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## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

## SOUPER DANSANT.

A very happy gathering assembled on Tuesday, March 15th, at the Union Helvetia,— yes, happy and yet sad,— happy because it brought along many familiar faces, who have not been seen for some time, sad because it meant bidding farewell to one who has well deserved the praise so lavishly bestowed upon him.

The announcement depicted this function as a "Souper dansant," but it was really a farewell party, pure and simple.—

On a previous occasion I had reason to criticise one of the official functions of the S.M.S., which unfortunately had at the time, upset some of my friends, but I am glad to see, that apparently my criticism has had the effect, which I meant it to have. No function could have been better arranged, and I could perceive the master hand of my friend C. Chapuis behind the scene.

Not for a long time have I attended such a jovial gathering,— and I have participated in a good few,— it was a homely and merry company which met at 1, Gerrard Place.

In accordance with the economic situation, the arrangements were kept in a modest way; no big splash was intended, and M. Borgeaud, the popular Steward of the U.H., managed to satisfy nearly everybody as far as the dinner was concerned (the man who can please every Swiss, has not yet been found), and to him, goes a great part of the credit, for having made a success of this function; and with him I would like to couple the name of M. J. J. Keller, the new Secretary of the U.H., who, in his unassuming way, saw that everything went off without a hitch during the dinner and dance. The Union Helvetia, through their officials, has added one more feather to their cap, and they are well on the way to become the ideal hosts of the Colony, a fact which I am happy to bring to the notice of all those, who are engaged in arranging the social activities of the London Swiss Colony.

The dinner started only about half an hour later than the time for which it was fixed for, which in itself was already an improvement. Shortly before the dessert was served, the Chairman, M. Paravicini, Swiss Minister, rose to propose the toast to H. M. the King and to "La Suisse," both toasts were enthusiastically responded to.

M. Lehmann, the newly elected President of the S.M.S., then accorded a hearty welcome to M. Paravicini, who has just recently returned from a prolonged absence in Switzerland, and the cordial reception which this announcement evoked amongst the participants, was a striking proof, of the popularity which our Minister enjoys, whenever he honours a function of the Swiss in London with his presence. The Legation was present in full force, besides the Minister, the following Gentlemen were in attendance: M. de Jenner, Councillor of Legation, M. de Bourg, 1st Secretary of Legation, M. Rüfenacht, Secretary of Legation, M. Hiliker, Chancellor; other guests included: Dr. Kessler, from the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Dr. Egli, from the Bund and Mr. Stauffer, representing the Swiss Observer.

I was rather a wee bit disappointed, at having received an official invitation, as I should have preferred to attend this function as an ordinary member in view of the fact, that I have been for many years closely associated with the S.M.S., and I always considered the S.M.S. as my *spiritual home*, this institution being the first Swiss Society I joined many years ago; but, *es hat nicht sollen sein*.

The Swiss Minister on rising from his "Fauteuil Présidentiel" received a great ovation, he said:

If ever at an assembly of the Swiss Colony I have risen with mixed feelings, it is to-night. To-night I rise indeed with very mixed feelings. In the first place it is a matter of real satisfaction to me, of joy to me to be able to be in your midst. Owing to fortunate circumstances I came back to London two days ago when I might have been obliged to prolong my stay abroad two or three days longer. In that case, I should have missed that opportunity of witnessing this function, a function which I have very much at heart to be present myself. On the other hand, I have the regret to say that, returning after two months leave, I should have liked to meet my compatriots again in London on an occasion which would have been of a nature less gloomy in its object than the present one, for the very object of our Meeting to-night is of a kind which marks the date of 15th March, 1932, as a grave, if not as a black grave, for the Swiss Mercantile Society and for the Colony in London as a whole, as we meet to-night in honour of a man whose departure we are ill at ease to accept. Well, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, there it is! We are living in times of world crisis, of a crisis which affects every country, every society, every community, and which we are sorry to realise, does not spare the Swiss Mercantile Society and the

Swiss Colony. It is a sad thing to make a farewell speech. Fortunately, Sir, this task has been allotted to one whom we are going to hear presently and whose rhetorical qualities are of a kind to make even of a sad farewell speech a tolerable, if not a pleasant affair, I refer to your Vice-President, Mr. Stahelin. But I am bound to say that if Mr. Stahelin is going to have a review of the activities, of the merits, of the devotion and of the untiring efforts which our friend Marius Paschoud has given to the Swiss Mercantile Society and to the Swiss Colony as such for years, you will want the full measure of his rhetorical disposition and of his pleasant humour which we have enjoyed on former occasions.

I, Mr. Paschoud, shall be very sorry to finish soon, and I ask your permission for me to say nothing about all I could say, about all that is worthy to be said of you, and I shall simply sum up my feelings, and I may express the feelings of all of us in three conceptions, *viz.*, firstly, gratitude for what you have done and secondly, deep regrets about your departure, and thirdly, the unreserved assurance that the memory of your activity in London will never be forgotten as long as there is a Swiss Mercantile Society.

Loud applause greeted the speaker on resuming his seat.

M. Stahelin, the untiring Vice-President of the S.M.S., was cheered and cheered again, when he started to address the company as follows:

We have met to-night for a purpose which is one of joy as well as of sorrow. It is to express to Mr. and Mrs. Paschoud our gratitude for the services rendered to our Society, and to assure our new Honorary Member, that he will ever live in our memory as one of the outstanding personalities in the history of the S.M.S.

As sudden as was Mr. Paschoud's re-entry into harness in our hour of need four years ago, just as swift is his exit. He leaves London shortly for Paris, and we are assembled to-night to wish him God speed.

I have no intention of giving you the full history of Mr. Paschoud's activities on behalf of our Society and the Swiss Colony. The evening would not be long enough. Just let me take you back over the last few years. In 1928 we were hard pressed to find a Chairman for the Education Committee (not a very unusual state of affairs). Mr. Paschoud had done his fair share of committee work years before that; but he came forward willingly to assume the task. Let me say here, he promptly found himself sitting on a bed of thorns. He took drastic measures and re-organised the school in such a way, that its reputation to-day stands higher than ever before. In 1929 he took over the Presidency, which he has now relinquished through force of circumstances. However, he did not do so without finding a successor, who will carry on the good work.—

Mr. Paschoud, the members of our Society desire to present to you this clock as a token of their gratitude. We all hope that you may be hearing its ticking for very many years to come. That clock does not by any means truly represent our feelings towards you. To do that to the full, we have neither the power nor the means.

You are leaving us to take up a post which, in your own words, is a job after your own heart. We wish you the best of luck in your new sphere of activity, and our parting words to you are, not Good-Bye, but, "Till we meet again, and may it be soon."

Now I want to say a few words to you, Mrs. Paschoud. To you, also, we owe many thanks for putting up with the frequent absences of your husband due to his work in our cause. Pride in his achievements will, we hope, have brought you some consolation. You are about to return to your native land, and I am sure you are happy. Your gain is our loss. May I say that your gain is in some measure due to the opportunity our Society offered to Mr. Paschoud to prove his powers of organisation. So we hope that you will forgive us for your many lonely evenings, and that you will accept these flowers as the outward sign of our respect and esteem for you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink to Mr. and Mrs. Paschoud: May they have health, happiness and long life.

These words which came from the bottom of the heart, did not fail to make a deep impression on everyone present, and when a beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Mme. Paschoud, many of us felt a lump in our throats. No testimonial to the late President's wife could have expressed the feelings of all those present better, than those messengers of beautiful spring time coming.

The wonderful clock too, with which M. Paschoud was presented by the Members of the Society, will be no doubt cherished by them, and I unite myself with the wishes of M. Stahelin, that it may strike for them many more happy hours.

M. Levy, the Headmaster of the College, voiced the appreciation of the College for the great work M. Paschoud has rendered, and he closed his humorous address with the assertion that S.M.S. stands for "Santé, Marius, Santé"

Everybody was now getting ready to listen to the speech of M. Paschoud, and when he rose, tumultuous applause greeted him, he said:

I am really abashed to find myself the object of this large gathering, and to hear such praise heaped upon me. It absolutely overwhelms me and renders me speechless. No words can express my feelings, which are a mixture of gratitude, joy, and regret. Gratitude to you all for the honour you confer on me, joy at the thought that I am entering a new field of activity with great possibilities, but also regret, to have to leave the S.M.S. and my numerous friends.

This departure after 26½ years of residence here is a hard wrench in many ways, but how sweet will be the memories I shall take with me. I never thought, even in my most enthusiastic moments, that I had so many friends, and that the work I did would be so highly appreciated.

After all, what did I do but my duty as a citizen of Switzerland. I feel that to a great extent, I am reaping the reward of the pioneer work done by some of my friends here, particularly Mr. Stahelin. He it was who began the work of fighting to prevent the S.M.S. being swamped by harmful influences. It was Stahelin again who did the chief work of converting the Society into a registered company, and throughout my term as President, not a week went by without my conferring with him on this or that. Truly, Ladies and Gentlemen, believe me, what has been done is the result of our joint efforts, though he will not admit it, and as somebody remarked once, my enthusiasm incited by his common sense was the happy combination which made it possible. And what of the other members of the Committees, they also contributed largely to the work.

There are other names I am particularly anxious to mention to-night. It is Mr. Schupbach and Mr. Suter. Some years ago, these gentlemen stood by me in a most difficult moment, and I shall, as long as I live, treasure a grateful memory of their assistance in times of need. And what about the help I have received from all sides, for instance from the Legation, where I received proof of interest in my work, and assistance and advice on so many occasions. What better encouragement can one wish to have, and is there anybody who would not have felt spurred on to still greater efforts.

Looking round this hall, I see some very old friends. I see Mr. and Mrs. Hungerbühler, who were my first friends in London, and I remember as if it were yesterday, the many Sunday evenings I spent, 26 years ago in the house of Mr. Hungerbühler's parents, where I met some of the Swiss in London, amongst others Mr. Carlo Chapuis. I see also Mr. Boehringer, Mr. Zimmermann with whom I was associated in Society work years ago, Mr. Valon whom I knew before I came to London, and many others. Truly I must say that it is hard to part from them all.

As I said a few days ago to the members of the S.M.S., I am more than rewarded for what I have done by the feeling that I tried to do my duty. This work entered into without selfish motives, has also given me direct results. First of all, I have learnt a great deal, I have also gained self confidence, and last but not least, I owe my new position to some extent to it. My new firm had heard indirectly of my having reorganised the College of the S.M.S., and as they required somebody with organising capacities, their choice fell on me. So you see, Ladies and Gentlemen, how fully rewarded I already was.

The magnificent clock which you have given me will constantly remind me of London, and its beautiful chime will strike cords in my heart and make them vibrate with feelings of affection of you all. The steady ticking of the clock will be like the beats of the friendly hearts in London living with me in Paris, and that is why this clock which will adorn our home, will make it impossible for my wife and myself to forget our happy years amongst you all. As to my dear wife, who so often looked wistfully at the time, waiting for me late at night to come home from the Meetings, I shall no longer be able to put her off with the excuse that her watch is ever so fast.

Before closing, allow me to speak once more of a subject still very dear to me, I mean the Swiss Mercantile Society. I am leaving my job not even half finished. If you appreciate as you do what I did for the S.M.S., please continue to support it, encourage those at the head of it, and I am sure that whoever is President, will carry on the good work, and achieve still greater things. If I can carry

away that feeling, which I am convinced I can do, I shall indeed be happy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you with all my heart.

I need hardly emphasize that these words, spoken with emotion, were fully appreciated, it was the swan song of a man, who deserved all that was said about him. It does not often happen, that Society work gets such recognition, as many will know by their own experience, but when it comes in such a spontaneous fashion, it will go a long way to encourage members of the younger generation to put their backs to the wheel, to keep up traditions which have been handed down untarnished for a great number of years.

Le roi est mort, vive le roi! I cannot but say a few words about the one, who has taken up the task as successor to M. Paschoud, namely Mr. Lehmann. After he had listened to all the speeches, he must have felt wellnigh bewildered, it is no easy matter to succeed a man who has left such a reputation behind him, and one is apt or inclined, to expect from his successor that he should carry on, where the former, who had all the experience behind him, left off, this is, of course, impossible. M. Paschoud thanked the Members for their loyalty and faithful collaboration, two things which are essential for leading a Society successfully. Let us then hope that the same loyalty, the same faithfulness will be transferred to the new leader, and I have not the slightest doubt, that the S.M.S. will add a new successful chapter to their prominent history.

ST.

#### SWISS BANK CLUB.

The annual assembly of the Swiss Bank Club this year took the form of a smoking concert, held at the Bridge House Hotel on Friday last. Including friends of the members, about 200 persons were present.

The programme of music was contributed by the Swiss Choral Society and a group of well-known artists, who all received a warm welcome. Mr. Albert Hutt (bass) and Miss Lorraine La Fosse (soprano) provided the "straight" turns, Miss Edith Faulkner delighted her audience with her "Comedy and Character Cameos" and Mr. Fred Gwyn greatly amused with his "nonsense."

#### THE LEAGUE'S WIRELESS.

One evening seven years ago, a member of the League Secretariat, Sir Arthur Salter, sitting in his study on the lakeside at Coppet, about 10 miles from Geneva, tuned-in on Daventry, on the off chance of hearing the news bulletin. The night, by good fortune, was favourable to long-wave reception. The then Director of the League Section of Economics and Finance heard, to his astonishment, a report to the effect that Greece had issued an ultimatum to Bulgaria. Sir Arthur Salter at once telephoned the Secretary-General of the League, Sir Eric Drummond, who, in turn, put through a call to Paris to M. Briand, at that time President of the Council of the League. The news having been confirmed, steps were taken for the immediate convocation of the Council. This was held within 48 hours and a telegram dispatched at once appealing to the Greek and Bulgarian forces to stand fast. The telegram reached its destination just one hour before the time fixed by the Greek commander for an offensive. Had not Sir Arthur Salter heard the Daventry news bulletin on that particular evening there would not have been sufficient time in which to put in motion the machinery of the League, and there might well have been another Balkan war.

There is now a material sequel to this dramatic incident. The League to-day possesses its own means of communication with the outer world. It owns, or controls in times of emergency, a group of wireless transmitters and receivers which are capable of establishing direct inter-communication with every country possessing a transmitter which can be heard in Geneva. The stations have only been completed during the present month. Within an hour of the finishing touches being given to one of the short-wave transmitters it was being used for an important message direct to Tokyo. Since then the transmitters and receivers have been engaged daily in direct traffic to and from Tokyo and Shanghai. One evening last week a temporary change-over was made from telegraphy to telephony and in an experimental transmission the voice of Sir Eric Drummond speaking in Geneva was heard in North America.

But little play of the imagination is necessary to show how great a part the new League stations may play in international affairs. Should it come their way to avert disaster and lessen human suffering, this would only be in accordance with the traditions of wireless.

The League wireless station consists, in conformity with customary practice, of two units—a group of transmitters situated on a plain at Prangins, near Nyon, about 15 miles north-east of Geneva, and a corresponding group of receivers in a rural suburb of Geneva known as Colovrex.

It was at this latter station, two years ago, while it was still under construction that the song of a Surrey nightingale was received with such fidelity that a Swiss nightingale in the woods close by answered the sounds as they passed out from the station. Prangins and Colovrex are linked together by telephone cables and are each in direct communication with the League Secretariat and the Swiss Post Office, so that a telegraph official in the new buildings where the Disarmament Committees are now sitting can, by touching a key, send a wireless signal direct to Shanghai.

The transmitting station at Prangins, like its counterpart at Colovrex, is truly international in character. The buildings have been constructed, as might be expected, with Swiss material and by Swiss labour. The rotating electrical machinery is almost exclusively Swiss; the two highest towers for the support of the long-wave aerials (each 460ft. high) are also Swiss, but of the aerial arrangements for short-wave long-distance working, one (in duplex) is British (Marconi) and two are German (Telefunken). Coming back inside the station one finds that the 50 kilowatt transmitter for long-wave European working (which is not League property, but becomes automatically at the service of the League in times of emergency) is British (Marconi) and that one of the two short-wave transmitters is French (S.F.R.) and the second British (Marconi), but the latter is equipped with Dutch (Philips) water-cooled valves. This combination has not only satisfied national rivalry among the leading countries, members of the League, engaged in the construction of wireless stations but it has undoubtedly provided the League with the most up-to-date and efficient instruments that each contributing country can provide.

The long-wave transmitting aerial is arranged for all-round radiation. This is not the case with the short-wave aerials. The British short-wave aerials, two in number, are suspended from one pair of masts. They are each provided with a reflector and are so directed and arranged that they can be used simultaneously if necessary—one transmitting to South America and the other to Japan. The German short-wave aerials cannot work simultaneously in opposite directions, but are arranged to throw their energy, beam-like, in one instance towards Java or Central America and in the other towards North America or Australia. The leads-in from the aerials are so planned that they can be connected in a few minutes to either of the short-wave transmitters. Also, in the case of the British short-wave transmitter there has been fitted a device, in use for the first time in long-distance wireless, whereby a simple lever movement and the twisting of a handle (like the steering handle of a motor-car) changes all the coils and accessories (in two stages of the transmitter) essential for a change of wave length. Four different fixed short-wave lengths can be brought into practice, if necessary, each with an interval of some seconds only.

The power of each of the two short-wave stations is rated at 20 kilowatts in the aerial. This sounds small power when it is compared with that in use a few years ago in the long-wave stations. Actually it is considered by experts to be sufficient for the League's needs, and those countries on the other side of the world with which Prangins has established contact each report "thumping signals." The Far East traffic is holding up at the moment further long-distance test transmissions both in telegraphy and telephony.

At Colovrex, the receiving station, there are directional aerials of German design and manufacture and a British direction-finding aerial. These can be coupled with seven different receivers of German make, and an American duplex telephony equipment which, if needs be, will permit a member of the League Secretariat to engage, through his ordinary telephone instrument, in conversation with people in other continents. For straightforward listening the operators have an instrument range of from 14 to 30,000 metres.

T.

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#### MARIAGE.

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Karfreitag, den 25. März 1932.

11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

Ostersonntag, den 27. März 1932.

11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

Ostermontag: Ausflug nach Chalfont, St. Giles, Treffpunkt: Baker Street, Metropolitan Station 10.45 a.m. Proviant mitnehmen, Thee unterwegs.

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