

# The Swiss minister's new post

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## THE SWISS MINISTER'S NEW POST.



HENRY DE TORRENTE

Envoyé Extraordinaire et Plenipotentiaire de la Confédération  
Helvétique de la Cour de St. James.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, at present Swiss Minister in London, to represent the Confederation in Washington, in succession to Minister Karl Bruggmann, who has reached retiring age.

Whilst we greatly rejoice at this appointment and tender him our sincere congratulations, we are saddened by the thought that he is leaving London after six years of fruitful and distinguished work in the service of our country and the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

In welcoming Monsieur de Torrenté on his arrival in London, in May, 1948, we wrote in this paper: "Excellent relations between the diplomatic representatives and the Swiss Colony have existed in the past, and we deem it an opportune moment to state here, that especially during the last few years the respective Ministers and their collaborators have taken an active interest in the life and doings of the Colony, a fact which has been appreciated and proved beneficial. The Colony has been loyal to its head, and this loyalty has been returned in a generous manner. At the moment when our new Minister is taking up his exacting post, we pledge ourselves to the same hearty collaboration, as far as the affairs of the Swiss Colony are concerned, which have been extended to his predecessors."

We are glad to say, that the pledge given to our Minister six years ago, has been kept during his *séjour* in our midst, and we are pleased to record, that it has been returned in a very generous manner.

From the commencement of his appointment, Monsieur de Torrenté in spite of his otherwise heavy engagements, has shown a keen interest in the life of

our Colony, taking at times a leading part in some of its problems.

His frequent attendance, together with Madame de Torrenté, at numerous official and social functions of the many Swiss Societies, both in London and the Provinces, has been greatly appreciated, and the relations between the Legation and the Colony have been of a friendly character. We shall, no doubt, a little later on have the opportunity to enlarge on his many services so freely, and so spontaneously rendered to the Colony, and the charming way in which Madame de Torrenté has assisted him in his many social engagements.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Henry de Torrenté was born at Sion in 1893, the son of a former President of the Upper Chamber of Deputies. He was educated at Sion and Einsiedeln, and took distinguished degrees in law, social and economic science respectively at the Universities of Berne, Basle and Geneva. After several years abroad, of which two years were spent in London (1922) to study social questions, he entered in 1925 into the service of the Federal Economic Department. A year later he was appointed Secretary at the Commercial section.

Four years later (1929) Monsieur de Torrenté was sent to the Swiss Legation in Paris with the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation, in 1933 he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and during the year 1935 held the post of Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

When in 1941, the Swiss Legation in Paris closed its doors, where he had acted as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Swiss Minister in Vichy, he returned to the Swiss army in which he had served on and off, holding various commands.

On the 31st of December, 1941, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel of the General Staff. A year later (1942) he was appointed by the Federal Council "Delegate for Commercial Treaties", in which capacity he was conducting important negotiations with the United States, Spain, France, Portugal, Belgium and Holland, with the rank of Minister. In 1945, Monsieur de Torrenté was nominated Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in China, returning in 1948 to London in the same capacity.

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## Nouvelle Société Helvétique and Anglo-Swiss Society

### LECTURE

JEREMIAS GOTTHELF

on the 100th anniversary of his death

given by

PROF. H. M. WAIDSON

of Hull University, author of a recent book on  
the eminent Swiss Novelist.

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