

A request

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securities, mortgaged and real property, at least partly in Switzerland, while another part may be left in foreign countries, foreign currencies and foreign securities. Members joining after the first year have to pay an additional subscription roughly corresponding to the contributions previously made by other members.

The administration of the fund is composed of a president and six to fourteen members of whom two may be nominated by the Federal Council and the others by the annual meeting of delegates. The administration, meeting whenever necessary, may entrust the day to day business to paid officers in Switzerland and abroad. It apportions defined areas to sections of members who elect their representatives in the delegates' meeting, which constitutes the supreme organ of the fund in whom all rights and duties are ultimately vested. The fund is of course subject to the supervision of the legal authorities and to financial control by auditors nominated by the general meeting of delegates and the Federal Council.

The scheme is of necessity complicated and raises many questions left unanswered by this unavoidably short summary of its main features. Full texts in German or French of the draft statutes may be obtained from the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, or the Secrétariat pour les Suisses à l'étranger, Wallgasse 2, Berne. The project deserves careful study and full discussion for which the London Group of the N.S.H. hopes to provide an opportunity at a meeting in January open

to all Swiss. In the meantime the president of the N.S.H. (address as above) will endeavour to answer enquiries on the subject.

E.

A REQUEST.

Once upon a time a piano could be seen in almost every household, in fact I still remember the tale which was current during the first world war that some families not knowing what to do with their money went in for "a couple", one black and one brown.

Radio, Television and Gramophone have during the last few years unfortunately dealt a heavy blow to the good old piano, which is now seldom if ever used, and has simply become an ornament, if one can call it such, or a piece of furniture to be looked at but not to be used.

Well do I remember the times when on Sunday afternoon we gathered round the piano, singing — perhaps not always in tune — some of the good old songs, but nowadays this at one time so popular an instrument stands in an obscure corner lonely and forgotten.

That this instrument has, however, still its usefulness is proved by a request which has reached me from two Swiss Societies, the Male Choir and the "Schweizerbund", which both have their headquarters at 74, Charlotte Street, and which are in dire need of an upright piano owing to the fact that their present one has refused to function any longer.

Now these Societies, not being affluent enough to buy a new one, would be grateful if anybody still in possession of a piano no longer in use would kindly let them have it, either as a gift or at a reasonable price.

I am convinced that by thus obliging them, they would be doing these two Societies a good turn.

May I, therefore, pass on this request to any of our readers who feel that they could do without a piano, and will let the Editor know. All expenses with regard to removal would gladly be borne by the respective Societies.

ST.



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