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CESAR CAMPART †

With deep regret we announce the passing away, on Monday, October 20th, of Mr. César Campart at the age of 77, after a long and painful illness.

The Swiss Colony thus deplores the loss of a man, who for nearly fifty years has been its faithful servant.

"To serve", was his motto, and to this he stuck right to the end of his life, a life which was not an easy one. He experienced many a disappointment, and even tragedy was not spared to him.



And yet, in spite of so much sorrow and adversity, he did not despair and doggedly traversed the thorny road, helping those, who like him, had suffered, knowing from personal experience, what to suffer means.

César Campart was a great patriot, his life was devoted to his country, which he loved with all his heart and to which he dedicated all his actions. Even when a treacherous illness showed its first symptoms sapping his health, he undertook duties which were far beyond his strength.

He had witnessed, during his long life the departure of many friends, comforting them before they closed their eyes for ever, and showing them, that in their hour of need they were not forsaken, and afterwards putting new hope and fortitude in those who were left behind.

Not a few, who dedicate their lives to others expect that some recompense should come their way, or that their names should be enrolled on some scroll of honour; not so our friend César, he had little to give as far as worldly goods were concerned, but what he gave, he gave with all his heart not craving for reward nor cheap glory. To him a simple "thank you" a last smile before darkness fell was reward enough.

* * *

César Campart was born on the 1st of January, 1875, at Geneva, and came to this country at the close of the last century. By profession an engineer he occupied various positions in his calling.

As early as 1904, he joined the "Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres", the oldest Swiss Society in this country.

With youthful enthusiasm he interested himself in the work of this institution, whose aims were so near to his heart. After two years membership he was asked to join the committee (1906), where he rendered such good service, that within a further four years, he was elected Vice-President (1910), this post he held until 1929, when he was nominated President, which office he occupied for twenty-four years with great distinction.

On handing over the leadership in 1948, the Society elected him unanimously and with acclamation "Président d'Honneur", a distinction which he richly deserved and greatly valued. I hope, that some more competent person

than myself, will refer to the outstanding services which he has rendered to this Society for nearly half a century.

When the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique" was founded in 1916, the "Secours Mutuels" sent him as a delegate to their first meeting, and there and then his long and fruitful connection with this Society began, for he was at once appointed to the post of Honorary Secretary of the committee which was then presided over by the late Mr. Jean Baer and of which Dr. A. Lätt was the permanent secretary.

Only those, who have intimately been connected with the N.S.H. for the last thirty-six years can appreciate what enormous work he has rendered. His minutes of meetings, his annual reports and descriptions of functions were models of accuracy; well and interestingly written, especially his records of the meetings during the second world war, when Gottfried Keller gave his much appreciated talks about conditions in Switzerland, which will, undoubtedly, prove of historic value to later generations.

No Swiss Society could ever have had a more painstaking Secretary than César Campart, he was a keen organiser, and saw to it, that everything went without a hitch. He had never been known to miss a meeting or to be late at any function. Even after his resignation from the secretaryship he still took a most active part in the affairs of the London Group of the N.S.H.

There are many more offices which he had held in various Swiss Societies and Institutions. He sat for a long period of years on the committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society, where his collaboration was much appreciated, and on the committee of the "Society of Friends of Foreigners in distress". For many years he belonged to the Fête Suisse committee, the 1st of August committee and Swiss Sports committee, he also occupied the post of Secretary of the "Escalade", and who does not remember the famous "black book"? Year after year, around Christmas time, he went round the Colony collecting money for the Children's Xmas festival, and many a little girl or boy, thanks to his efforts, received a Xmas present, perhaps the only one.

He joined the City Swiss Club in 1915 of which he remained a member until his death.

Mr. Campart leaves a widow to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in her sad bereavement.

* * *

And now when the shadows of death have fallen on César Campart, and a life of sacrifices for others has come to its close, we, who are remaining behind would have wished him a more carefree eventide spared from sufferings and worries. Providence has willed it differently.

We will remember him with everlasting gratitude. He has served his fellowmen well, his country and the Swiss colony, and by his work has given a splendid example to our younger generation of what charity, love, patriotism and selflessness can achieve.

Rest in Peace, dear friend, you have been faithful

UNTIL THE END.

ST.

(A large congregation attended at the Golders Green Crematorium, on Monday, October 27th. Pasteur C. Reverdin officiated and amongst the mourners was the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté.