) on the Swiss export business. Speaking, for instance, of the duty on watches, the author states that in the watchmaking centres the greatest consternation reigned on receipt of the news of its introduction and the *ad valorem* duties on motor-cars and their accessories, musical instruments and other goods were equally serious in their effects. Instead of improving, these conditions grew worse apparently—"certificates of origin and interest," "contingents d'exportation"—every kind of stumbling block in the way of Anglo-Swiss trade: it must have appeared that an edifice which had taken so many years to erect was to be destroyed for ever.

In September, 1918, Great Britain imposed a prohibition on the import of "articles de luxe"—ce qui provoqua une crise très grave dans les centres industriels zurichois et saint-gallois. Swiss manufacturers were menaced with the total loss of their English clientèle, and a situation was created which recalled in many aspects that of the blockade of the Continent by Napoleon a hundred years before. It was not until after the signing of the Armistice that a gradual suppression of these war measures occurred.

The author treats of this difficult period of Anglo-Swiss relationship in a very sympathetic manner, realizing, no doubt, the unprecedented conditions with which the two countries had to contend at that time. He gives a section of the book to the "S.S.S." (Société Suisse de surveillance économique), and another of great interest deals with the imports into Great Britain of aniline dyes from Switzerland during the war. Dealing with this subject, the President of the Bradford Dyers Association said in 1916, "Had it not been for the dye we received from the Swiss makers, I dare not contemplate what our position would have been during the past eighteen months. They

have placed this country under a great obligation, which may in some degree be met by giving them after the war what they have so fully earned—our continual support and encouragement."

Mr. Waldvogel does not omit from his work an account of the conditions of what may be considered as an important industry—the tourist traffic in Switzerland. He gives us figures which show us the sad falling-off in the number of English travellers from 1913 to 1920. English summer visitors to Lucerne, for example, numbered in 1913 20,318, in 1918 only 364, and in 1920 4,759. With the renewed facilities for travel which have been introduced recently, and the abolition of petty and vexatious formalities, such as passport visas, "permis de séjour," etc., we may hope to see more normal conditions in the near future.

A section of this book which will greatly interest Swiss residents in England deals with the activities of the Swiss Colony and of the important part it has played in the economic relations of the two countries, the various Swiss Clubs and Societies, and the Anglo-Swiss press have rendered such valuable assistance to the business relationship of the two countries that they well deserve the detailed notice which they receive in this volume.

After dealing with the important question of the opening up of the Rhine for purposes of transit for English and Swiss goods, Mr. Waldvogel devotes his concluding section to the future prospects for business between Great Britain and Switzerland, and gives advice which should be of value to both British and Swiss merchants in their business relationships.

To sum up—this is a book which in its lucid exposition of important and complicated questions should prove indispensable not only to men of business in England and Switzerland, but also to all who hold the interests of the two countries at heart.

## LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

Pending preparation of a full report by the N.S.H. Secretariat, we are publishing in the meantime the impressions gathered at the meeting by one of our correspondents:—

General assemblies are more wont to be of a gloomy than of an inspiring nature, but last Friday's Annual Meeting of the N.S.H. was an exception from the rule. Two special factors brought about this happy result: the uplifting spirit of the presidential report and the satisfactory character of the balance sheet. The aims of our Society are idealistic-patriotic, but neither idealism nor patriotism can stand in the air. Like every other human institution they have material wants, and empty treasuries are bad conductors for their evolution. Owing to the great change in the general economic prosperity Committee and Council had to devote a good deal of last year's work to the problem how to make both ends meet. They were guided by the principle that the coat must be cut according to the cloth, and drastic retrenchments were carried out. The effort was crowned with success, because the previous deficit has been wiped out, and the account closes with a small balance left in hand. On the other side care was taken not to impair the efficiency of the Secretariat in its propaganda service.

In some quarters of our colony it has been argued that this work was useful during the war, but that there is no reason for it to be continued now. Mr. Baer's report should have refuted these contentions; or can anyone who has listened to the analysis of the activities during the last twelve months doubt that the Secretariat has anew established its *raison d'être*?

As several members of the old Council, amongst them Mr. Ritter and Mr. Wüthrich, who had done excellent service to the Society since its foundation, declined re-election the Council had to be "rejuvenated." It consists now of the following gentlemen:—J. Baer, F. Beyli, C. Campart, A. L. Despond, F. M. Gamper, Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, H. Joss, P. Preisig, Theo. Schaerer, A. Secrétan, A. J. Strahlé, A. F. Suter, Dr. W. Weibel.

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