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central bastion, St. Maurice as Southwestern bastion and Sargans as Eastern bastion. In addition, another chain of fortified positions had to be built right on the political and geographical border of the country.

Major Schlegel said that at the beginning of the present war, the Swiss army was immediately and completely mobilized and its strength on September 4th, 1939, amounted to nearly 500,000 men.

He then gave a very interesting exposé about the new defence scheme which, at a later stage had to be planned and organised and which was called the "Réduit national." The organization and equipment of this "Réduit national," which took place during the years 1940, 1941 and 1942, were mainly carried out by the troops who were successively called up.

The speaker then mentioned that at the end of 1941, Switzerland, with a population of 4,265,000 inhabitants, was able to mobilize 806,000 people for her defence. This figure included besides the army proper all the auxiliary services, armed and unarmed, as well as the women's auxiliary service. To this figure should be added the strength of the Home Guard, making a total of more than 920,000, or one fifth of the total population.

In conclusion, Major Schlegel gave a few figures, showing the enormous financial sacrifices our country has made in keeping our army up to the maximum strength and our territory inviolate.

In his closing sentence he said "when a nation with a population of 4,300,000 agreed to shoulder a very heavy burden in order to maintain its independence it was because the Government and the leaders of the Army prepared the citizens in good time to face the dangers of a world war. It was also because we were convinced that we were thereby accomplishing a valuable mission in Europe, and above all because we have ever prized our centuries-old independence and are deeply attached to our way of democratic life, in which we see the very foundation of our liberties."

Loud applause greeted the speaker for his very interesting and lucid exposé.

The President, before closing the meeting, thanked both the speakers in "Schwyzerdütsch" for their contribution to an enjoyable evening.

Close of the Meeting 9.15 p.m.

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## MUSINGS.

*Adapted from J.P.'s dialect poem published in the "Swiss Observer" 25 August, 1944.*

Sometimes in quiet solitude  
Our mind the past surveys,  
And dormant mem'ries are renewed,  
Reviewing bygone days.

Much good and fine we recollect,  
Much beauty we recall;  
Why, on this pleasing retrospect,  
Did shadows ever fall?

In youthful days, now far away,  
Time never seemed to fly;  
But now that we are turning grey,  
How swiftly years go by.

O happy home and childhood's hours,  
When skies seemed always blue  
And all we hankered for was ours  
As if it were our due.

We learned a trade, became recruit,  
Our hopes were high and fair,  
But dreams and plans bore little fruit,  
Most vanished in thin air.

How thrilling our first lover's tryst!  
We waited, hoped and feared,  
Those blissful days, for ever prized,  
Too quickly disappeared.

When we set out the world to roam,  
The world so wide, yet small,  
What did we seek we lacked at home,  
What urge held us in thrall?

Our thoughts oft to the homeland stray,  
So bright, so neatly planned,  
May God protect it ev'ry day,  
That well loved Switzerland.

J.J.F.S.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

Continued from our issue of January 26th, 1945.

Mrs. Szarvasy, J. de Courcay-Ireland, J. E. Kupli., E. P. Dick, J. Zimmermann, O. Frei, E. Winzeler, G. Milli, V. Gay, J. A. Donat, A. H. Haab, Dr. G. E. Haefely, Z. L. Harben, Miss J. Kerr-Waddell, O. E. Wetzler, L. Bruni, J. J. Eberli, J. J. Huber, E. Chatelain, N. Morff, H. Steiner, R. Sanger, J. Weber, K. Kirchheimer, Miss Hochuli, Miss M. Iseli, A. Koerber, Rob. Schweizer, E. W. Fehrlin, L. Duffey, Mrs. W. Pike, F. Wechsler, F. Golay, E. Bader, Miss B. Sandmeyer, Hugo Tanner, O. Kissling, R. Gloor, Dr. G. E. Bucher, E. Torriani, H. Heusser, A. Keller, H. K. Ringer, M. Schaerrer, F. Schuetz, V. Berti, E. Etter, E. M. Bircher, Miss I. Villiger, W. Fuchs, Mrs. L. Hoch, C. E. Wietlisbach, H. Zimmermann, A. W. Luder, B. Frauchiger, W. Notari, C. Cuenod, E. Spleiss, Ch. Gignons, H. Kaegi, P. Bessire, A. Schneider, Mrs. S. Nicholls, Miss Ennisberger, A. P.

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(To be continued.)

### SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The 73rd Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Bank Corporation was held in Basle on the 2nd March, 1945 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rodolphe Speich. The report for 1944 submitted by the Board was adopted, and it was decided to pay a dividend of 4% which was the same as that for the previous year and to carry forward Sw. Frs. 4,110,496.20 (as against Sw. Frs. 3,841,942.81). At a Meeting of the Board which took place subsequently, Mr. Louis Vaucher was elected as second Vice-Chairman of the Board.

## UNIONE TICINESE

### A THÉ DANSANT

will be held at the  
**DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1.**

on  
**SUNDAY, THE 6th MAY, 1945**  
**3 — 8 p.m.**

*Tables arranged for parties of eight and ten.*

Tickets 7/6 inclusive, obtainable from Mr. C. Berti, 83, Fetter Lane, E.C.4, or Miss Abate, 17, Bryanston Mansions, York Street, W.1, or from any member of the two Committees.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE SIR HANNS VISCHER.

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A Memorial Service for the late Sir Hanns Vischer was held at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill, E.C.2, on Thursday, March 22nd, 1945, the Right Rev. Michael Bolton Furse, D.D., Lord Bishop of St. Albans, officiated.

Amongst the numerous congregation the following members of the Swiss Colony were present:

Monsieur le Ministre A. Giradet, representing the Swiss Minister, Dr. E. Kessler, 1st Secretary of Legation.

From the Special Division of the Swiss Legation, the following attended: M. J. Huber, M. C. Caillat, M. R. Burckhardt, M. A. Stauffer.

Madame W. Preiswerk, Mr. A. Bon, Dr. P. de Wolff, Dr. H. Rast, Pasteur M. Pradervand, Mr. G. Wüthrich, Mr. E. F. Sommer, Mr. E. Luterbacher, Mr. C. Mayr, Mr. G. A. Ronus.

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ASSISTANT CHEF WANTED, Swiss, good wages, full board. Apply Mr. G. Mermod, Manager, Compleat Angler, Marlow.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 11th, 1945, at 6.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by a lecture by Dr. G. O. Taylor, "Indian Outcasts."

Saturday, April 14th, 1945, at 7 p.m. — Rutli Ladies Club — Dance at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, April 17th, 1945, at 6 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. (See Advert.)

Saturday, April 21st, 1945, at 2.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by Mr. G. Keller's usual talk on "Current Events."

Tuesday, April 24th, 1945, at 5.30 p.m. — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by "Swopping."

Saturday, April 29th, 1945, at 3 p.m. — Rutli Ladies Club — Afternoon Dance at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Sunday, May 6th, 1945, at 3 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — Thé dansant at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

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