

A lecture on Switzerland

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by the best authorities, becomes instantaneously extinct, "can now be brought back to life if the endeavour is made shortly after execution." This assertion was made by Dr. A. Godman Levy, in the course of a discussion on the subject of "cardiac massage" at the Medico-Legal Society. A certain number of the "patients" who were experimented upon did recover after massage of the heart, and survived a few days, but their death was due to causes other than the massage.

But as the above subject, although most interesting, is not of a particularly palatable nature, let us talk about the Dairy Show at the Royal Agricultural Hall, which has caused a meeting of 500 beautiful golden-brown cows and as many farmers.

If any country understands cheese, it is surely Switzerland, but it is quite possible that very few of the *fromages* of the Alps have ever heard of the opinion of a British farmer exhibitor regarding his best cheese—the cheese that "smells like violets"!—A miracle.

There is a way to help the accomplishment of miracles, one variety of these being the happy union of old maids to persons of the male sex, and a lesson in marriage promotion can be taken from a newly formed society in Paris.

The members of this society wear a green silk ribbon under the lapel of their coat or fold of their blouse. If they meet a nice young man in restaurant, train or street who shows marked interest, they turn back back the lapel and show the ribbon colour of hope. This equals to a notice declaring that its wearer desires a further acquaintance, but, of course, of honourable intent. "I am free, are you too?" The Paris papers state that this novel method of introducing to each other two young people, perhaps suffering from shyness, has already given excellent results.

The young women hope that the young men will follow their example and give them a similar outward sign of their honourable intentions.

LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

GRUPE LONDONIEN.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
on Wednesday, October 19th.
(Communicated.)

1. There were no admissions to be recorded, but there were three resignations. The Treasurer's report was agreed to.

2. Heartly congratulations were tendered to Messrs. Despond and Suter for their successful arranging of the dinner at Pagan's, which resulted in there being no deficit.

3. The President read a letter of thanks from the French Secretary of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger for our telegram to the General Assembly of the N.S.H. at Schinznach.

4. The fortnightly paper, "Heimat," having asked the Groups abroad to make it known amongst their members in order to increase its circulation, it was agreed that, owing to our present situation, we could do no more than let our members know that this very interesting review could be consulted at our Secretariat.

5. Some literature concerning the "Semaine Suisse," which we received from the Secretary of this organisation, was distributed.

6. A letter from Mr. Borsinger, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, informed us that the Swiss Legation will make the necessary arrangements to represent Switzerland at the coming Exhibition of the League of Nations Union at St. Albans.

It was agreed that the Committee should be charged to appoint suitable members to the Swiss Sub-Committee of the League of Nations Union which is about to be formed again.

7. Some discussion arose with regard to the circular and ballot paper sent out to the members. It was agreed that an amendment to our rules should be put on the Agenda for the next Annual General Meeting which should declare that members who had not paid their contribution by the end of March of each year should lose their membership.

8. A member having drawn the attention of the Secretary to the fact that at a certain college in London a series of lectures were being given about the influences of other nations on English history, but that amongst this group of nations Switzerland was not to be found, the Secretary was asked to enquire into the matter and see what he could do in it.

9. According to a decision taken at the last Council Meeting that the Secretary should at each subsequent Meeting speak on some matter of national importance, he presented, after having given a few details about his press activity during the last fortnight, a commentary on the letter by Monsieur Louis Aguet, President of the Buenos Ayres Group, which was published in the September number of the "Echo Suisse." This article raised the very important point of double nationality and also of the Matriculation Card for Swiss Abroad. It even went so far as to state:—

"Si ce règlement a force de loi, il doit être égal pour tout le monde. Si c'est un règlement arbitraire, les Suisses à l'étranger ne devraient pas s'y prêter. Tout au plus aurait-on pu prier les Suisses à l'étranger de se faire immatriculer une fois pour toutes, mais non pas chaque année. Le règlement concernant la carte-matricule, tel qu'il a été conçu, n'a pas donné et ne donnera jamais des résultats satisfaisants et sera toujours la source de froissements entre les membres de beaucoup de colonies et les légations et les consulats et l'on arrivera à les considérer comme des bêtes noires, mises là pour ennuyer tout le monde et pour percevoir des taxes que les gens estiment ne pas devoir. Cette taxe matricule a pour effet d'éloigner les Suisses de la Mère-Patrie et de pousser certaines personnes, n'ayant presque plus d'attaches en Suisse à se faire comme représailles, naturaliser argentines. C'est donc un règlement consulaire absolument nuisible aux intérêts de la Suisse en Argentine et je crois avoir

entendu qu'aux Etats-Unis il a été reçu avec beaucoup plus de mauvaise humeur encore qu'ici.

"En qualité de Suisse de la IVe Suisse, ayant vécu presque toujours à l'étranger (je connais 6 pays en Europe et 18 républiques en Amérique), sans compter quelques pays d'Afrique et comme fondateur des trois Groupes de la N.S.H.: Chili, Argentine, et Pérou, et comme Suisse, aimant son pays, j'ai toujours recherché tout ce qui peut rattacher les Suisses de la IVe Suisse à la Mère-Patrie et j'ai toujours été l'ennemi juré de tout ce qui sépare les Suisses, au lieu de les rapprocher."

In the discussion which followed the question of the Matriculation Card came in for a good deal of comment, and the representative of one of the Swiss Societies in London gave several instances showing how unpopular this tax is in certain parts of the London Colony, expressing just what Monsieur Aguet said about the feeling in Buenos Ayres. The fact that consular regulations enforcing this matriculation have been elaborated in Berne and put into force without the Swiss abroad having been consulted in the matter was also very strongly deplored. The view was expressed that it would not be possible for a passport to be withheld on the ground of the Matriculation Card or the Military Tax not having been paid, and that it would be interesting to have a ruling of the Supreme Court on a concrete issue of this kind. As, however, the London Group of the N.S.H. cannot pretend to express the views of the whole Colony in a matter of such importance, it was suggested that the question should be referred to the Editor of "The Swiss Observer," who, it was not doubted, would open his columns to his readers so that they might express their views on this subject. Accordingly the Secretary was instructed to convey the matter to this quarter. The question will be taken up at the next Council Meeting, when it is felt we shall all be in a better position to tackle it, as we shall probably by then be better informed on the Colony's views.

It was clearly stated, however, that this discussion should not be considered as being directed in any way against the Swiss Legation, with which our relations are of the very best, as it is quite natural that the Legation should carry out the instructions sent from the Political Department in Berne.

In this connection it was also pointed out that the proceeds from the Matriculation Card have not been satisfactory. While in the Federal Budget for 1921 this tax was anticipated to bring in 125,000 francs, it is anticipated that for 1922 it will only bring in 36,000 francs. This shows how unpopular the tax is and explains why, as stated in the course of the discussion, so many Swiss abroad, who used to look upon their Legation as a centre of advice and support, now give it as wide a berth as possible, this Matriculation having turned it into a kind of tax-collecting institution.

10. It was agreed that the Secretary should report to the next Council Meeting on the Fascist movement and its reflection on Switzerland.

Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

HOW THE SWISS IN ENGLAND CAN HELP
THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY.

Sir,—The very fact of the publication of this paper demonstrates the large number of Swiss who live in England. Even those who have permanently settled here still have a great affection for their native country, as can be seen by the large numbers who, when opportunity offers, come back for a holiday.

Now, Sir, it has occurred to me if only a few of these loyal Swiss, scattered all over this country, and occupied in most various ways, would agree to give a helping hand in propaganda work for Swiss Travel, they would materially assist in the re-establishment of Swiss prosperity.

I would suggest that hotel managers, shopkeepers and those in business offices should, if willing, display a small and attractive poster, giving particulars and costs of a visit to Switzerland which can now be adapted to all purses. Many of our countrymen could from personal knowledge amplify the information and awaken a wish to travel in those who saw the poster.

Should this proposal meet with the approval of your readers I should be happy to discuss the matter further in your columns, if you would allow me, and would gladly arrange with the Swiss authorities for the printing of the poster, the supply of free booklets and all other details.

We Swiss know that Switzerland is the most satisfactory proposition in Europe as a holiday resort, and with the increasing rise of the English exchange and the reduced costs in Switzerland it is daily becoming cheaper for people from this country.

Klosters, 22nd October, 1922. L. MEISSER.

A LECTURE ON SWITZERLAND at the University of London.

Our compatriot, Professor Eugène Borel, the President of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal in London, will give a Lecture on—

"THE POSITION OF SWITZERLAND IN INTERNATIONAL LAW"

at the London School of Economics and Political Science in Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C. 2, on Monday, November 6th, at 5 p.m.

This lecture is free to the public, and no ticket is required for admission.

The lecture should prove of the greatest interest to Swiss citizens, as will be seen from the syllabus below:—

SYLLABUS.

Switzerland first a League of States. — Inter-State Arbitration. — The Laws of Warfare as practised by the Swiss Troops in the Middle Ages. — The 'condominium' on conquered countries and the protection of minorities. — The Swiss neutrality and its influence on the stabilisation of the rules of neutrality in International Law. — The actual status of Switzerland in the League of Nations. — The Swiss contribution to the progress of International Law.

The Chair will be taken by
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