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labour camps, the latter providing cheap labour for the State.

"The aim of the present rulers of Soviet Russia is to build up an industrial State to compete with the United States of America", the speaker said, "private enterprise does not exist, and the heavy industries enjoy predominance over all other industries."

Amusements of all kinds are strictly under control, and used in the main for propaganda purposes, especially cinemas. Dealing with the religious question, the speaker said, that although about forty Greek Orthodox churches alone were open for public worship in Moscow, the priests were not allowed to teach dogma or explain the rites, and were mostly frequented by elderly people.

Lady Kelly dealt at some length with the cost of living in Russia, mentioning, that although, strictly speaking, there was no rationing, the latter existed owing to the exorbitant prices charged for the barest necessities. All shops are State owned, thus cutting out any kind of competition.

Referring to the Russian ballet, the speaker said, that this was on a scale unknown to the West. Performances last for four hours and more. Admission to these performances can only be gained by official permits, and preference is given to people who, in one way or another, are doing useful work for the State. Loudspeakers everywhere, by day and by night, are broadcasting, apart from news, propaganda items.

Hotel accommodation throughout the cities which she was able to visit was difficult to obtain, and the washing accommodation was of a very primitive nature. Barring two long distance trains, for which reservation has to be made at least a fortnight in advance, no dining cars are provided, and food for a journey must be taken, though a plentiful supply of tea is always obtainable.

Lady Kelly concluded her address by voicing her love for the Russian people.

After a short discussion, and before closing the Meeting, the President warmly thanked the speaker for her address, and the loud applause which followed was proof, how much her interesting *exposé* had been appreciated.

ST.

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Society resumed its monthly meetings, after the summer recess, on September 25th, with an auction of members Duplicates. Whether it was the return of M. Micheal Waloff to the rostrum, or the wish to renew old friendships after a three month vacation, it is hard to say, but there was a bumper attendance. Judging by the sounds of merriment which came from the meeting room, there were more laughter to the minute than are to be heard in any London theatre at the present time; however the 100 lots which came under the hammer were disposed of in record time. The meeting on October 30th is the annual Ladies Night, when Mrs. Doris Green F.R.P.S.L. is to be the guest of the evening.

W.B.H.

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