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parties concerned, but where originally the Basle Trading Co. had the whole of the field to itself a competition has now been created which on the face of it is not of a very friendly nature. We reproduce the statements made in the House of Commons as recorded in the *Times* (May 8th).

"Mr. Amery, Secretary for the Colonies, replying to Mr. Lumley (Hull, E., U.) said:—The Government have for some time past given very careful consideration to the claims of the Basle Mission Trading Company, a Swiss concern, in respect of the sequestration of its properties and assets in the Gold Coast and in India during the War. These had been handed over without payment to a British organisation, the Commonwealth Trust, the only compensation offered to the Swiss company being part of the confiscated cash to the amount of £120,000, representing the original value of its shares, this action being based on the ground that the Basle Mission Trading Company was in the nature of a trust for philanthropic purposes, and that the shareholders' case would be met if their actual capital was restored and the rest of their assets devoted to similar purposes by another body.

While not prepared to admit that their action in sequestrating the assets of the company was not justified by the circumstances of the time, the Government came to the conclusion that the compensation offered did not meet the equities of the case, and invited the representatives of the Basle Mission Trading Company to come over last year in order to see if an agreed settlement could not be arrived at. I am glad to say that, so far as the Gold Coast is concerned, a settlement has now been arrived at on the basis of the reinstatement of the company into their properties, the repayment of the original share capital with accrued interest, and the further payment, from Colonial funds, of a lump sum of £250,000, this last in respect of the remaining cash and other liquid assets sequestrated and estimated by the company at £376,000, without allowing anything for interest or goodwill.

In negotiating for a settlement the Government attached the greatest importance to the maintenance of the philanthropic character of the trading company, which was the basis of our action in handling it over, impressed with a definite Trust, to the Commonwealth Trust. The representatives of the company made it clear that they were not, in fact, a trust, and that the limitation on profits which they had set themselves was one which, under their constitution, could be, and, in fact, had been, from time to time, altered by the shareholders. Eventually, however, they gave an undertaking that they will not deal in liquor or firearms, and that "in the future, as in the past, they will adhere to their established practice of devoting a substantial portion of their distributable profits to missionary and other philanthropic purposes in all parts of the world, including the British Empire, through the medium of trustees, and that in the application of such proportion full regard will be paid to the needs of the Gold Coast Colony on a scale not less than has been followed in the past."

This formal undertaking, which is an integral part of the agreement, will, I think, remove any objections which may have been felt to the reinstatement of the Basle Mission Trading Company into the properties and position from which they had been temporarily displaced. Throughout the difficult negotiations the directors of the company stated their cases most reasonably, and showed a genuine desire to assist, and I can say that, so far as the Colonial Office and the Government of the Gold Coast are concerned, the renewal of their old association with the Colony will be regarded with goodwill.

In order to reinstate the Basle Mission Trading Company into their properties, it was necessary that the Commonwealth Trust should vacate them. The latter company were, of course, in no way responsible for the situation which had arisen, and if restitution of the properties to the Swiss company had resulted in the winding-up and liquidation of the Commonwealth Trust, the Government would have felt bound to provide such amount as would have repaid, with arrears of interest, the capital of £50,000 odd contributed by the British shareholders, as well as pay such compensation as might be reasonable to deal with the considerable British staff, largely of ex-Service men, who would have been displaced. Happily it has been found possible for the directors of the Commonwealth Trust to see their way, with the help of a payment of £55,000, to find alternative accommodation and continue their business, a decision which has since been confirmed by their shareholders. This solution is not only a reasonable one from the point of view of the Government, but it will prevent the ten years' work of the Commonwealth Trust from being wasted, and will, I hope, enable it to earn such profits in future as will result in substantial benefactions to missionary and educational work in the Gold Coast.

Mr. Garro-Jones (Hackney, S., L.)—With regard to the amount of profits to be devoted to charitable purposes, who is to decide what is "a

substantial portion" of profits? Would it be possible to insert a more definite portion? Mr. Amery.—That point was considered in the negotiations. As the company are not a trust and have never been bound to any fixed figure, it was impossible to secure their agreement to such a fixed figure, but I have every confidence that the undertaking they have given will be honoured by them in the spirit as well as in the letter; and if it were obviously violated, the Government of the Gold Coast would, I think, have means of dealing with the situation. Lieut.-Com. Kenworthy (Hull, Central, Lab.)—Will the Treasury have to find any money in connection with this settlement? Mr. Amery.—I think not. Replying to Mr. Kelly (Rochdale, Lab.), Mr. Amery said that the Commonwealth Trust would pay all excess over 5 per cent. of its profits to missionary and other educational and philanthropic purposes. In reply to Viscountess Astor (Plymouth, Sutton, U.) Mr. Amery said that the question whether it would be possible for the Basle Mission Trading Company also to devote all excess over 5 per cent. of their profits to missionary and philanthropic work was raised during the negotiations, but the company were not prepared to agree to it.

SUISSE-ANGLETERRE PAR LA VOIE DES AIRS.

Je suis venu vous voir! Le saviez-vous? Perdu dans le dédale des petites rues qui entourent Léonard Street, j'ai fini par atteindre, sous son porche gothique, en cette vieille église désaffectée, et combien sympathique, le jovial et aimable directeur de ce journal. Par un de ces hasards quasi providentiels, un ami depuis longtemps perdu de vue était venu aux renseignements et le petit trio que nous formions ainsi a bavardé sans tenir compte que les aiguilles de la pendule continuaient leur course folle...

Je ne veux pas jouer à mon petit Mittelholzer, ni prétendre encore moins écrire comme mon distingué confrère René Gouzy. Mais je tiens à vous signaler mon voyage à Londres.

Quoi de plus simple, vous dites-vous, que d'aller de Genève à la capitale britannique?

Pas aussi simple que vous le pensez car, à l'instar des deux as susnommés, j'ai emprunté pour vous rendre visite la voie des airs et, pour ne pas faire comme tout le monde, suivant le conseil que m'avait donné Töpffer, je m'en vins en zigzaguant.

Parti de Genève sur un Dornier métallique et argenté de la Lufthansa quelques minutes avant 8 heures, j'étais à Bâle à 9.20h. déjà. Il faisait beau, pas un nuage dans le ciel. Une courbe gracieuse, et l'oiseau se pose sur l'aérodrome, qui, je l'espère, est de votre connaissance. On cause, on bavarde, on se rend en ville si on le désire et, à 1h. 40, sur un Fokker monomoteur, l'on repart, poussés par le vent, tangent tant bien que mal, absolument sûrs malgré tout, pour...arriver à Bruxelles. C'est la petite diversion que je voulais vous proposer. Or, à 4h. 1/2 déjà, à travers l'Alsace, la Lorraine, les Ardennes, se dessine le grand aérodrome de la capitale belge, au-dessus duquel évoluent de nombreux avions militaires. Vous atterrissez et vous apprenez que le Handley-Page trimoteur qui doit vous conduire à Londres est fortement en retard, un brouillard intense ayant obligé son pilote à ne s'élancer dans les airs que trois heures après le moment fixé par l'horaire. C'est donc à 6h. 45 que décollera ce "City of New York" tri-moteur du dernier genre qui emportera huit passagers, du fret et de la correspondance. Poussés par le vent qui souffle en tempête, cela nous permet d'établir le record de la ligne et d'arriver à Croydon en 1h. 38 minutes très exactement.

Vous dirai-je que pour revenir, nous nous sommes trouvés six par une idéale journée ensoleillée dans le "City of Glasgow" qui en 2h. 04 nous a déposés au Bourget? Qu'elle était belle par cette calme matinée l'eau glauque de la Manche que nous survolions à 700 mètres environ. Mais, ne vous attardez pas car vous n'avez que le temps de déjeuner! Dans moins d'une heure, un autre grand oiseau anglais va vous emmener à Bâle. Vous volez confortablement installé pendant 2h. 45 très exactement. Et voici qu'à nouveau se dessine à l'horizon, gracieusement couchée à la courbe du Rhin, la savante cité.

Pour rentrer, c'est un tri-moteur Junker, d'un type semblable à celui du "Bremen" mais beaucoup plus grand et pouvant transporter quatorze passagers qui va me ramener jusqu'aux bords du lac de Genève. Nous monterons jusqu'à 2300 mètres pour franchir le Jura, nous survolerons le Gros de Vaud; jeterons un regard sur Lausanne puis abordant franchement l'eau, gagnerons la rade, survolerons la ville et atterrirons paisiblement à Cointrin alors que le soleil meurt à l'horizon!

Tout ce circuit en 11 heures très exactement de vol. Des vêtements impeccables, pas un brin de poussière! des mains et des gants immaculés, le visage reposé, aucun cahotement, aucun mal de tête!

Qui désormais parmi vous, amis lecteurs, hésiterait à prendre le "chemin des aigles" pour regagner...son nid alpestre? Erik.

PERSONAL.

The President of the Swiss Confederation, accompanied by Madame Schulthess, spent a few days in our Colony on an unofficial visit; he left yesterday evening for Switzerland. At his request a few members of the Colony met him last Thursday at 21, Bryanston Square, W., when the Swiss Minister entertained the party to a luncheon. The President expressed his regret that in the short time at his disposal he had found it impossible to make contact with the clubs and societies in our Colony, but it was his sincere wish to become more closely acquainted with the aspirations and activities of our institutions on a future occasion. After the luncheon the President paid a short visit to the school of the Swiss Mercantile Society at Swiss House and conveyed to the committee his appreciation of the great and useful work undertaken on behalf of our young compatriots.

RAID AERIEN SUISSE TRANSAFRICAIN.

Grâce à l'obligeance bien connue du "S.O." les lecteurs de notre hebdomadaire ont été mis au courant à plusieurs reprises déjà, des prouesses des aviateurs suisses en 1927. Pourtant, peu nombreux sont nos compatriotes de Londres qui ont eu le privilège, non seulement d'entendre le Lt.-Col. René Gouzy, brillant causeur et initiateur de ce magnifique raid suisse-transafricain en relater les péripéties, mais même d'en admirer les inédites projections lumineuses.

Ce plaisir là, le City Swiss Club, la Swiss Mercantile Society et le groupe londonien de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique ont décidé de l'offrir gratuitement à leurs amis de notre colonie.

L'écran ne manquera pas d'être attrayant sous l'habile direction du conférencier, la salle, sans être illimitée est bonne et confortable, et comme il est certain que les moments agréables abonderont, beaucoup se donneront rendez-vous à Victoria House, Southampton Row (entrée Bloomsbury Place), W.C.1, à 8h. très précises, mercredi prochain 23 mai. C. Cr.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

MEETING OF DELEGATES at SOLOTHURN on MAY 5th-6th, 1928.

Solothurn, the ancient town of historic fame, was the place chosen for this year's meeting. And it was a fitting choice. The ancient towers and spires, the narrow little streets, the gates and other remnants of the old fortifications, all seemed symbolic of the aims of the Swiss Mercantile Society: to build on solid foundations works which will withstand the passing of the ages.

Unstinted praise is due to the tremendous energy and devotion of those Solothurn members who were responsible for the welfare of the delegates. Just imagine the task of finding accommodation for 235 persons, some of them arriving on the eve of the meeting, and others trooping in by twos and threes during Saturday morning. Yet everything went off with clockwork precision.

The assembly was held in the Kantonsratsaal, an eminently suitable place for a business meeting like ours, its austere beauty a constant reminder to everyone present that frivolities would be out of place there. After the opening speech, delivered by "Papa" Lutz, President of the Zentralverein, in his usual polished manner, Mr. A. Cornille, President of the Solothurn section, was elected chairman of the meeting. As a swift and sure leader, always courteous and conciliatory, ever tactful in restraining undue verbosity and length of discussion, Mr. Cornille has set a standard which future chairmen will find exceedingly hard to beat.

The agenda showed 27 items to be dealt with, some of them of a very important character. Probably the most eagerly-awaited proposal was that of the rules and regulations destined to govern the "Genossenschaft Hilfswerk des S.K.V. für alte Angestellte." Undivided attention was given to Mr. Wyss (Basle) who sponsored the latest child in our big family. This is not the place to refer to this matter in detail; suffice it to say that, as its title clearly states, this body within our association is formed to obtain, or to guarantee, the means necessary to procure a livelihood for members who have become unemployed through no fault of their own, and whose chance of further employment is remote by reason of their age. The money collected in 1927 for this purpose amounted to the appreciable sum of Frs. 170,000 of which Frs. 20,000 has already been spent in relieving the most pressing cases. After allotting Frs. 30,000 to funds for helping impoverished members, not necessarily unemployed, the balance of Frs. 120,000 will be used as starting capital for this new branch of our social welfare services. As the funds in hand are far from inexhaustible, further capital will be raised by appealing to our members and friends to join this special association, one condition of admission being the purchase of at least one share of