

Dr. Krafft's lecture to the Nouvelle société helvétique

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Dr. KRAFFT'S LECTURE TO THE NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

I hear that in some quarters apprehension was felt that Dr. Krafft might have reason to form a bad opinion of the assiduity of our Swiss in attending lectures. However, the members of the colony responded very well indeed to the call of the former French Secretary of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Étranger. A phalanx of about forty people turned up to listen to what he had to say.

Mr. Baer, when introducing the lecturer, pointed out, what is too often forgotten, that at the very beginning of the Auslandschweizer Movement, largely due to the initiative of Mr. Gonzague de Reynold, the London Group had started founding other groups. About seven or eight had already been formed with the help of Dr. Latt, when the permanent Secretariat in Switzerland was actually instituted. Henceforth, of course, that Secretariat concentrated on propaganda activity for the movement all over the globe.

Dr. Agénor Krafft clearly developed the thesis that, as all enterprises tend to develop from a period of expansion to one of stability, so also the Auslandschweizer Movement had now reached the point when it must stabilise and concentrate its efforts. On the eve of this second period, when it is no longer of first importance to form new groups, but rather to maintain life in those already existing, it behoves us to discuss the idea itself amongst ourselves. The movement of the Auslandschweizer has been called the happiest initiative of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. It has now achieved things which but a few years ago would have been considered Utopian. Over fifty members of the two Swiss Chambers have combined in a Parliamentary Group, the aim of which is to defend in the Chambers themselves the interests, material and otherwise, of the Swiss abroad. This wonderful machinery is now entirely at the disposal of the Swiss abroad, who in the past have had such difficulty in making themselves heard by the authorities, isolated and scattered as they were. The gratifying spirit in which the suggestion of Mr. Dollfus, of this Group, to sub-venturise the Auslandschweizer Secretariat was received, when it was launched a couple of weeks ago in the National Council, is remarkable. The Swiss abroad are nowadays *persona grata* with politicians. Their rights are no longer disputed by anybody. On the contrary: a tendency has developed in certain quarters which aims at severing, perhaps at cutting entirely, the links between the N.S.H. and its creation, the Auslandschweizer Movement. It was, no doubt, necessary that the Auslandschweizer organisation should make itself somewhat independent of the Mother Society—by the creation of the Auslandschweizer-Kommission—as regards the administrative side. Dr. Krafft is not of the opinion, however, that it should become, as has been suggested, completely independent. The N.S.H., as an idealistic society, must needs continue to permeate the administrative work with its spirit and its faith. Dr. Krafft denied the allegation that the endeavours of the Secretariat to form groups abroad were likely to tend to a still further decentralisation of the colonies. It has, on the contrary, always been the endeavour of the S.S.E. to solidify the colonies and not to found any new groups where existing Swiss clubs could be brought within the movement. In several cases it has even been possible to bring together two societies of Swiss which hitherto had remained indifferent to each other, or even hostile.

The N.S.H. in Switzerland has nowadays also reached a period of stabilisation. To use the words of Mr. Robert de Traz, "elle a passé en landwehr." A new *élite* must be prepared to be ready for the next national emergency! If the S.S.E. obtains the subvention, on which in principle the National Council has decided—and it seems as if it would judge from the recent visit of Federal Councillor Motta to its seat at Fribourg—this will, of course, mean a giving up of its independence to a certain extent. For the subvention may be criticised in Parliament, and all kinds of interference may follow. However, these difficulties must not be over-estimated either.

The growth of the movement within the past two years has really been marvellous. From thirty-five the groups have increased to one hundred and fifteen. Dr. Krafft, when addressing groups of Western Europe, has often lived hours of unforgettable enthusiasm, of which he quoted different instances. There are also dead groups, of course, groups merely figuring on paper; and yet, sometimes they only appear to be so. Dr. Krafft recalled the example of a group which had not written for over two years, and then one day a member of it appeared in Geneva and handed over a report on their activity which showed that all the time they had really worked very well. Only their secretary had intensely disliked sending reports to Switzerland.

Dr. Krafft closed by expressing his hope that the Swiss abroad would not fail to make use of the wonderful machinery for representation which has now been set up for them. It is incumbent upon them to voice their grievances and opinions and forward them through the proper channels, so that the Parliamentary Group, which is their representative, is able to let the country know what

they think. They are now in a position to make themselves heard on all the great questions concerning our country. They are not only allowed to do it, it is their duty to do it, and to prove by doing so that in every respect they are as good Swiss citizens as those at home, as they have claimed to be for the last number of years.

Dr. Krafft was cordially thanked by the audience for his lucid *exposé*. An animated discussion followed, in which a good deal was heard about the inconvenience of double nationality. P. L.

SWISS BANK CLUB.

The Swiss Bank Club held their second Dance of the season at the Regal Rooms, Regent Street, when the hall was filled with members and their friends, and a very pleasant evening was the result. Spot Dances and the Paul Jones were again very popular. The next social event of the Club is a Carnival Dance, to be held at Australia House, Strand, on Thursday, the 28th February, 1924, when it is expected that 300 will be present, and special features and efforts will be made to ensure a successful evening. Admission by ticket only, early application for which should be made to any member of the Club, or of the Swiss Bank, at 43, Lothbury, E.C.2.

SWISS BANK HOCKEY CLUB.

SWISS BANK (3) v. BALHAM & TOOTING JUNIOR IMPERIAL LEAGUE H.C. (2).

Saturday, 26th January, 1924.

After a rest of six weeks, owing to the effect of the recent rains on Hockey Pitches, the Swiss Bank started well by winning their first match this year by three goals to two.

The game, played at Wandsworth Common, was rather on the slow side, owing to the heavy and muddy condition of the ground.

In the first half, the Bank, who were playing up a slight slope, confined their efforts to defence, but owing to poor judgment, caused by the muddy condition of the ground, they were two goals down at half-time.

In the second half, however, the Bank pressed strongly, and after about ten minutes' play, Havery and Hassell, by a joint effort, put the ball into the net. Another goal was soon added by Miss M. C. Curths, with an oblique shot, but was disallowed by the referee on the ground that it had gone outside the post and through a hole in the net. Miss H. Curths and Shaw added the next two goals in quick succession, and the Bank were still pressing hard when the whistle blew for time.

The Bank's backs, de Brunner and Etter, were conspicuous for their steady play throughout the game, the latter having the bad luck to break his third stick this year.

The Late Mr. GUGGENHEIM'S ESTATE.

Mr. Armand Guggenheim, of Woodend, Bradgate Road, Dunham Massey, Chester, senior partner of E. Spinner & Co., Albert Square, Manchester, and Swiss Consul in Manchester, who died on November 15th, 1923, aged 63, left £136,510, with net personalty £129,906. The testator left—£2,000 for Secular Charities at the discretion of his sons; £2,000 for the office staff of his firm; the balance in his private account book to the credit of "Consulate," such sum not to be less than £400 to the Swiss Club and Swiss Relief Society in Manchester; and £1,000 War Loan to his nurse, Florence Louise Cain.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 5 FEVRIER au Restaurant GATTI et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 6.45 h (sh. 5/- par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal.
Admissions.

Démissions.
Divers.

SERVICE COMMÉMORATIF

en mémoire de

Mons. Georges Dimier,

à l'ÉGLISE SUISSE DE LONDRES,
79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.,
le Samedi, 9 Février, à 2 h.

Tous les représentants des Sociétés Suisses et les amis et connaissances du défunt sont invités à assister à ce culte.

ÉGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 3 Février, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. (Ste. Cène.)

4.30.—Répétition du Choeur.

6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner. (Abendmahl.)

SERVICES FUNEBRES.

Victor BURKHART, de Zurich, décédé le 18 Janv. 1924 à 63 ans—le 23 Janv. 1924.

Barbara RITZMANN, née Sylder, de Unterhalla et Neuchâtel, décédée le 23 Janv. 1924, à 90 ans—le 28 Janv. 1924.

Henri Louis COMOY, d'Arignon, décédé le 25 Janv. 1924, à 74 ans—le 30 Janv. 1924.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Feb. 5th, at 6.45.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Friday, Feb. 8th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: "The Genius of Thomas Hardy," by J. Carroll. Esq.

Saturday, Feb. 9th, at 2 p.m.—ÉGLISE SUISSE: Memorial Service for Mr. Georges Dimier.

Thursday, Feb. 14th, 1924.—UNIONE TICINESE: Celebration of 50th Anniversary: Dinner, Cabaret Show, Ball, at Monico's.

Friday, Feb. 15th, at 8.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE and SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Lecture by Mr. C. W. Saleeby on "Sunlight and Health" at the Union Helvetia, 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue.

Saturday, Feb. 16th, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Dinner and Ball at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1 (Swiss Club).

Saturday, Feb. 16, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Council Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C. (Restricted to members.)

Thursday, Feb. 21st, at 7.30.—UNION HELVETIA: Banquet and Ball at Victoria Hotel, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.

Friday, Feb. 22nd, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Musical and Social Evening for members and their friends.

Thursday, Feb. 28th, at 7.30.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Carnival Dance at Australia House, Strand, W.C.2.

Friday, Feb. 29, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Annual General Meeting at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C. Every Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Miniature Rifle Shooting Practice at Regent Street Polytechnic, W.1.