

# Emigration of swiss industries [to be continued]

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - (1937)

Heft 838

PDF erstellt am: **22.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696517>

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**"OLDE FRIENDS" EVENING**

at the

**Union Helvetia Club,**

on Thursday, November 25th, 1937.

In spite of a rather heavy engagement list, I accepted an invitation to be present at the "Olde Friends" Evening, which took place at the Union Helvetia Headquarters on Thursday, November 25th, and I was not sorry I made this "sacrifice."

It is always a pleasure to meet old friends, and considering that I entered the hospitable portals of the Union Helvetia some 20 years ago, I have made during this lengthy period a good many friends, whom I am glad to meet at least once a year.

If I am rightly informed, the "olde friends" of this well-known Club have foregathered for the last 18 years at this Club, in order to spend a few happy hours in congenial company.

There was hardly a seat vacant in the prettily decorated dining hall, which shows how very popular this gathering has become amongst its members.

A simple, but very well-served dinner opened the evening, and Mr. and Mrs. Wynnann, the efficient stewards of the Union Helvetia Club, richly deserved the praise which was bestowed on them, for having looked so well after the "material" welfare of the company.

Mr. A. Indermaur, who was in the Chair, proposed, shortly before the conclusion of the dinner, the toast to H.M. the King and to Switzerland.

Mr. A. Boog was entrusted with the toast to the "Olde Friends," a task which he fulfilled with his usual efficiency.

The response to this important toast was given by Mr. A. Indermaur, in a few well chosen words he referred to some of the pillars and friends of the Society, mentioning especially Mr. G. De Brunner, who had at all times proved to be one of its most trusted members.

M. Wyss, another of the very old friends, and an instigator of the "Olde Friends" Dinner, spoke very eloquently of the Ladies present, and Mrs. Kummer, in a very witty speech, replied to this toast.

The Banqueting Hall was then cleared, and dancing started shortly before midnight.

This very jolly and enjoyable evening came to an end at 2 a.m., and all the "Olde" and *revoir* to each other, after having cemented again Young friends of the Union Helvetia said *au old friendships and made new ones.*

ST.

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**AN APPEAL.**

The *Swiss Benevolent Society*, the *Eglise Suisse* and the *Schweizerkirche* in London appeal once again to their compatriots for their kind contributions, in cash or kind, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to our Swiss in need. Wearing apparel, underclothing and footwear are much appreciated and such gifts will be gratefully received.

Parcels should be addressed not later than December 11th to: 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1, or to 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, and cash remittances to: Swiss Benevolent Society, 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1, or Miss J. Matthey, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6, or Rev. C. Th. Hahn; 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4.

**PERSONAL.**

We extend hearty congratulations to M. A. Rueff, on his appointment as Sub-Manager of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation.

**Emigration of Swiss Industries.**

(Continuation from page 2.)

In 1783 the firm of St. Biedermann & Co. started at Wesserling (Alsace) and Ziegler & Weiss at Mulhouse. Already at that time opposition was rife with regard to this emigration of Swiss industries and a proposition was made to the Town Council of Zurich to forbid the export of intermediate products in vain effort to arrest the creation of Swiss cotton establishments abroad.

The decadence of Napoleon I went against the development of Swiss industries, and had some terrible influences upon numerous factories in our country. Quite a number of mills had to close down and others were totally dismantled and re-erected abroad.

During the whole of the 19th century, we find Swiss capitalists and industrialists interested financially and otherwise in the cotton industry of the Alsace, and at the beginning of 1922 Swiss investments of 40,000,000 Swiss francs were made in this district.

In most cases, we still find participations of between 25% and 50% in Swiss hands. In numerous factories the Management is entirely or partially in Swiss hands.

In 1789, we find a Swiss starting a textile printing plant in Cornigliano (Lombardy). This existed still in 1850.

In 1860, another Swiss from Zurich of the name of Egg, started a textile factory near Naples. In 1830, another one commenced in Sarno, and a little later on, a third Swiss started the manufacture of thin cotton goods in Messina.

In 1868, it is mentioned in a report of the National Councillor, Herzog, that at this time there existed 7 Swiss Spinning Mills with 108,000 spindles and 10 Weaving Mills with over 2,000 looms in Italy. This movement of emigration of the Swiss Cotton industry towards Italy extended still more during the last few decades of the 19th century, so that by the year 1900 we find in Italy the following factories established by Swiss.

- 41 Spinning Mills with 800,000 spindles.
- 26 Weaving Mills with 15,000 looms.
- 5 Printing establishments with 40 rotary machines.

In all these sections, the emigrated industries owned by Swiss in Italy represented between 50 and 100% of machinery of the same kind running in Switzerland. But already at this period we notice that these factories established abroad owing to their access to cheap labour and also owing to the fact that in many cases foreign capital was introduced into these companies, started competing with Swiss firms in the Balkan countries, the Levant, Asia, and South America. They even started to under-bid the goods of their parent companies in Switzerland itself.

In 1753 Swiss firms started developing factories in South Germany. A Swiss opened a mill in Lerach. A Genevois started a factory in 1785 in Constance.

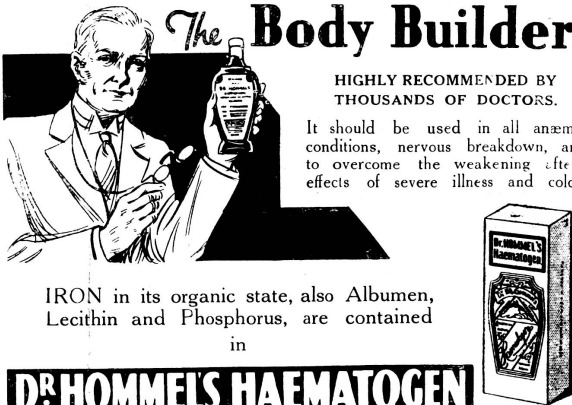
The protectionist policy of Germany started in later years a similar movement as the one we have observed in Italy. Similar movements we find towards Austria, and already in 1814 the Swiss industrialists had reached right over to Russia, in St. Petersburg and Sarrevar, near Moscow.

The big companies who for a number of years did extremely well in Russia up to the last Bolshevik Revolution started their work during the last years of the 19th century.

We find, also, factories established in Rumania and Spain and even in England in the metropolis of the English cotton industry — Manchester — where they worked in cheerful competition with the local manufacturers.

In 1860 a factory was established in Rio de Janeiro, and from this time onwards South America has been a field of great activity for our people.

(To be continued).



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