

Switzerland'd position in international affairs

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economic problems. They have so far not only shown no signs of reducing tariffs and freeing trade, but refused to accept foreign tenders and foreign competition in America. This will certainly have to change if the monetary resources of the sterling area are to be strengthened. It seems however that we have a long way to go before this desirable modification is granted by the American Congress. No major development in this direction can reasonably be expected in the current year; we must consider ourselves lucky if they occur in 1954.

Although the British authorities cannot be very pleased with the response they have so far met in America, they are nevertheless pushing ahead with their convertibility plans in conjunction with European countries. Discussions to this effect have already taken place with France, the Scandinavian countries, Germany and Belgium, and similar talks will follow with Switzerland, Italy and Holland. Each individual country will be able to examine with the British authorities the full implications of sterling convertibility as well as the repercussions on its own economy. The negotiations with Switzerland were fixed for the 8th-9th June, and have taken place in London. It would however be unrealistic to expect too much of these talks since the Swiss franc is already convertible and since the Swiss authorities will certainly not enforce any import restrictions against British goods once sterling convertibility has been introduced. The problems on the agenda for the Swiss-British talks seem therefore of a rather informative character."

This very interesting exposé of our Commercial

Counsellor was listened to with marked attention, and was followed by a lively discussion in which several of the members took part.

Before closing the Meeting, Mr. H. Oswald, Chairman of the Council, very warmly thanked Dr. Umbrecht for his very lucid address.

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SWITZERLAND'S POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

An N.S.H. Lecture.

The next eminent lecturer at a combined Open Meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Anglo-Swiss Society on June 26th, (details see advertisement) will be a Swiss legal expert from Geneva, Dr. Max Habicht, who will speak in English.

He is a graduate of Zurich and Harvard, is practising as barrister and legal counsel at Geneva and New York. He has been a member of the legal section of the League of Nations, diplomatic advisor to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. (UNRA.)

Dr. Habicht is a well-known lecturer and author on International law. He will speak after dinner given in his honour on June 24th by the Parliamentary group for World Federal Government. He will give a lecture at Chatham House on the 25th of June and he has kindly consented to stay over to the 26th for the N.S.H. Meeting. It is hoped that following the lecture and discussion one or two films illustrating the International activities at Geneva may be shown.

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