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LEAGUE OF NATIONS HYDE PARK PROCESSION

Saturday, June 24th, 1922.

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique has addressed the following circular letter to the Presidents of the various Swiss Societies in London:—

"Switzerland is not only the headquarters of the League of Nations, but she voluntarily entered the League and has its principles most sincerely at heart, knowing that in it lies not only her own safety and means of development towards better and higher things, but also the safety of Europe and Western civilisation. This being so, we feel sure that all the Swiss in London will be eager to do justice to Switzerland's representation at the League of Nations Procession, which is going to take place on Saturday, June 24th (to-day), and that every member of our Colony who can possibly do so will take part in it, and so make our contingent as dignified and worthy of our dear country as possible. By joining this procession, each person does his little bit towards helping to advance the ideal of the League of Nations, so we feel sure that this appeal will not be a vain one, and that we shall have a large contingent present to-day to do honour to Switzerland.

"The Procession will form up on the Thames Embankment, and those taking part in it should assemble there not later than 3.45 p.m. The different detachments from foreign colonies in London will be alphabetically arranged, and each will be headed by the National Flag. The head of the Procession will be at Westminster Bridge. The nearest stations are Westminster and Charing Cross.

"Mr. Georges Dimier has very kindly consented to muster all the different Swiss delegations and units into one contingent, which, it is hoped, will be headed by a band. We would like all those who are taking part in the procession to wear an armlet or rosette in our national colours, if possible, and we are trusting to having as many banners and flags as can be raised in order to give our contingent a gay touch of colour.

"We trust to you all, then, to help us to make Switzerland's representation in the League of Nations Procession to-day one of which she, and every Swiss, will be proud, and with patriotic greetings remain,

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

JEAN BAER, President."

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Annual General Meeting, held at the Union Helvetia, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1, on Wednesday, June 14th, 1922.

(Communicated.)

As is now customary, the meeting was preceded by a much appreciated dinner, which facilitated the entertaining of representatives of the Swiss Legation and of most of the sister societies in London. It was gratifying to see such friends as Professor E. Borel, Monsieur Henri Martin, Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Messrs. Dimier, Duruz, Schupbach, and many others far too numerous to mention, among the large gathering.

Immediately preceding the business part, the meeting was addressed by Prof. Borel, who, with his customary eloquence, paid a touching tribute to the memory of one of the Society's most honoured and esteemed members, Dr. Gaston Carlin, Swiss Minister at Berlin, whose sudden and untimely death in the midst of a fruitful career is deeply regretted by the entire Swiss Colony in London. The assembly rose in silent tribute.

The Annual Report, presented by the Committee, earned for the Secretary, Mr. Eggenberger, the warm approval of the meeting, by reason of the excellence of its compilation. The activities of the Society, the results achieved in various directions, the healthy and satisfactory position are all illuminated in a masterly manner. The Report was unanimously accepted.

It is a matter for rejoicing that the S.M.S. now has a membership of—

14 Honorary Members.

120 Contributing Members,

441 Active Members,

a grand total of 575, which indeed are figures that speak for themselves.

The statement that apart from certain guarantees, operating during the next five years, the sum of £366 in cash had actually been received in response to the propaganda scheme in favour of the Society's Educational Fund, was received with considerable applause.

The Auditors having reported that they found everything

in order as regards the Society's accounts, complimented the hon. Treasurer, Mr. Gasser, and his assistants on the highly satisfactory way in which they had discharged their duties.

The retiring President, Mr. E. Werner, agreeably surprised the meeting with the Committee's proposal that Messrs. G. Dimier and A. Stauffer, both of whom have for many years taken a keen interest in the Society's affairs and welfare, be appointed Honorary Members in appreciation of services rendered, and the meeting heartily endorsed the recommendations of the Committee.

Messrs. G. Dimier and Stauffer suitably replied and assured the assembly that they would remain staunch supporters of the S.M.S.

Mr. Werner terminated his term of office with a few strong and well-chosen remarks, all aimed in the right direction.

Mr. Stauffer was thereupon appointed Chairman "ad interim" to conduct the procedure of the new elections and discharged himself of the functions in a very pleasant and agreeable manner.

That the efforts of the retiring Committee are recognised and appreciated is clearly illustrated by the fact that the new Committee is headed by two real old-timers, both ex-Presidents, Mr. G. E. de Brunner and Mr. W. Paschoud, who were unanimously elected President and Vice-President respectively while the newly formed special Educational Committee is headed by Mr. J. Pfaendler, whose devotion to the interests of the Society is a feature of particular note. Mr. Gasser was duly re-elected hon. Treasurer, but, unfortunately, the efforts to fill the post of hon. Secretary proved unavailing.

Mr. Henri Martin, Commercial Attaché and Counsellor of Legation, delighted the audience with a very powerful speech in which he returned thanks to the retiring Committee for the excellent services rendered by them, as also by Mr. J. Pfaendler as manager of the Employment Department, and further expressed the hope that the S.M.S. may continue on its path of success and extreme usefulness to the London Swiss Colony. Mr. Martin also gave an account of his personal efforts to create interest in likely circles for our educational scheme, and his observations on the subject were warmly appreciated.

Mr. De Brunner, upon his assuming office, returned thanks for the honour that had been done him and assured the meeting that he would at all times endeavour to promote the aims and welfare of the S.M.S. He addressed a few very earnest observations to the younger members of the Society, whom he urged to live up to the mandate entrusted to them as representatives of our Swiss commercial and industrial life in an important foreign country, and to so conduct themselves as to enhance the reputation of Swiss citizens abroad and to stimulate the esteem in which our native land is held throughout the world. Mr. De Brunner emphasized the deplorable fact that most people now-a-days seemed to take a more superficial view of their responsibilities, coupled with a pronounced disinclination to do their very best in each and every walk of life, and he strongly appealed to the members not to relax making untiring efforts to regain and maintain the old standard of efficiency, productiveness and business morality generally, for our folks at home were entitled to look to us that the cherished traditions of Switzerland shall lose none of their lustre. In this trend of thought he laid stress on the fact that all members should feel in honour bound to act loyally towards the S.M.S. and to faithfully fulfil their obligations and to lighten thereby the tasks reposing upon the Committee.

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