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A DEPARTURE.



GUIDO LEPORI.

Our Legation, one feels sorry to say, seems to be in a state of complete transformation with nearly all the familiar faces disappearing; first it was René Keller who was recalled to Berne, then we had to bid farewell to the Minister himself, now it is Guido Lepori who is going and soon it will be Colonel Gygli's turn. Those of us who stay behind feel in most cases like losing personal friends, although we know, of course, that for diplomats *déplacement* usually means advancement and we should, logically, be pleased on their behalf. Nevertheless the more we advance in years, the more do we seem to feel the loss of those we have come to respect and like while watching them at work and meeting them socially.

I have been asked to write a farewell notice about Guido Lepori. It is by no means the first — and probably not the last — such notice I am writing for the Swiss Observer in connection with somebody who is leaving our Legation. It is, however, one of those I intensely dislike writing, as I am intensely sorry to see our friend — and whose friend in the Colony was he not? — Lepori departing. Was he not the personification of that loveliest of Swiss Cantons, the Tessin? Did he not manage, in the greyest of London fogs, to reflect that genuinely friendly smile of the sun I always connect with that lovable region he hails from? Has he not always been calm, unruffled, full of equipoise? Has he not endeared himself to all and sundry in the Colony who have ever got into touch with him?

Guido Lepori, I feel sure, will go far in his career. How, indeed, could anyone not go far who is so gifted as he is, so industrious and thorough and yet of such a delightfully delicate touch? To crown it all he is blessed with the most charming of wives; all those who have been in their home — and they are many — know how excellent an hostess she is and how generous is their hospitality.

Writing these few lines I have in front of me a short curriculum vitae of Guido Lepori, which recalls that he was born in Origlio in 1914, grew up in Lugano, studied at Berne, became a lawyer and lieutenant and has served in the Political Department in Berne since the early war years; first in Berne, then in Rio de Janeiro, then in Stockholm, then in Berne again and finally in London. He now goes back to Berne to become assistant to Minister de Graffenried at the Western Political Section of the Département

Politique. Monsieur de Graffenried, whom we all remember with affection, has chosen his assistant well. Trust him to make a good choice; trust him to know a good man when he sees one. His choice does credit to both of them.

I have seen Guido Lepori at work, I have seen him socially, I have even seen him on the tennis courts; he has impressed me everywhere as an exceptionally talented, modest, likeable and pleasant young compatriot. These few lines are, consequently, not written in the orthodox manner but are meant, sketchy though they are, as a personal tribute to a parting friend. In wishing Guido Lepori, his wife and their little son all the very best that is possible I am certain that I am speaking on behalf of everyone in the Swiss Colony who has known them. One feels almost tempted to say to the Leporis: "Come again soon". In any case, here is wishing luck to them in Berne and wherever they may be moved thereafter. Good luck and many thanks for everything!

Gottfried Keller.

NEWS FROM THE LEGATION

Monsieur and Madame Guido Lepori, Secretary of Legation, gave a cocktail party at the Legation, on Tuesday, December 21st, to bid Farewell.

DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT.

It might interest our readers to know that the Swiss Legation has now received a limited number of copies in German and French of the message of the Swiss Federal Council to the Swiss Parliament concerning the Double Taxation Agreement between the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

This message contains the text of the agreement as well as a commentary address to the Swiss Parliament.

The price of the document is 1/8d. Members of the Swiss Colony interested in this document can obtain it from the Legation against payment of 1/8d.

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