

# International Congress on Commercial Education

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## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

From the 25th to 29th of July, an International Congress on Commercial Education will be held in London.

The Congress will be opened by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, and on the conclusion, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will receive the delegates.

We are informed that the following of our countrymen will attend this Congress:

Doctor Junod of the Verkehrszentrale, Doctor Däniker of the General Direktion of the S.B.B., and Director of the Zürcher Kantonalbank, Professor Rüst, E.T.H., Professor Schiess, Ecole supérieure de Commerce, Lausanne, Professor Vouga, Neuchâtel, Rektor Brogje, Basle, Rektors Bernet, Fischer and Burri, Zurich, and Professors Frei, Huber, Latt, Kolatschek, Oertli, and many others from Swiss Commercial schools.

In order to acquaint our readers with the aims of the International Society for Commercial Education, we publish herewith an article from the pen of Doctor Latt, the secretary of this institution.

The present International Society for Commercial Education was founded in Zurich (Switzerland) on September 25th, 1926, in the same place where exactly a quarter of a century before the old "Society for the Promotion of Commercial Education" had been founded. We shall have the pleasure of welcoming in London some veterans of Commercial Education who were among the founders of both the old and the new societies. In the first place, there is Dr. A. Junod, our Président d'honneur, who was acting president from 1909-1911, and again from 1926-1929; Rektor Bernet of Zurich, who was Dr. Junod's most constant collaborator and is still one of our most influential advisers on questions of paedagogics and organisation; Dr. Ottel, the head of the Austrian Department for Commercial Education, and Dr. Bela Schack, the G.O.M. of Commercial Education in Hungary. We shall, unfortunately, not have the satisfaction of seeing amongst us Dr. Schmid, of Braunschweig, who was the intimate friend of the founder and first president of the old society, the late Dr. Stegemann of Braunschweig.

Thirteen countries sent delegates to Zurich when we met again for the first time after the War, now we are represented in 41 States. The number of individual members has increased ten fold in six years. It now stands at about 2,400, that of collective members has surpassed 500. The increase has been strongest during these last years of crisis, which is a sure sign of the Society's vitality and the usefulness of its work. We are hopeful that the success of the two very important London meetings — the Economic Course (14th-21st July 1932) and the International Congress (25th-29th July 1932) — will bring us a good many new members also from overseas countries.

The aims and purposes of the Society as outlined in the statutes are:

1. To group the existing national associations and other institutions, private or public, which are interested in the promotion of Business Education;
2. To organize international meetings and congresses;
3. To arrange for international courses for commercial expansion and the study of languages;
4. To discuss questions of general interest bearing on Business Education;
5. To institute a central information office;
6. To issue a Review and other publications on Commercial Education;
7. To distribute to newspapers and periodicals information regarding the development of Business Education in various countries;
8. To encourage educational tours and visits;
9. To co-operate with other associations and official institutions aiming at the development of economic, technical and linguistic education.

The collaboration between the various national and international organisations is assured by the constitution of the Society and its various committees. Every country with at least 20 members (collective members counting double) is entitled to one member and one deputy-member on the Central Committee which meets at least once every year. The maximum representation of one single country may be 10 members and 10 deputy-members. These figures have so far been attained by Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. It might be an interesting study to try and find out why some of the small countries are strongly represented in the Society and some of the big ones only very modestly. How is it, that countries like Hungary and Czechoslovakia beat France four times and Italy twice? — Whilst England holds a good position in respect of collective members, we should like to see a vastly bigger

number of commercial teachers and others interested in Commercial Education join up as individual members. (The annual subscription for collective members is 25 Gold-Francs, that for individual members only 3 Gold-Francs).

The actual administration lies in the hands of the President and an Executive Committee of 6 members. The Secretariat, with which is combined the editorship of the Review, was left in the hands of the present writer when the Headquarters of the Society, which had first been in Switzerland, were transferred to Holland in 1930. The deliberations of the Central Committee are published in the Review which is issued twice a year. It has already published series of articles in five languages, comparative studies in Commercial Education, on the Schools of Commerce and similar institutions in various countries. The Secretariat has naturally become a kind of international information bureau on Commercial Education. Innumerable letters requesting information have to be dealt with, most of them bearing on methods of teaching, legislation, organisation of schools and curricula, the supply and formation of teachers of commerce and languages, efforts at international exchanges of students and young business men, study tours, courses and congresses, literature on a wide range of economic and paedagogic subjects. On two occasions we published (in 3 languages) synoptical tables showing the actual state of commercial schooling in about 30 countries.

The most important and meritorious work of the Society are, no doubt, its annual Economic Courses and its triennial International Congress. These meetings were at first held in conjunction with those of the Technical and Industrial Education.

Our records mention meetings held in Bordeaux 1886, London 1896, Antwerp 1898, Venice 1899, Paris 1900. The Congresses of Milan 1906, Vienna 1910, Budapest 1913 and Amsterdam 1929 dealt with Commercial Education only. The rapid growth of commercial schools of all grades by far outpaced the development of all other types of technical and vocational education. It is no exaggeration to say that it has everywhere received the most enthusiastic support of Businessmen and authorities, and that it is to-day animated by an admirable spirit of initiative and a strong sense of responsibility towards the future, which is a guarantee of further success. We are sure that the London Congress will not only be an occasion to renew old friendships and to rekindle the flame of enthusiasm in our minds, but a starting point for new developments in many countries and in many ways. We have long wished for an opportunity to compare notes with English and American educationalists, whose methods we know to be excellent though different from continental methods, and we are looking forward to discussions which will be productive of new lights and resolutions.

If German-Switzerland twice had the honour of giving birth to the Society itself, French-Switzerland, both before and after the War, opened the series of Economic Courses, "International Courses for Commercial Expansion," as they were first termed. The Lausanne Course of 1906 was so successful that it was soon followed by others almost every year; 1908 Mannheim, 1909 Le Havre, 1910 Vienna, 1911 London, 1912 Antwerp, 1913 Budapest and 1914 Barcelona. The latter was sadly dispersed by the outbreak of the World War. When we met again in 1927 it was for a combined Language and Economic Course at Neuchâtel. In 1928 we went to Braunschweig in Germany, in 1929 to Rotterdam, in 1930 to Copenhagen and in 1931 to Vienna. For this year we are England's guests in London, next year we are going to Italy and later on to Paris and Prague. Some day we are, no doubt, going to America. Canada had extended an invitation for an Economic Course some time before the War.

The lectures held at many of these economic courses, like the papers and proceedings of the congresses, were collected and printed. They are documents of lasting value because every country tries to do its very best in hospitality to the distinguished visitors who attend these courses and to have them addressed by its own most eminent economists and political and industrial representatives. There is, indeed, no finer opportunity we could think of, for commercial teachers, businessmen and students of Economics in general, than these courses devoted to the study of foreign countries and their commercial life. Mr. P. Delombre, a former French Minister of Commerce, in the preface to the volume "Le Havre" comprising the lectures of the 1909 Economic Course, puts it this way: "The world is getting smaller and smaller, we are travelling in order to see things on the spot with our own eyes. That is what Economic Courses are offering us. Each year they are held in different countries but on similar lines, it being our aim to form merchants true to their calling and commercial teachers worthy of their name. We want them to get into touch successively with the life, manners and institutions of different countries. We do not talk one language exclusively, but by adopting the language of the country whose guests we are, we

gradually learn to practice all the great commercial idioms of the world. Our meetings take place during the summer holidays, the most convenient time for excursions and the most favourable one for students and teachers who never enjoy learning more than when they are out of school (!). Hailing from different parts they are all united by their common will to see and to study. In learning more about each other they learn to respect each other; prejudices are removed and friendships made."

This spirit of friendship from land to land is one of the most valuable traditions of our organisation. It has always made our congresses great events in the lives of all their members. This friendship is not merely intellectual and "professional," it is based on more personal and solid grounds. In studying one country after another we are particularly anxious to get clear notions about each of them, to see things as the natives do, to understand their point of view even in international matters. Was that ever more necessary than now? Have not we leaders in commerce and guides of the rising generation of businessmen an important duty to fulfill? In a period when nationalism in so many countries is doing its worst we want to carry high the flag of international solidarity in the spirit of fairness and venture which has at all times distinguished both the great traders and the great educationists.

In coming again to England for an Economic Course after 21 years, and for a Congress after 36 years, we know that we shall still find alive among you the qualities which have placed you at the head of commercial nations. We have come to discuss with you and barter for ideas; because on intellectual grounds we know you to be just as incurable free traders as we are ourselves. In organising this year's Economic Course and Congress the British Association for Commercial Education has shown great courage in the face of very serious difficulties. We can assure you that all the members of the International Society most gratefully appreciate your effort. We also have doubt as to the success of both meetings. We never had a more varied and interesting programme for a Congress and we particularly congratulate Sir Francis Goodenough and his Committee on being able to commandeer the best men and so many of the most celebrated leaders of industry and commerce for the Economic Course.

Their lectures will not only do England credit, they will win her many new and influential friends in many lands and thus contribute towards the work of reconstruction and mutual confidence, which we all know to be the greatest need of the day.

## BEGRUESSUNGS — REDE VON BUNDESPRAESIDENT G. MOTTA, ANLAESSLICH DER EROEFFNUNG DER REPARATIONS KONFERENZ IN LAUSANNE.

„Meine Herren Delegierten!

Der schweizerische Bundesrat, die waadt-ländische Kantonsregierung und die Stadt Lausanne heissen Sie durch meinen Mund auf dem Boden unseres Landes herzlichst willkommen.

Wir wissen den Beweis der Achtung und Freundschaft, den Sie uns geben, indem Sie sich in dieser Stadt vereinigen, wohl zu würdigen und sprechen Ihnen für die Ehrung, die uns durch die getroffene Wahl, und Ihre Gegenwart zuteil wird, unsern lebhaftesten Dank aus. Wir stehen Ihnen gerne zur Verfügung, um Ihnen die äusseren Arbeitsbedingungen zu erleichtern, und wir werden es uns zur Pflicht machen, Ihre Konferenz mit einer Atmosphäre wohlwollender Zurückhaltung zu umgeben.

Ich bitte um Entschuldigung, wenn ich mich einer allzu oft gebrauchten und darum abgenutzten Formel bediene und Ihnen sage: die Augen der Menschheit sind in dieser Stunde auf Sie gerichtet. Auf Ihre Konferenz angewendet, ist diese Formel indessen kein blosses Bild, sie ist der Ausdruck der Wirklichkeit.

Eine Krise, die an Ausdehnung nicht ihresgleichen hat, herrscht auf der ganzen Welt; kein Land, kein Erdteil, der von ihr verschont geblieben wäre. Frühere Geschlechter haben nach langen Kriegen gleich wie wir Zeiten der Prüfung erlebt; aber die Arbeitslosigkeit, d.h. der erzwungene Müsiggang, zu dem 25 Millionen Menschen, die sich und ihre Familie redlich durchbringen wünschen, verurteilt sind, ist nie in solchem Ausmass und solcher Stärke aufgetreten.

Der Gütertausch ist unterbunden, die Grenzen sind halb geschlossen; der freie Verkehr von Land zu Land ist gehemmt. Der Umlauf der Kapitalien hat aufgehört, die Initiative der Industrie ist erstickt. Die Preise decken die Produktionskosten nicht mehr; der Bestand der Währung ist bedroht. Eine unbestimmte, aber tiefe Beunruhigung hat sich der Menschheit bemächtigt, und das politische Misstrauen findet so jeden Tag neue