

# League of Nations Hyde Park

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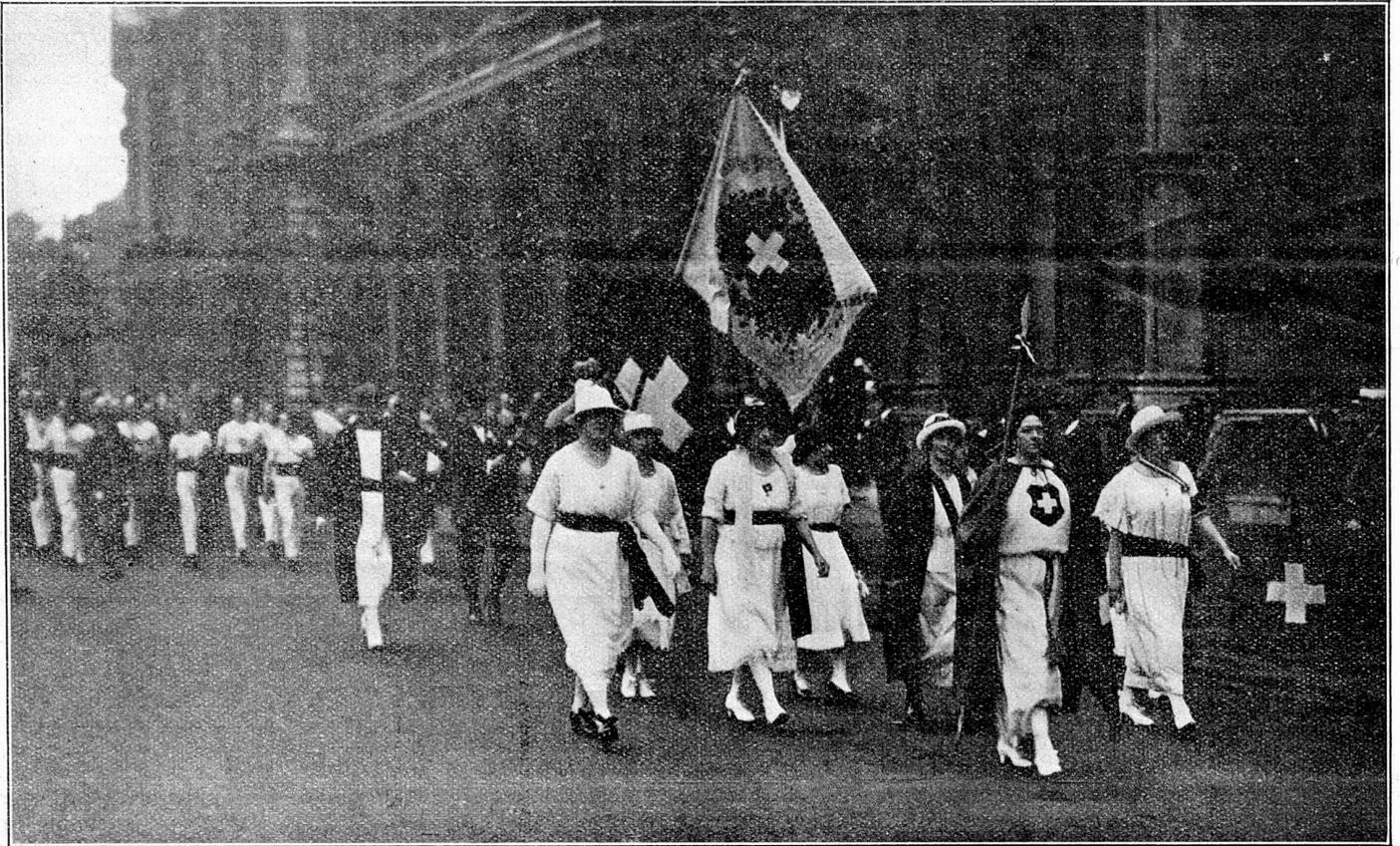
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LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION, *Saturday, June 24th, 1922.*

The head of the Swiss Contingent passing the Cenotaph in Whitehall. (HELVETIA: Mrs. Maurice Feierabend.)

The weather, unfortunately, proved unpropitious on this important occasion, which was a great pity, as the Organising Committee of the League of Nations Union had spared no pains, nor expense, to make the rally a conspicuous and prominent one, commensurate with the lofty and noble principles of the League of Nations movement.

We shall not enlarge on the general aspect of the procession and demonstration, as our readers will already have gained some information and impressions from such reports as have appeared in the English press.

But it behoves us to go into details concerning our own Swiss contingent, and it may be said at once that the turnout undoubtedly had the immediate appreciation of the officials of the League of Nations Union, for they promptly distinguished it by placing a full band at its head, a consideration which deserves our gratitude.

Thanks are also due to the management of the Union Helvetia Club, who succeeded splendidly in giving life and picturesqueness to the Swiss contingent, by arranging and introducing the following groups: "Helvetia," accompanied by numerous lady attendants gaily sporting the Swiss colours; "William Tell"; and a detachment of the Swiss Gymnastic Society, in bright national gymnasts' attire. In front of the gymnastic section marched the standard bearers of the City Swiss Club and the Union Helvetia Club, Messrs. C. A. Barbezat and F. Rohr respectively, while Mr. Georges Dimier and Mr. H. Sem also carried large Swiss flags.

We cannot refrain from mentioning that Mr. Georges Dimier also displayed on this occasion his customary energy and foresight, providing participants with national and cantonal flags, armlets and rosettes, which also lent colour to the representatives of the various Swiss Societies and members of the Swiss Colony who had gallantly responded to the call. True, there might have been more of the latter, particularly those of our countrymen who lined up along the route of the procession, timidly—or shall we say furtively?—watching their compatriots marching for a good cause, if ever there was one;

they could not escape observant eyes, and might just as well have swelled the ranks of the Swiss contingent. However, one has to be thankful for small mercies in these days, and if one has a penchant for drawing "odious comparisons," one could not help making a mental note of the fact that the strength of the Swiss contingent showed up extremely well in proportion to the participants from the seven million population of this mighty metropolis.

Conspicuous among the representatives of the Swiss Societies were:—Messrs. J. Baer, P. F. Boehringer, F. Burgin, R. de Cintra, G. Colomb, De Brunner, J. Geilinger, G. Jenne, A. Schupbach, A. Stauffer, W. Wetter, E. Werner, G. Wyss, and others. The route taken by the procession was by way of Whitehall, Admiralty Arch, The Mall (where the Swiss contingent was temporarily severed to let pass the Royal motor-car, in which were their Majesties the King and Queen, returning to Buckingham Palace from a ceremony in the East End), Constitution Hill and Hyde Park Corner.

Shortly after the various national contingents had been escorted to the respective platforms, from which they were to be addressed by Members of Parliament, prominent English and international politicians and public speakers, rain began to fall more copiously, making it particularly uncomfortable for the listeners round the International Platform No. 6, where no fewer than 22 speakers were due to address the representatives of the 21 nations, mostly in their mother tongues—verily a modern Babel!

The alphabetical order relegated Switzerland to twentieth position, and those who braved the inclement elements practically till the last moment were for a time made oblivious of the physical discomforts endured by the spirited speeches delivered to them, and particularly the Swiss by the address of our distinguished compatriot, Professor E. Borel (President of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal), who spoke as follows:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen.—Allow me a few words. We are happily reaching the end of the alphabet in the list of the orators.

The Swiss Colony in London, which I have the honour to represent here, have felt it a most agreeable duty to join this meeting. They welcome the opportunity given to them, by taking part in a manifestation of international co-operation on British soil, to show their feelings of hearty sympathy for the British people and their grateful appreciation of British hospitality. We want also to assist the League of Nations Union in their useful work, and especially in their steady endeavours to win evermore for the League of Nations the enlightened interest, the conscious and cordial support of public opinion at large.

May I remind you that Switzerland has given to the world the unique example of a whole people being called to vote themselves on the question of their accession to the League of Nations?—For such a decision our Constitution required a two-fold majority: not only the majority among the Swiss electorate at large, but also a majority in more than half of the 22 Federate States. And yet, this double majority carried the day in favour of the League, two years ago, in spite of all the difficulties which were involved in the task of bringing the great bulk of the population to face and solve such a new and big problem.

During these two years the League of Nations, despite innumerable difficulties, has fully deserved the trust and confidence reposed in them. Time is too short here—and the weather has got really too bad—to permit me to expand upon all that the League has already done. Let me recall the only fact that it has succeeded in securing at last the possibility of a regular administration of international justice by setting up, as a really permanent institution, the best organized International Tribunal the world has ever known. This object, which the second Peace Conference at the Hague had already contemplated and pursued, but which it failed entirely to secure, was successfully attained last year at Geneva by the cordial co-operation of the Council of the League and the Assembly of Nations. It has been shown thereby that with mutual goodwill these two Powers are fully able to perform and achieve in common the task entrusted to them. Of course, this task, the task of the League, is not such as to promise immediate and startling results. It requires time and patience and steadiness, such as you have just shown during the rain. It requires it the more because the League wants to show to the world that, while calling all the Nations to co-operate in the pursuit of common interests in the great field of international solidarity, it remains anxious to respect completely the independence and the national sovereignty of each of them. But we may hope and trust that the League will continue successfully its patient and beneficent work, that it will be joined by the great American people, whose place is marked and reserved therein foremost among the Nations, and that in Europe, too, it will ere long include all States willing to take their part in its objects and endeavours."

Insistent rain rang down the curtain, in every sense of the word, otherwise the many ladies and gentlemen who graced the procession and demonstration in their national costumes would, no doubt, have attracted the attention of the unusually large Saturday afternoon throngs in Hyde Park for a considerable time longer, as such a striking spectacle is not an everyday occurrence, even for London.

Let us hope that on the next occasion the clerk of the weather will feel more kindly disposed towards the League of Nations Union Demonstration, and that the Swiss contingent will muster in "four figure" numbers!

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## A BRITISH HISTORY OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

England is at present assiduously discussing the nineteenth century; the publications relating to it are frequent. The twentieth has gained consciousness enough to look critically back upon the way whence it came. In France, too, the nineteenth century is at present the object of much controversy; they call it "*le stupide dix-neuvième siècle.*" But in France they are fond of "*boutades,*" and this is undoubtedly one. There may be, however, from their particular point of view, some truth in it. George Macaulay Trevelyan calls it a century not only of hope, but of solid achievements.

From the pen of this very capable and eminent English historian a "British History of the Nineteenth Century" has recently appeared by Longmans, Green & Co. It covers the period from the end of George III's personal government to Queen Victoria's death on the 22nd January, 1901. It is a book that will be read with the greatest interest and satisfaction not only by the student of modern history and economics, but also by the general reader.

Trevelyan's books are remarkable for their literary skill as well as for their historic mastery. His works are highly appreciated in this country for both these qualities. The language is rich and vivid, yet terse and to the point. It is a book from which to quote, and one is easily tempted to do so, for the precision and judiciousness of its remarks. Its pages bristle with facts. To condense into the space of 424 pages such tremendous amount of material in such a fascinating, brilliant and, at the same time, in such a well-balanced form is, indeed, a great feat. From his eminent relative, Lord Macaulay—England's great historian—Trevelyan has inherited a rare gift for the summing up of character. The portraits of Great Britain's prominent and influential men are often perfect miniatures, owing to the delicacy with which individual traits are brought to paper.

Trevelyan does not attempt to elaborate theories; neither does he indulge in generalisations, nor draw conclusions as to the future development. He ascertains facts and examines the underlying forces and tendencies, at the same time trying to convey to his readers the sense of continuous and organic growth. He shows how, in one complicated process, economic changes lead to social alterations; how the alteration in the social structure of the nation brings about political changes; and how these political changes react upon the social and economic basis of the nation. He further points out how new ideas and thoughts sometimes accompany, sometimes direct the whole complicated process of growth.

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Paine's democratic doctrine laid down in his famous book on the "Rights of Man," written in response to Burke's "Reflections on the French Revolution," wonderfully expressed the ideas and hopes of that period. They did not at once, however, alter the course that history then pursued in the British Islands. On the other hand, in the sixties, John Stuart Mills' political claims that "everyone ought to take part in the election not only of Parliament, but of the responsible local bodies, so that the whole people should learn to take an interest in all that concerned them, from drains to foreign policy, from the village school to national finance," had an immediate and directing influence on the policy of the time. These are but two examples of many.