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fore most important for that country not only to have access to the sea and to the European canal system, but also to prevent the principal branches of that system from passing out of its reach.

Letting alone all other considerations, from the merely commercial point of view, this problem concerns not exclusively the interests of Switzerland, but also those of all nations that trade with her. As a matter of fact, the statistics from 1912 to 1922 show that the average annual tonnage of heavy and bulky goods, suitable for transport by barges, amounted to 3,533,000 tons of imports and 491,000 tons of exports. The considerable sums which have been saved in transports since the opening of the port of Basle, give the measure of the advantages which foreign suppliers and customers of Switzerland may expect from the construction of a canal, crossing Switzerland and connecting it with northern ports, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Judging from the experience gained in other cases, and in view of the great activity of Switzerland as a manufacturing country, the new possibilities of exchange and trade, due to the economical transport by water, will be no less interesting. (B.J.S.)

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Le Comité tient à attirer l'attention toute spéciale de Messieurs les membres et amis sur le fait que l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle, fixée pour le 7 avril prochain, aura lieu chez Pagani's, 42, Great Portland Street. Ce choix s'est imposé à la suite de l'impossibilité dans laquelle se trouvent nos restaurateurs habituels, MM. Gatti, de nous réservé une salle pour l'occasion. Le Souper sera servi à 7 h. précises (voir l'annonce).

### NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. GROUPE LONDONIEN.

#### REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

On Friday evening, Feb. 20th, the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique held their Ninth Annual General Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square.

Mr. J. Baer presided, and from his extensive report, which is printed *in extenso* below, it was seen that, in spite of the difficult financial position, the every-day activities of the Group had in no way decreased, though, owing to the necessity of economising, the number of yearly lectures have had to be reduced to a minimum, whilst the propaganda work of the Group has also been very considerably reduced. However, as a *Bureau de renseignements* and in many other ways the Secretariat is doing exceedingly useful work and will continue to do so. The report concluded with a well-deserved tribute to the work done for the Group by Mr. A. F. Suter (hon. treasurer) and Mr. C. Campart (hon. secretary).

Mr. Suter's report with regard to the financial situation was followed with close attention by the meeting. He explained that the watchword of the Group still had to be "Economy and more Economy" until such time as the financial situation became a little easier. Everything possible had been done to keep expenses as low as possible, and would be continued to be done during this year as well. It was decided by the meeting that the subscription for 1925 should again be 10s.

Mr. J. Weber then gave the auditors' report, and a vote of thanks to them, as well as to Mr. Suter, was responded to most heartily by the meeting.

There was some discussion as to whether the London Group should in future organise a dance instead of the annual dinner, but it was finally unanimously agreed not to embark on any such venture.

Mr. Weber and Mr. F. Zimmermann were again elected as auditors, and the following members were elected to the Council for 1925: L. Audemars, M. Bachofer, J. Baer, F. Boehringer, C. Campart, Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, E. Neuschwander, H. Schällibaum, A. J. Strahle, A. F. Suter, J. Weber and G. H. Weber.

#### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1924.

1. Fortunately, in a society such as ours the numbers of the members do not matter quite so much as whether they are good members or the reverse. Experience has taught us that the success of our work as a Group depends on quality and not quantity. It is, therefore, with no great despondency that I tell you that our membership has decreased from 354 at the beginning of January last to 296. This decrease in our numbers is due to different reasons. One of our statutes, as you know, states that: "Tout membre dont la cotisation est en suffrance au 30 juin est considéré comme démissionnaire," and as we allowed many members grace to pay their subscriptions until the end of 1924, there was then nothing to do but very reluctantly to take such members, who had not paid what was due by them, off our list. Apart from these, a large number of our members have left London, and, as you know, we have also lost one or two most valuable hel-

pers through death. However, as I have said, we depend on quality and not quantity, and as we feel quite certain of the quality of those members who now remain with us, there is no need to be despondent.

2. The Committee met eight times.

3. The Council met nine times.

#### 4. Library, Books for Sale, Papers & Reviews.

(a) *Library*: Our library has increased by twenty-two books during this last year, and now numbers 859 volumes. As we have had to exercise the strictest economy at every point, practically all those additions have been gifts, and we owe thanks to the following for very kindly having presented us with these valuable acquisitions:—Mr. Hans Birmann, Mr. Paul Lang, Mr. Henri Martin, Secrétaire des Suisses à l'étranger, Swiss Federal Railways, Office Suisse du Tourisme, Group of Baden, University of London. With regard to the number of books lent out, there has, if anything, been a slight increase. Our extra readers have, however, for the most part not been Swiss, but Englishmen. We have had quite a number of requests for our books from different English people all over the country in order to help them to prepare lectures or articles on Switzerland.

(b) *Books for Sale*: We have still a number of books for sale at greatly reduced cost, and price-lists will be forwarded to anybody anxious to obtain advantage of this opportunity to obtain absolutely new books at almost half their published price. We have also a few copies of an excellent pocket atlas of Switzerland which we are selling at 1/3 (the usual price is 2/6). All applications for these atlases or for books or price-lists should be made to the Secretariat, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

(c) *Papers and Reviews*: We receive regularly twenty-one Swiss, American-Swiss and English reviews and papers. We have, however, only contributed to six of these publications, and have to thank the following gentlemen and associations for their kindness in helping us to increase the numbers of our papers, etc., for the use of the Secretariat and the members to such an extent:—Association Suisse pour la Navigation du Rhône au Rhin; Mr. J. Baer; Central Committee of Zofingen; Commission de publicité de la ville de Lausanne; Corrier Suisse de Rio de la Plata; Comité international de la Croix Rouge; Exportateur Suisse; Groups of the N.S.H.; Information Office, Lugano; North-American Schweizerbund; Office central universitaire; Office suisse du tourisme; Polyglot Printing Co.; Pro Juventute; Publicity Office, Interlaken; Rheinquellen; Secrétaire des Suisses à l'étranger; Société suisse d'utilité publique; Swiss Bank Corporation; "Swiss Monthly"; University of London and Swiss Universities; Mr. G. H. Weber; and from the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, on behalf of the late Mr. Goetz, we received a most interesting treatise on the Zones question which he had written shortly before his illness.

5. *Social and Instructive Activities of the Group*. In spite of the difficult times we are passing through financially, it is encouraging to notice that our activities have not been curtailed to any very marked extent, and we might almost say we have been conducting "business as usual." Certainly, with regard to the every-day activities of the Group, this really might be said, though perhaps hardly so when it comes to lectures. For the last three or four years the attendance at lectures has not really been of a nature to encourage us to continue with them—previously we could afford to lose a little money on such enterprises, now we cannot, and consequently we have been forced greatly to reduce their number. We have, however, had one or two readings and causeries, and they have proved so much more popular than lectures that we believe we shall be carrying out the wishes of the majority of our members if we arrange more of these in future and give our bigger lectures only in conjunction with other Swiss societies. The following is a list of the social and instructive activities of our Group since the Annual General Meeting in February last:—

On March 28th we had a lecture from Dr. Agenor Kraft on "L'émigration des industries suisses."

On May 5th Professor F. Roget, of Geneva University, gave us a causerie on "Swiss Propaganda," and during his stay in London, we also arranged that he should address the Swiss Sub-Committee of the League of Nations Union.

On May 16th the Swiss Institute arranged a lecture by Mr. E. Gooch on "European Affairs," for which we sent out invitations to all our members.

We also sent out, as usual, invitations to all our members for the "Fête Suisse" in June, and for the 1st of August Celebrations.

On October 7th the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme gave a reading from the works of Philippe Monnier at the City Swiss Club, and on October 10th he gave a lecture to the Group on "De Rousseau et de certains aspects de la pédagogie moderne."

On November 4th Mr. F. Beyli gave some recitations from German-Swiss poets at the Union Helvétique.

On January 13th we had our Annual Dinner,

which was attended by 82 people and proved to be a success in every way.

#### 6. Other Activities of the Group.

(a) *Bureau de renseignements*: Although, as has been seen, we have curtailed the number of our yearly lectures, mostly for reasons of finance, but also to some extent because they were not really properly supported by the majority of our members, we have in no way reduced the every-day activities of the Secretariat. It is very satisfactory to know that the name of our Secretariat as a "Bureau de renseignements" has spread to a very considerable extent, and we have had applications for advice and help from all quarters of the British Isles throughout the year, as well as from more remote places, such as Vorarlberg, Innsbruck and, of course, from all over Switzerland. As a rule, the information desired is either with regard to courses of study in this country or in Switzerland, or advice as to books which ought to be read for various lectures and causeries. But, of course, we are asked many other things besides these. Very numerous, for example, have been the requests with regard to good boarding-houses in London—of which we have now a very comprehensive list—and almost equally numerous have been those with regard to health and pleasure resorts in Switzerland. We also receive many requests—more especially from Englishmen—with regard to particular information they require about Swiss artists—such as Hodler—Swiss musicians, and certain points in Swiss history.

(b) *Journalistic activities*: But apart from its work as a "Bureau de renseignements," the Secretariat has many other activities. By contributing to Durrant's Press Cuttings, it is able to keep an eye on all that is published with regard to Switzerland in the British press and to correct any statements which are misleading or totally wrong. In this connection may be mentioned a letter sent to the "Daily Mail" in April with regard to the Tessin and Switzerland, and a letter sent in January of this year to the "Evening Standard" with regard to the works of Carl Spitteler. Apart from righting wrong statements in the British press, articles have also been sent to "The Times" and "Spectator" with regard to the referendum and the 48-hour week, and articles also have appeared in "The Swiss Observer" with regard to Swiss children abroad, the works and aims of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the Almanach Pestalozzi, etc. etc.

During this last year we have again tried hard to induce certain English publishers to bring out editions of various Swiss books, particularly those of C. F. Ramuz, and for a time it almost seemed as though we should at last achieve our point, but once again, owing to present economic conditions,

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	BONDS.	Mar. 24	Mar. 31
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	... 75 25%	75 12%	
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	... 99 30%	99 12%	
Federal Railways A—K 3 1/2%	... 78 45%	79 12%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 5 1/2% 1921	... 101.00%	101.25%	
Canton Fribourg 3 1/2% 1892...	... 70.50%	70.00%	
SHARES.	Nom.	Mar. 24	Mar. 31
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	... 500	640	638
Crédit Suisse	... 500	696	692
Union de Banques Suisses	... 500	535	538
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3170	3180
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1922	1907
C. F. Bally S.A.	... 1000	1211	1212
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	660	680
Entreprises Suizer ...	1000	761	758
S. A. Brown Bovier (new)	... 350	334	334
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond.Mk. Co.	200	225	222
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	185	177
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we were doomed to disappointment. Several London publishers wrote to us to the effect that they considered Ramuz a "remarkable writer," but believed at the same time it would be somewhat difficult to make the English reading public realise he was worth their attention. Should economic conditions improve in the publishing line, it is more than probable we shall find a publisher here willing to take a risk which, at the present time, would evidently be too great from a financial standpoint.

In addition to the works of Ramuz, we have also tried to interest the publishers of the "Home University" and the "Nations of To-day" series to bring out a book on Switzerland, and we also submitted a most interesting work, "Ur-Ethnographie der Schweiz," to a London publisher, in the hope that an English edition of this book might be brought out. Unfortunately, in every instance the result was the same; the publishers were always extremely interested and would like to have seen their way to carry out what we suggested, only the present economic situation will not allow them to take any risks. However, although we have had no material results in this direction, there can be no doubt that we have aroused the interest of the most important London publishers in Swiss literature, and, more than that, there is no question but that, should economic conditions improve, we would be able to see one, if not more, of our ideas in this direction achieved.

(c) *Propaganda*: Our financial position has not allowed us to do very much in this direction, nevertheless, we have endeavoured to do what we could in this way, at the least possible expense. "The Swiss Observer" very kindly devoted the main part of its issue of March 10th, 1924, to publishing the last presidential report and Dr. Lang's farewell address to our Group. This was not only sent out to all our members, but we obtained a sufficient number of copies to distribute from time to time to different individuals with a view to interesting them in our work and movement. The Propaganda Committee also drew up a circular with the object of trying to induce members to take a more active interest in our meetings and work, and this was also sent out to all members.

(d) *Other Enterprises*: We ventured on an attempt to keep the Secretariat open once a week in the evenings in order to give members, working through the day, an opportunity of seeing our books and papers. However, after a month's trial, this scheme hardly proved sufficiently successful to justify us continuing with it, and it was accordingly abandoned. Our thanks are due to Mr. Bachofer for kindly attending on each of these occasions.

Another initiative proved more successful. In order to try and prevent the very frequent overlapping of social and other events, which has so often occurred in the London Swiss Colony, we arranged a meeting on January 8th of this year to discuss this point with the other London Swiss societies, and must thank all those of them which were good enough to send us a delegate to represent them and enable us to come to some sort of a working arrangement. The outcome of this meeting was that it was agreed that "The Swiss Observer" and the Secretariat of the N.S.H. should keep a register of the different social activities of the London Swiss societies, and that any society wanting to arrange some special meeting or function—i.e., one not taking place on one of the fixed dates usual for their meetings and known to the other societies already—they would only have to ring up "The Swiss Observer" or the N.S.H. in order to find out whether or not the date they had in view was already booked by another society. It was also agreed at this meeting that it would be an excellent think if in future those societies interested in lectures should combine and give one or two lectures together throughout the year. There can be no doubt, I think, that these decisions should be beneficial to every society which arranges different lectures and other functions, and that we are entitled to look upon our initiative in this direction not only as having been successful, but also as being one which should prove of great advantage to the London Swiss Colony at large.

7. *Staff of the Secretariat*:—The Secretariat this year has consisted of a half-time Secretary, Dr. A. Kraft, and a full-time Assistant Secretary, Miss Crawford, from March 1st until August 9th, when Dr. Kraft returned to Switzerland. Since his departure Miss Crawford has carried on the work alone, our financial position, unfortunately, not allowing us to have even a half-time Secretary at present, and she is acquiring herself most admirably of her task, which necessitates constant attention, foresight and tact. Miss Crawford possesses all these qualities, which, added to her long experience of the work of the Secretariat, renders her assistance invaluable to your Committee. In fact, were it not for Miss Crawford's precious collaboration, the task of the Committee would be a heavy one, and I am glad of this opportunity to thank her for her untiring devotion to the affairs of the Group and the sterling services she is rendering us.

#### 8. Our Relations with other Groups & Societies.

(a) *Groups*: As in previous years, we have been in constant touch with the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger in Fribourg, regularly receiving from them different circulars with regard to things of moment to the Swiss Abroad. These have always been discussed at our Council Meetings, and, when necessary, resolutions have been drawn up and forwarded to Switzerland. We, in turn, have kept the S.S.E. informed as to our activities by means of a report forwarded to them regularly every month. These monthly reports are also sent to all the other Groups of the N.S.H., and from many of them we receive reports and other communications in return, which are always read with interest.

(b) *Swiss Legation & Swiss Societies in London*: Our relations with the Swiss Legation are always of the best, and we are most grateful for the help we so often receive from it in many and varied ways. We are also, of course, in close touch with all the different London Swiss societies, each of them being entitled to send a representative to our monthly Council Meetings, and we should also like to thank them, too, for the help they are even willing to give us when the occasion arises.

(c) *Other Institutions*: We are in constant touch with a number of associations, both English and Swiss, whose aims are somewhat similar to our own, and, whenever possible, we have done our utmost to help them in various ways. For instance, the National Union of Students of England and Wales organised a journey of thirty-six Swiss students to this country from July 29th to August 12th, and we arranged for one or two of our members—to whom we are most grateful for their assistance on this occasion—to show the students around London and the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley; we also sent the Union forty programmes for the 1st of August Celebrations, so that these might be distributed amongst the students. We have, too, distributed leaflets with regard to lectures on the Draft Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of Disputes for the Women's International League, endeavoured to interest our members in a sale arranged by the Swiss Circle of the Lyceum Club, distributed leaflets for the Swiss Society "Naturschutz," lent out our song books and map of Switzerland on several occasions for fêtes and lectures respectively, and from time to time have sent out copies of the "Bulletin universitaire" to various students' unions and the University of London.

9. *Correspondence and Visitors*.—As in previous years, the number of callers has varied greatly. Some days nobody calls at the Secretariat at all, whilst on others there may be as many as five or six visitors. As to correspondence, the number of actual business letters, i.e., letters giving information asked for and dealing with the different activities of the Group, remains much the same, but where there is a marked difference is in the number of circulars, invitations, etc., sent out to members. Up till a year or two ago our expenses for postage for such circulars were very heavy indeed, but we have gradually had to cut these down, and this year, although I personally do not know the exact figures, I know they must be very small when compared with those of some years ago. This cutting down of circulars, etc., has, of course, been due to necessity; we have had to cut our coat according to our cloth, and the material, as you all know, has been somewhat scanty of late years.

10. *Committees*.—During this last year the Propaganda and Entertainment Committees combined, and we have already remarked—under "Propaganda"—upon some of the work done by it. In addition, of course, it also arranged our dinner on January 13th. The Finance and Budget Committees also combined during this last year, and I need hardly tell you that the moving spirit in it has been our most able Treasurer, Mr. A. F. Suter. His is not a pleasant task, and I believe only the Committee realise how hard and unceasingly he works to endeavour to keep our Secretariat and its work going. Were it not for Mr. Suter's untiring energy, I'm afraid we might have no Secretariat at all to-day, and I should, therefore, like to thank him now most heartily, in the name of the Council and the Group as a whole, for all he has done for us. Those who have the interest of our movement at heart cannot but be sincerely grateful to him for his splendid work on our behalf. I would also like to say a few words on the work accomplished by our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Campart, on whom, since the foundation of the Group, has devolved the task of writing the minutes of all the Council and Committee Meetings. From rough notes taken at such meetings he produces the most accurate and clear account of all the proceedings, a task which must take the best part of many an evening after a hard day's work. He does it with an untiring good grace and, further, he never misses a meeting. In fact, Mr. Campart is a model Hon. Secretary, and I know I am voicing the feelings of the members of the Council and of the Committee in thanking him most sincerely for his devotion to his duty which requires much attention and a good deal of work.

Besides these two Committees just mentioned we have also had the Entr'Aide and the Press Com-

mittees to help us whenever the need arose. Unfortunately, the latter lost a very able member when Dr. Weibel had to resign from it owing to his leaving London permanently.

From all this it will be seen that our ordinary every-day activities have not decreased in any way, and that is, of course, due to the fact that they entail no extra outlay. Our members can therefore be assured that, though they no longer receive frequent invitations to lectures and other such communications, our work still goes on as before, and we are continually helping our young fellow-countrymen who come over here, continually endeavouring to make Switzerland and things Swiss better known and understood in this country—in a word, striving to work to the best of our ability for our dear homeland and for the Swiss Abroad. The present circumstances and our financial situation prevent us from developing a greater activity, but the feeling that our work, although forcibly limited in its scope, is useful work, must help us to mark time until the day comes again when we can go full steam ahead. Sentry duty does not appeal to the average fighting man, but for the safety of the army it is of the utmost importance. The rôle of the London Group of the N.S.H. is at present very similar to that of a sentry; we hold a position of trust, we must preserve intact the monument which, with patient love, enthusiasm and self-sacrifice we have erected on foreign soil to our dear country. We must be ever watchful and closely united in order to be ready to march forward should the call come again as it did ten years ago.

It is this readiness, this unity of purpose which has enabled the London Group to surmount all difficulties, to survive all criticisms, and to find itself 296 strong after nearly ten years of existence.

Let those who might have had some misgivings concerning the future of the Group take comfort from these facts. I hope they will show them that they must put more faith in the Ideal which has rendered them possible, and which is now at work all over the world. The dream of the founders of the N.S.H. has become a reality. Thousands of Swiss at home and abroad have made theirs the beautiful motto: *Pro Helvetica dignitate ac securitate*. In ever-growing numbers they come forward ready to consecrate some of their time, their money, their comfort to serve our beloved country. Thanks to the N.S.H. the Swiss abroad, who formerly have been left to their own devices, are now recognized as an asset to Switzerland. Through the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger they can make themselves heard at home, they are kept in touch with all that is going on there, they have their Parliamentary Group in Berne! This is what faith in an Ideal can accomplish, and I am proud to think that the London Group has been one of the pioneers of this great movement which, as long as it remains inspired by the Ideal of the N.S.H., cannot but grow for the benefit of Switzerland and all the Swiss, whether they belong to a group of the N.S.H. or not.

Members of the London Group, we have every reason to look to the past with a feeling of deep gratitude, and to the future with the fullest confidence.

#### SCHWEIZERBUND.

The hall of the Swiss Club Schweizerbund at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, was crowded to its utmost capacity on Thursday, March 26th, when members and friends assembled to celebrate the 47th anniversary with the traditional banquet and ball.

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, was in the chair.

After the two loyal toasts had been duly proposed and honoured, Mr. Jules Tresch, the President, rose to submit the toast to the "Schweizerbund." He said he had no intention of making a long speech, but before talking of club affairs, he wished to express his great satisfaction at the presence of Monsieur Paravicini, who at considerable personal sacrifice had managed to be with them that evening; he assured the Minister that for him and his committee this was an encouragement which they fully appreciated. They had gone through some strenuous times and had had to swallow a good many bitter pills with a smiling face. He thought, however, they had succeeded in maintaining their old traditions and in providing a "home from home" for their compatriots; their success was due in a large measure to the support and advice they could always depend upon from their old members.

Mr. E. Forster, the Secretary, proposed the toast of "Our Guests"; he was most versatile, everyone profiting by his panegyrics. He regretted to notice that the Minister was not accompanied by Madame Paravicini, who was away in Switzerland, but he hoped that their distinguished guest would make up for it by staying with them till sunrise. The official guests included:—Mr. G. Colomb (Secours Mutuels), Mr. G. Marchand (City Swiss Club), Messrs. W. Notari and Biuchi (Unione Ticinese), Mr. E. Borgeaud and Miss Borgeaud (Union Helvetia), Messrs. Brand and Cornu (Swiss Mercantile Society), Mr. and Mrs. Peter (Swiss Choral Society), Mr. and Mrs. Schallibaum (Nouv.