

Unione Ticinese

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eyes opened to the truth that you cannot serve two masters.

Contrast with this fate our own position in Great Britain! Have we not reason to go down on our knees morning and night and thank God for two great gifts: — For our comparative immunity from the horrors of war in this great-hearted country, and for the preservation of our own homeland, physically so small and spiritually so great? Does it not now come home to us all what this inestimable boon of our traditional neutrality means? Are we not now — more than ever — reaping what our forefathers have sown and planted and tended so lovingly in our little country? We have reason to be grateful for our nationality!

All this means that there are tremendous obligations placed upon our shoulders. They are of a dual nature — not in conflict, but complementary one to the other: — our duties to Switzerland and our duties to Great Britain. I might almost compress them into one sentence: — To Switzerland our hearts, to Great Britain our sons. This is our fate to-day; we must accept it and fulfil our duty. This does not take away our allegiance to the land of our fathers, nor lessen our admiration and love for the land of our adoption. On the contrary, it combines and strengthens the two into one wider living purpose. It will make our lives fuller and ultimately it will be our spiritual contribution to the brave new world to come which will be built up, not by narrow national seclusion, but by real world-citizenship.

After the war we shall still have to carry on. Those of us who come towards the end of our life's work will be glad to retire to our homeland, if our sons return from the war and take up the work where we left it. The younger members will continue their work, perhaps will have to start anew. That will be the time to assist each other with word and deed, the time to show our confidence and trust in each other, in short, to work together and in harmony. In this way our colonies will never die, but will remain the trusted outposts of Switzerland's economic and spiritual well-being; in this way shall we all prove worthy of our patrimony."

In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Suter gave information about the efforts which are made to repatriate distressed compatriots from the stricken countries of Europe and Asia and brought to our notice the fund which he has started to create with the object of sending relief through the *Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger* to the numerous Swiss Colonies who have suffered grievous losses and whose very existence is in jeopardy as a result of the devastations of the war. On the other hand we heard with a mixture of delight and envy of the literary and dramatic venture undertaken by our compatriots in Scotland who are prepared to propagate the art of our native bards among the Swiss Colonies in the British Isles. Will they include Manchester in the projected "grand tour?" They will receive a hearty welcome.

By coming among us, Mr. Suter has not only given us the great pleasure of enjoying his youthful personality and enthusiasm, he has also reaffirmed the solidarity of the Swiss Colonies throughout the land which could be brought into greater evidence by a more frequent interchange of visits. That he also got some pleasure from his week-end in the North may be gathered from his promise to come again and to bring or send us other interesting visitors.

R.....R.

LIVERPOOL NEWS.

In the peaceful days prior to 1914, when trade could flourish, the Cotton and Grain Exchanges of Liverpool became of world wide importance. For the Swiss Textile Industry the Liverpool Cotton Exchange was of great importance and there was a constant stream of young men coming here to gain experience. Most of these, although they came of decent homes, had to earn their keep and accepted positions in commercial houses, some for 2-3 years, some to stay. I do not remember a single case of dismissal on account of incompetence amongst these clerks, in fact most, either in Switzerland or here, obtained eventually leading positions. No system of statistics will disclose the gain all round in pounds, shillings and pence, but it must have been considerable on both sides. However, this happy position was destroyed by the 1914/18 war. Those men who stayed were still an asset while they lived, but it is a dwindling band. In the Cotton trade we have lost Hermann Baer, Emil Mueller and now Charles Hartmann the veteran, known to several generations for his active interest in the Swiss Club. We have also lost lately Gabriel Widmer at the great age of 85, who was a pioneer in the North of England in the trade for Swiss watches. We cannot see any accession of new blood unless the pendulum swings back to more enlightened arrangements between nations. Perhaps the cotton and other firms will be allowed, in view of the necessity of developing the export trade, to choose their clerks even from Switzerland.

We have all been pleased to hear that Maryse Faivre, the daughter of the Chancellor of the Consulate, has at the early age of 15 passed her Examination for the School Leaving Certificate (Cambridge University) with 5 credits and 2 passes. As this carries the right of entry into the University without the im-matriculation examination she has her foot on the ladder for a University career. Well done, Maryse and good wishes for the future.

E.M.

UNIONE TICINESE.

Annual General Meeting held on the 13th February, 1944, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. C. Ferrari, with a few well chosen words, followed by the observation of a minute's silence in memory of two lately deceased members.

The auditors then presented their report and recommended that the accounts for 1943 should be approved, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The Secretary, Mr. P. DeMaria, followed with a lucid exposition of the Society's activities for 1943.

The new Committee for the year 1944 was elected and is composed as follows:— President: C. Ferrari; Vice-President: O. Gambazzi; Secretary: P. DeMaria; Vice-Secretary: V. Berti; Treasurer: C. Berti; Collector: E. Lucca; and three additional members: Mr. V. Ratti, Mr. C. Cima and Mr. P. Morosi.

The Society regrets to announce the death of another old member Faustino Morosi, native of Dangio, Val. Blenio, Canton Ticino, and offers its sincere condolences to the family.