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TENSIONS SOCIALES.

On a dit et redit que l'une de nos plus précieuses forces résidait dans la bonne harmonie entre Confédérés et dans l'entente entre les classes sociales. Cette vérité est élémentaire. Nous devons à cet ordre intérieur, si merveilleusement sauvegardé pendant quatre ans, de n'avoir pas vu un instant fléchir notre volonté de résistance.

Malheureusement, il faut avouer que se manifestent ces temps des signes de tensions sociales qui nous inspirent certaines inquiétudes. Dans d'importantes branches de l'économie nationale, des contrats collectifs de travail ont été dénoncés, de telle sorte que notre œuvre de pacification intérieure pourrait être compromise, les anciennes méthodes de lutte et d'action reprenant le pas sur les méthodes de collaboration librement consentie.

Certes, on peut dire que les difficultés économiques y sont pour beaucoup, en particulier parce que les salaires ont été insuffisamment adaptés au coût de l'existence lequel a augmenté de plus de moitié. Mais cela n'explique pas tout et, pour s'en convaincre, il suffit d'écouter ce que nous disent les chefs syndicalistes les plus autorisés et les plus modérés, ceux qui recherchent la collaboration des classes. A les entendre, ce dont souffrent de plus en plus les ouvriers de l'industrie moderne, c'est d'être considérés comme de simples éléments de production et non comme des hommes au sens plein de ce mot. Ils sont prolétariés, désintégréés de la communauté nationale, déracinés. Certes, ils sont reconnaissants des avantages matériels qui leur sont concédés, avantages qui sont respectables, surtout en comparaison de ce qui se fait à l'étranger. Mais ils estiment que le paternalisme a fait son temps. Ils ne veulent pas recevoir. Ils entendent participer et c'est tout autre chose.

Ainsi, par exemple, ils désirent être associés à la gestion de tous les fonds de prévoyance sociale qui ont été créés par les patrons. Mieux encore, ils voudraient que les professions soient organisées en communautés professionnelles au sein desquelles tous les problèmes intéressant l'ensemble des ouvriers et des patrons d'une branche économique donnée seraient étudiés et résolus sur une base paritaire et d'un commun accord. Ils respectent la liberté de gestion de l'employeur. Ils reconnaissent la nécessité d'une hiérarchie. Mais ils pensent devoir être associés étroitement à toutes les mesures qui ont pour but d'assurer une sécurité suffisante à l'employé.

Il faut constater que ces idées se répandent de plus en plus et qu'elles ont des adeptes dans tous les milieux. Il s'agit réellement d'un esprit nouveau qui inspirera toute l'œuvre de restauration que nous devons entreprendre à bref délai, en tous cas après la guerre. Le libéralisme intégral, la toute puissance du capitalisme sont des doctrines surannées ou dépassées par les événements. Ce sont aujourd'hui les conceptions communautaires qui tendent à s'imposer. D'aucuns s'en effrayent. Mais il s'agit simplement de transposer sur le terrain économique et social ce que nous connaissons dès longtemps sur le plan politique : une démocratie tempérée par l'autorité et la hiérarchie.

Dans tous les cas, les syndicalistes, effrayés par certains symptômes d'une crise prochaine, demandent à discuter. Ils tendent la main. Nous savons qu'on ne commettra pas la faute de la repousser, car on voit trop où nous mèneraient des conflits, en un temps où

nous avons besoin de toutes nos énergies et de toutes les bonnes volontés pour surmonter les difficultés présentes et surtout celles qui se manifesteront immédiatement après la guerre. On a dit une fois que les Suisses avaient le génie de faire l'économie des révolutions et de progresser au rythme d'une saine évolution. Dans le domaine social, nous devrions immanquablement en faire prochainement la preuve. *Pierre Béguin.*

CELEBRATION OF 1st AUGUST IN TANGA.

As on previous occasions Consul and Mrs. H. Tanner this year again invited the Swiss residing in the Tanga and the Northern Province to their home at Amboni to celebrate our National Day.

Despite various difficulties as shortage of petrol and the long distances involved, more than fifty compatriots made their appearance in the residence of the Consul, which was festively decorated for this particular occasion with flags, Swiss and British.

The festivities opened with a so-called "Säuli-Esse," as a sort of symbol of the "Kappeler Milchsuppe." It was served in the garden at one long table which was nicely decorated with flowers specially brought down from the mountains. The order of seating was fixed by drawing lots, the men being figures famous in Swiss history, from the 13th down to the 19th century, who had then to choose amongst the ladies present their respective consorts — provided of course that they had been married in their historical life.

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The heroes of the 13th century as Tell, Stauffacher, Melchtal were seated at the upper end of the table, the 14th century heroes came next and so on down the table to the 19th century. This novel table arrangement proved in all respects a most excellent idea; it served for instance as a sort of refresher course in Swiss history and for days afterwards various history and other reference books could be seen displayed in the homes of the Swiss here.

After dinner we all proceeded to a place about a hundred yards distant where a huge bonfire was already burning, the exploding bamboo canes giving the effect of fireworks.

Whilst the fire illuminated the whole scene, one of those present read out the "Bundesbrief," others recited patriotic poems; in between these recitations favourite Swiss hymns were sung, with the daughter of the Consul accompanying on the harmonium.

Whilst the fire was dying out we all returned to Consul Tanner's house where an excellent "bowle" awaited us. Further recitations and presentations, some of the humorous sort, were given.

Consul Tanner, who is at the same time G.M. of the Amboni Estates sisal concern, also gave a short address in which he especially drew attention to the late Consul Johann Franz, who had died at Lugano end of June last. He pointed out that it was Consul Franz, who, after he had come out to East Africa as pioneer towards the end of last century, first brought success and influence to Swiss capital out here and who was the real founder of the Swiss colony in East Africa by engaging many young Swiss for the various enterprises in which he had a controlling or financial interest.

During the last war, when Tanganyika changed hands, the then already existing Swiss Colony collapsed entirely, to rise however again, more vigorous, after the war — for which we have to be grateful, for in the first place to Consul Tanner, who during 38 years of closest collaboration with Consul Franz and by his indefatigable activity, not only as official representative of Switzerland but also as individual, gave assistance to many of our compatriots. At present there are approximately 500 Swiss registered in this Consular district, which comprises Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, Nyasaland and the Seychelles Islands. Owing to the additional work thrown on the Consulate by the safeguarding of foreign interests, the consular staff had to be increased recently.

After the official part of the evening followed the social side: there was dancing, singing, reminiscences and the usual "leg-pulling." As in previous years two collections were made: one for the British Red Cross, realised Shillings 16,000, which is another proof that the Swiss in British East Africa are not too badly off — and a second collection for the benefit of necessitous Swiss returning to Switzerland from abroad, which yielded the nice sum of Shillings 5,000. A raffle and a "parcel fishing" game brought in more than Shs. 1,000; the prizes for the raffle had been donated by the Swiss living in Tanga and on the nearby estates.

It was not till it started to grow light, that the guests left the Consul's house, grateful to have been able to spend such a nice evening amongst compatriots, and also grateful for having so far escaped the horrors of war in this hospitable country.

G. E. BUCHER.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

Film Show at Conway Hall.

The Film Show given on Saturday, September 11th, at Conway Hall, under the auspices of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, deserved a better attendance, and all those who, for one reason or other, missed the performance of the principal film, entitled "The Flag of Mercy," deprived themselves of an interesting afternoon.

Some of my friends called this sound film good "propaganda" for the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva. I do not like the word "propaganda" in this connection, let us call it, what it really is, namely a documentary film, depicting the working of this great institution of mercy, founded by our countryman Henri Dunant.

The humanitarian work of this great body is too well known, to enumerate here the countless benefits which mankind has derived both in peace and war time.

All those, and I hope they are not numerous, who are still ignorant of the purpose of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, will get all information they want from this interesting film, which, alas is too short; a number of features are hardly touched upon or are left out. If the sound recording could be made clearer the performance would undoubtedly gain by it.

The film took us through the numerous offices at the Headquarters at the Musée Rath in Geneva, Registration, Prisoner of war enquiries, Exchange Department, Parcels Delivery Office, etc., etc. Hundreds of busy hands, were typing, packing parcels, drawing and filing, and to all appearances everything was working like clock-work. Young boys and girls, elderly Gentlemen and matronly Ladies work hand in hand at the same benches like busy bees.

The greater part of the work is done by volunteers, thousands of them, and the Swiss Government pays 78% of the total costs amounting to several million Swiss francs per year, the remainder is split up amongst various foreign countries. Switzerland is thus making a valuable contribution towards this great humanitarian undertaking.

A grim story is portrayed by the arrival of a Red Cross train, some of the faces of those who are taken on stretchers from the carriages, vividly brought back to the audience the ghastliness of a war with all its sufferings.

Another shot, shows Delegates of the International Red Cross Committee visiting hospitals and interviewing patients. Unfortunately lack of space does not allow me to deal more fully with this most interesting film, which I understand will be shown to a number of English audiences in this country.

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique is to be congratulated on having procured this film from the Secretariat in Berne, and thus bringing the splendid work of the International Red Cross Committee to the knowledge of a wider circle.

Two further Swiss films were also shown, and much enjoyed. Mr. Fer, who acted as operator deserves hearty thanks for his always ready collaboration.

ST.