

Provincial items

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après qu'a été effectué le paiement de la taxe militaire due.

Si la taxe pour l'année courante ou pour une année antérieure n'est pas encore acquittée, le Consul est informé, pour qu'il en avise le requérant, que le papier de légitimation demandé est à sa disposition à la chancellerie d'Etat mais qu'il ne sera expédié à l'étranger qu'après paiement de la taxe militaire.

Art. 58.—L'établissement ou la légalisation des papiers de légitimation par les consulats est subordonnée en principe à la condition que l'assujéti paie ses taxes arriérées.

Les requérants qui doivent encore la taxe pour l'année courante ou une année antérieure sont invités à la payer immédiatement ou, en tout cas, dans un délai de 2 à 6 mois, à fixer par le Consul. Le Consulat donne suite à la demande en légalisation ou en visa pour la durée de ce délai.

Art. 27.—Le dépôt, par des Suisses à l'étranger, de leur livret de service auprès d'une autorité militaire ou auprès de parents en Suisse n'est pas autorisé. Le livret de service reste en mains du propriétaire qui doit le présenter au Consulat compétent lors de son annonce d'arrivée et le départ comme aussi chaque fois que la demande lui en est faite.

Le livret de service peut être gardé au Consulat jusqu'au paiement de la taxe.

It is quite clear from the above that the Swiss Consular Officers have not only the right, but that it is their duty imposed upon them by the Swiss Federal Council, to satisfy themselves that the military taxes are paid before they issue, prolong or visa a passport of a Swiss citizen who is liable to military tax.

I, too, appreciate the presence in our midst of compatriots having the courage of their own convictions, as "Un Vaudois de tous les Cantons" puts it. However, before they comment on the legal side of a question, they ought to make themselves fully acquainted with the legal material on the subject. Incorrect statements, such as the one made by "Critic," which alleges that Swiss Consuls have adopted certain practices which lack any underlying power from the home authorities, do more harm than good, and it is for this reason that I ask you to be good enough to publish this letter in the next issue of your paper.

Yours faithfully,

22, Fellows Road, N.W. 3. EMILE STUTZ.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

A most enjoyable Concert was given by the Swiss Choral Society for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society on Sunday afternoon, the 3rd December, at Steinway Hall. There was a large and enthusiastic audience, presided over by the Swiss Minister, who was accompanied by Madame Paravicini and their children.

On the programme was a generous number of well-chosen songs, which were admirably rendered by the choir of 36 voices under the leadership of that gifted musician, Mr. Walter Meyrowitz, the new conductor of the Society. The harmonious blending of the full, rich voices was heard with fine effect in Swiss songs and English glees, "Killarney" especially among the latter being warmly applauded; but the most enthusiastic reception of all was accorded to the Swyzerdütsch song: "Du lieber Bueb vom Emmthal," with a jodling solo by Mr. Fischer, which delighted the patriotic Swiss present and stirred home memories in all hearts.

Miss Marian Jay, a talented violinist, gave a selection of bright music from the great masters with charm and brilliant technique, displaying also fine tone and musical perception, notably in the rendering of an exquisite melody for violin and piano, called "Enchantement," with the composer, Mr. Meyrowitz, at the piano.

Several delightful songs in almost as many languages were sung by Madame Tefy Davies, whose soprano voice is of exceptionally fine timbre and whose musical interpretation reveals a great artist. Madame Tefy Davies was enthusiastically applauded, and a beautiful bouquet was presented to her by little Miss Paravicini.

Space does not permit detailed notice of individual solos, which were all deserving of the greatest praise.

Mr. Paravicini, in a short and happy address, expressed the sentiments of all present by his appreciation of the fine performance of the Choral Society and the indebtedness of the Swiss Colony for the generous and artistic assistance given by the Society at many Swiss assemblies, whether meeting in Church or banqueting hall. The Swiss Minister also alluded to the coincidence of date, the 3rd December, a memorable day for Switzerland, saying, "the songs so beautifully rendered will take our thoughts back to our country which fights to-day for its freedom, prosperity and moral independence."

Mr. Manzoni, the active President of the Society, in the course of a humorous speech, made an appeal to all those in the Colony with good voices to join the choir, and it is hoped that his request will not fail to attract new members.

At the conclusion of this delightful entertainment, the Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini invited the Swiss Choral Society and all the performers to tea, after which more songs were given.

PROVINCIAL ITEMS.

HULL.

The Swiss Consul at Hull and his secretary, M. Arregger, have given a lantern lecture in French at the Church Institute, on the 29th November, before a crowded and appreciative audience on "Switzerland and the Winter Sports."

Thanks to the very fine slides of the Swiss winter scenes, kindly supplied by the Swiss Tourist Information Office at Zurich and the London Agency of the Swiss Federal Railways, the success of the lecturers was very great.

The lecture will be repeated at Hornsea on the 12th inst.

The Swiss Consul is also going to deliver, on the 8th inst., an address to the Hull Geographical Association on "Switzerland, its Industrial and Commercial Aspects."

LA NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

(Communicated.)

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

on November 15th, 1922.

1. The President read a few letters from different Groups.

2. Mr. Secrétan having resigned as a member of the Committee in view of his forthcoming return to Switzerland, Dr. W. Weibel was elected to the Committee in his stead.

3. Several circulars from the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger were brought to the notice of the members: (a) One asking them to collect evidence of the abuse of the Swiss emblem abroad was transmitted to "The Swiss Observer"; (b) A suggestion to start collecting documents showing the activities of the Swiss societies abroad for the stall of the Swiss Abroad at the Basle Samples' Fair of April, 1923, was discussed. It was decided that the Secretary should ask all the Swiss societies here to let him know by the end of February, 1923, what exhibits they would be prepared to send to Basle; (c) A resolution on the Capital Levy Initiative will be drafted by the Committee and be put before the audience at Dr. Wegelin's lecture on Swiss Financial Reforms.

4. The Treasurer reported three admissions and fourteen resignations. The number of members is at present 515.

5. The financial report of the Treasurer was approved. It stated that Guarantees and Members' subscriptions for 1923 received to date amounted to just over £400, which sum is not sufficient to maintain the position of the Secretary for the ensuing year. It is hoped, therefore, that a much larger number of ballot papers may be returned before the end of the year, guaranteeing the necessary funds for the retention of his services.

6. The Secretary made a few communications with regard to his activity.

7. The Secretary gave an exhaustive oral report on the Fascist movement and its potential effect on Switzerland. He came to the conclusion that the Fascist Government must be very carefully watched by all Swiss conscious of their nationhood, because as regards foreign politics this movement has in the past been guided by certain considerations which are in violent opposition to the fundamental principles on which our country rests, and, as regards home politics, Fascism will naturally encourage all tendencies which are inclined to the disrespect of constitutional ways and means in the struggle for political ends.

8. An oral report was presented by the Reporter of the Art Commission. The Federal Council having taken a decision to the effect that the Federal Government will defray the expenses of the jury in Switzerland and will allow members of the Federal Art Commission to participate in that jury, together with the Committee as formed by our Commissioner, Professor Ganz, in Switzerland, the scheme seems to be secured definitely so far as official approval goes. The London Art Committee is now expecting a definite programme from the Committee in Switzerland and will, once it is in possession of this, again study the question of financing the exhibition and securing a suitable gallery.

Dr. PAUL LANG,

28, Red Lion Square, W.C. 1. Secretary.

PARTY TRIPS ENGLAND-SWITZERLAND.

According to an agreement passed between the English, French, Belgian and Swiss Railways, a new tariff for parties from England to Switzerland, each one composed of at least 25 persons, will come into operation probably on January 1st, 1923. These party-trips, however, must be organised by travel agencies. Only first and second-class tickets will be issued. The proposed reduction will vary from 20 to 30 per cent. on the ordinary fare. The tickets will have a validity of 33 days. The journey England-Switzerland must be effected in common; on the other hand, the return journey Switzerland-England may take place individually.

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MUSIC.—Young Swiss would like to play duettos (classical) with moderately advanced violinist; 1—2 evenings weekly; Golders Green or Hampstead Tube.—Write, "Largo," c/o. *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4.

YOUNG SWISS GIRL (23), needlewoman, piano, speaking French and German, wishes situation as NURSERY GOVERNESS with good English or Swiss family; small salary.—Write, Melle, Marie Caviezel, Grand Hotel Curhaus, Davos, Switzerland.

ACTON, W. 3.—"Grafton House," The Vale; overlooking Park; easy access to City.—BOARD-RESIDENCE: breakfast, late dinner, full week-ends; from £1 17s. 6d. per week.