

Dr. A. Lindt in Manchester

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DR. A. LINDT IN MANCHESTER.**January 9th, 1949.**

Members of the Swiss Club, Manchester, spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon together at the Midland Hotel. Lunch was followed by an address, and this year's first and important function proved most interesting.

Our President — Dr. J. A. Schedler — voiced our belief that the lecturer's visit, after his remarkable and indeed memorable address to us in 1945, was overdue, and eagerly awaited, the delay being due only to the enormous activity and the demand made on the Press Attaché of the Swiss Legation.

Dr. Lindt, however, most modestly feared that to-day's *résumé* would not possess the glamour and valour of the epic events of 1939/45, as no great political upheavals had troubled Switzerland since his last visit although many momentous decisions had had to be taken by individuals, communities, Cantons and the Federal Council.

People at home asked themselves many questions after the war; some of the answers still remain hidden in the midst of a future, other puzzles, however, have been solved in no uncertain fashion. Our lecturer stressed, comparing the aftermath of 1918 with 1945, the healthy spirit of the Swiss people since the war. Leaders and trade unionists, directors and workers, had become one vast unit, working for industry, home and country. Whoever did Military Service felt this blessed spirit, he became imbued with it, and difficulties so prevalent 25 years earlier were submerged in this pool of common goodwill.

The National Insurance is one of the points of this expression of fairness to all classes. A close check on prices now ranging at 163% over the 1939 100%, is another case in point benefiting industry and foreign trade.

The Industrial peace in Switzerland since the war has been a blessing, though the summit of prosperity is passed, and the spectre of unemployment and possible reconstruction may well lurk as yet in an unknown manner, there is no reason for undue pessimism, so long as Swiss Industry and Economics showed their daring and leadership. Swiss people at home would, if prosperity declined, be able to withstand moral shocks and setbacks due to world conditions, and they would submit to renewed sacrifices.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

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LANTERN SLIDE LECTURE

on

"Contemporary Swiss Architecture"by Mr. ALFRED ROTH Swiss Architect,
Editor of "Das Werk" Zurich (in English)on Tuesday, February 15th, 1949, at 7 p.m.
at the Vienna Café,
Berkeley Arcade, Opposite Baker St. Station.*All Swiss and Friends are heartily invited.*

It is clear that under such quiet, contented and prospering conditions the Communist ideology has made little progress, has found the soil unfertile. It is true that particularly young people were attracted by a movement that had, during the war, to move in the dark and that the party is represented by seven members in the National Council, but it is equally correct to say that recent elections in Geneva and Zurich show a decreasing support. During the war the party had no official status; since then the movement is allowed to function, and the Swiss people, if they do not like it, can fight it openly and in a democratic manner. So much perhaps on internal matters.

On policy directed largely by the outside world, the Swiss asked themselves as to what the political position was likely to be. Is neutrality a thing of the past? Two tendencies exist. An idealistic capacity for new things, a belief in international co-operation. The hope that 4-Power collaboration be a fact, not a dream, which prayer, unhappily, remained unanswered, for now we know better.

Other people, dominated by realism and caution, felt that world Government would not be established for years to come; surely their very country's hundreds of years of history and evolution gave proof of the slow progress that must be expected in such developments. A policy of wait and see, preventing isolation and to continue to act economically.

Immediately after the war, credits had been offered and accepted by various countries, conditions got somewhere near a balance, and it is true to say that per head of population Switzerland has reached higher figures than the U.S.A.

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Travel accommodation by Rail or Air should be applied for as early as possible.

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The question of German assets proved, as we all know, a thorny problem. Minister Stucki's Washington agreement meant that whilst the gold went to the Allies, Swiss isolationism was at an end. It also meant international collaboration wherever politically possible and wherever neutrality was not involved. Whilst Switzerland is not yet a member of the United Nations and the question of neutrality has not yet cropped up, and it may be said that neutrality is to-day considered from many new angles, Switzerland is actively interested in many international organisations. To mention a few: Labour, Refugee childrens' fund, Court of Justice at the Hague, Health, Food and Transport, in effect, Switzerland is fully represented.

As to the Marshall Plan, the Federal Council gave weighty and serious consideration to the famous offer, and the statement consequently issued, declaring full collaboration, was well timed. Still, in the second Paris Conference, Switzerland's clear-cut conditions in the economic field, to trade with countries outside the Marshall Plan, were accepted. Switzerland, however, in spite of American insistence, refused to sign a bilateral agreement "the one remaining country out of the 17 member states."

And so to sum up, Switzerland is determined to keep a sound currency, free exchange, to offer credits to trade wherever possible, and to offer as an outstanding contribution, her neutrality. The desire to remain strong, which has undoubtedly helped her neutrality, prompted her not to disarm nor to demobilise,

and it is certain that her strength adds stability to Europe.

Switzerland can and will survive this ideological conflict by well-tryed democratic means, the Swiss Government, however, can only work to this end when the majority of its people are solidly behind them.

Our Vice-Consul, Mr. J. J. Huber, thanked our guest on his and the Club's behalf for this brilliant address that again puts us "au fait" with the many trends and thoughts of our Homeland.

A number of questions were asked which drew further interesting elucidations from the lecturer.

To Dr. A. Lindt, who because of the Manchester meeting had foregone the more restful manner of crossing the Atlantic in one of the "Queens" flew to Lake Success, went our sincerest wishes for unqualified success.

HELM.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, February 11th, 1949.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: S. Spagnapani, H. J. Markwalder, C. Kunzle, J. H. Meyer, L. J. Faivre, J. Muller, Miss Paur, Miss A. Biucchi, Miss Portman, A. Steiner, H. Schmid, J. F. Beer, M. E. Dubois, F. Egger, Max Lienhard, A. W. Burckhardt, Mrs. H. Ellison, Mrs. E. Te Winkel-Dubois, J. Scheiwiller.

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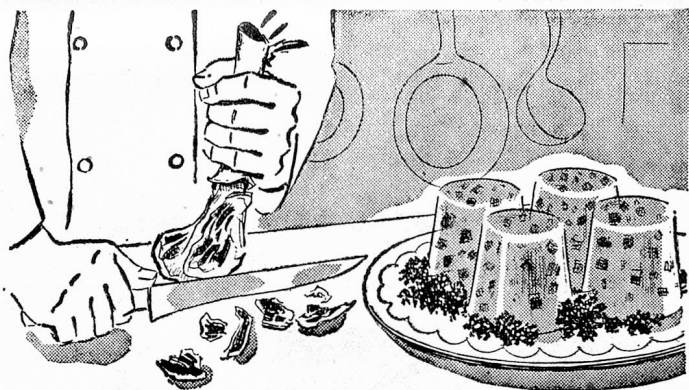
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