

The S.M.S. represented at S.K.V. congress in Bienne

Autor(en): **MM.**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1967)**

Heft 1525

PDF erstellt am: **21.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694194>

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THE S.M.S. REPRESENTED AT S.K.V. CONGRESS IN BIENNE

The most important member organisation abroad of the Swiss Mercantile Society (S.K.V.) is the London Section, the S.M.S. who is responsible for running the College for young Swiss students.

The biennial Delegates' Meeting took place at the modern congress building in Bienne from 19th to 21st May. The London Section was officially represented by its President, Mr. A. Jaccard, and the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. J. F. Carlen. Other Londoners present were Mr. L. W. Krucker, Honorary Member of the S.K.V., and Mrs. Walter Meier, whose late husband had also been a Member of Honour of the mother society in Switzerland.

Two personalities at one time active in the Swiss community in Great Britain were honoured when the Honorary President of the S.K.V., Mr. Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, remembered seven prominent members who had died in the two years since the last Delegates' Meeting: Mr. Alfred Stauffer, former President of the S.M.S. London and Editor of the "Swiss Observer", and Mr. Arnold Stahelin who was much concerned with the development of the S.M.S. and the College and who also presided over the Society for a number of years.

The business side of the meeting was well taken care of by the Central President Mr. H. Buechi, and the Chairman of the Conference, Municipal President Fritz Staehli. The latter, together with Dr. Hans Loeffel, Chur, received Honorary Membership.

Two events marked the Conference in a special way: The première took place of a new S.K.V. Film, an excel-

lent documentary regarding training and opportunities of young men and women in trade commerce, banking and insurance. The second special item was the constitutional acceptance of the S.K.V.'s latest achievements, the Swiss Institute for Higher Commercial Education. And the third event was the magnificent performance of several groups of singers and dancers from the Grisons, Appenzell, Central Switzerland, the Ticino, the Valais and La Gruyère who delighted the 400 delegates and visitors with their art on Saturday evening. It was some kind of dress rehearsal, for the groups will later travel to the World Exhibition in Montreal, where they will give folkloristic performances at the time of the Swiss National Day on 1st August. Even the weather behaved to make the trip by boat along the shores of the Lake of Bienne particularly memorable, followed by dinner and entertainment at the "Bären" at Twann.

Amongst the speeches, discussions and addresses, during the meetings on Saturday and Sunday morning, two should be mentioned, one on the importance and responsibility of the commercial employee in the economic life and the State, given by the General Secretary Mr. R. Maier-Neff, and the other regarding social problems of the employees, delivered by the *Secrétaire Romand* Mr. R. Pidoux. Several official guests addressed the delegates, and three resolutions were passed, one on the right of the employee to be consulted in questions of public, economic and social matters, one on improved output and production by thorough training, rationalisation and good working conditions, and the third on improved social conditions for commercial employees, to be legally anchored.

MM

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