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Autor: H. E.

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NEW MAPS OF SWITZERLAND AND CINE JOURNAL.

With the support of the Anglo-Swiss Society, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique offered its members and friends a singularly attractive evening programme on February 24th. It was a double bill of first class instruction and entertainment: one a lecture on the new maps of Switzerland with projected illustrations, the other an hour's selection of news and documentary films from the home-land. Each could have provided most satisfying fare for an evening of their own. They had to be combined because the film was not available beyond February.

The lecture was given by Dr. Ernest Bircher, Press-attaché at our Legation. He gave us the fascinating story of map making in Switzerland, of the progressive development from the early beginnings of more or less fanciful renderings of the main physical features of Switzerland's topography to the triangulation method of more and more accurate measuring of the exact relative position of each place drawn in scale and the varying altitudes given by contour lines and in figures for the more prominent features. The preparation of a complete mapping survey is a matter not only of years but literally of decades. A completely new set of maps of Switzerland is now nearing completion, a set much more accurate than the one most of us learned to use and trust and love in our youthful wanderings in our beloved country. Thanks to the most efficient apparatus of the Royal Society of Arts, Dr. Bircher was in a position to illustrate his talk with direct projections from the maps and books with the aid of an epidiascope. It is hoped that the Swiss Observer may shortly publish this interesting lecture in full.

The symposium of news and documentary films from Switzerland, prepared annually by the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Étranger and put at the disposal of the Colonies, proves better year after year. This time it provided the London audience with pleasure and renewed pride in the home-land from beginning to end, starting with the restoration of ancient buildings and monuments of surpassing beauty and craftsmanship, passing on to the development of the means of transport from the stage coach to the most modern expresses and the Swissair services, showing the ever more efficient uses being made of the abundance of water in Switzerland, depicting the more important artistic and sporting events of the year, introducing us to the little known work of Swiss ornithological study and care of birds, and ending with a recording of the famous annual horse show at Saignelégier and the défilé of our 3rd Army Corps, fully motorised, at Soleure.

H.E.

DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT SIGNED.

The agreement between Great Britain and Switzerland to eliminate double taxation on income has been signed in Berne, by M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, and by Sir Lionel Lamb, H.M. Ambassador in Berne, and has, therefore been put into force.