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"SWISS FORTNIGHT" IN GREAT BRITAIN.**5th to 17th October 1959.**

As will be seen from the report of the Meeting of the Swiss Economic Council — published in this issue — the preparations for the "Swiss Fortnight" are well under way.

It may interest our readers to learn "Who's Who" in this big undertaking, which is being held under the auspices of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade (OSEC), and the Swiss Economic Council in London.

The Executive Committee in London includes the following names: *Hon. President*: H.E. The Swiss Ambassador, with the collaboration of the Commercial, Cultural and Press Counsellors; *Chairman*: Alfred Renou; *Treasurer and Finance*: R. J. Keller; *Transport and Tourism*: W. Wyler; *Fashion Section*: Alfred Renou; *Ex officio*: M. Wiesendanger, Chairman of the Swiss Economic Council, London; *Publicity and Horological Section*: O. Rohn; *Receptions and Catering*: G. Ronus.

On behalf of OSEC, Director A. J. Staehelin and Vice-Director Dr. H. Brunner have the matter in hand in Switzerland, and we are glad to hear that by their great efforts they have achieved very satisfactory results so far.

Whilst the "Swiss Fortnight" is still only in a rudimentary stage the above-mentioned gentlemen have already worked very hard.

It goes without saying that the Swiss Colony, as such, is expected to play its part too in giving moral and financial support to this campaign to bring home to the British public that Switzerland has cultural as well as commercial values to offer.

We shall endeavour to keep the Colony and our readers fully *au courant* with the course of developments. Meanwhile we wish to extend our appreciation to the London Executive Committee and the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade (OSEC) for the services they have so far rendered to this great and costly undertaking.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE (London Group)

Council's Annual Report for 1958/59.

The last Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 18th, 1958, followed by a dinner. Since then the following Open Meetings were organised by the Society:

Talks and Film Shows:

- April 22nd, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Display of Colour Photos of Yugoslavia, by Mr. A. R. Memory.
- May 20th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Conference by Dr. Arnold Saxer, Director of the Federal Insurance Office, Berne, on "Schweizerische und englische Sozialversicherung".
- June 17th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Conference by Mr. Th. Haller, of the Swiss Broadcasting Company and the "Basler Nationalzeitung" on "Am Rande der Objektivität".
- September 23rd, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Causerie by Sir Seymour Howard, Bt., on "Reflections on Switzerland".
- October 21st, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Colour slides of Mexico presented by Consul Ribi, of the Swiss Embassy.

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November 25th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Conference by Dr. H. Koeppler, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., Warden of Wilton Park, on "New aspects of foreign policy: information and 'culture'".

December 16th, at Swiss Hostel for Girls: Causerie by Dr. Hugo Rast, London, on "Mountains and Mountaineering".

January 17th, 1959, at 21, Tothill Street, S.W.1, Annual Film Show.

As in the previous year, all our meetings, with exception of the Film Show, were held at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, which has consolidated its position as the Society's home, and to whose Management we are indebted for their imaginative and efficient stewardship.

You will also observe that, with exception of the May meeting, all our speakers were drawn not from abroad, as in previous years, but from the United Kingdom. While we would, of course, appreciate an increased influx of suitable Swiss guests, we were much gratified by the Society's success in enlisting distinguished Englishmen and quite a few of our equally distinguished London Swiss as speakers. It will continue to be the Council's policy to arrange monthly conferences, but Members must be made aware of the fact that, without their active collaboration, it will become increasingly more difficult to find speakers for these meetings. We would, in fact, welcome in this direction, a greater degree of support from the cultural associations of Switzerland.

At the last A.G.M., the President's and the Hon. Treasurer's reports were discussed and agreed. This year's balance sheet shows a most welcome change inasmuch as last year's deficit of £39.6.2 has been turned into a surplus of £60.12.9. This happy result is largely due to reduced expenditure in lecturers' fees, printing and stationery, and sundry expenses.

Council Affairs.

The following members served on the Council:

Mr. L. S. R. Asch, Mrs. P. Bessire, Mr. P. Bessire, Mr. A. C. Boller, Dr. P. Bohny, Dr. H. W. Egli, Miss A. Gretener, Mr. Th. Haller, Mr. A. Kunz, Mrs. M. Meier, Miss L. Meierhofer, Mr. W. Renz, Mr. R. Schneider, Mr. E. Valloton, Mr. M. Wiesendanger, and Miss M. Wolfer. Of the above, Miss Meierhofer, Mr. E. Valloton, and Miss Wolfer returned to Switzerland, and Mr. Schneider resigned. The Council desires to thank these former members for their services. In their places Messrs. A. Chapuis and M. Vogelbacher were elected.

The following were nominated as Officers of the Council:

President: Mr. W. Renz; Vice-President: Dr. H. W. Egli; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Chapuis; Asst. Hon. Secretary: Miss A. Gretener; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. L. S. R. Asch.

Once again, we were privileged to enjoy the helpful patronage of our Ambassador, and much practical assistance from the Embassy's diplomatic and consular officers. We would like to express our gratitude to His Excellency and his staff for their much valued collaboration. Our thanks are also due to our old friends and journalistic supporters, Messrs. O. Boehringer and A. Stauffer, of the "Swiss Observer", Messrs. W. Wyler and Burgaezzi of Swissair, Messrs. H. O. Ernst, A. Kunz and G. E. Brown of the Swiss National Tourist Office, for their unfailing readiness to support the aims of this Society.

Mrs. M. Meier deserves our thanks for her valiant efforts in cataloguing and the progressive sale of our surplus-library.

Pro Juventute Holiday Scheme for Swiss Children in Great Britain.

The scheme was sponsored again by the Society, with the support of Pro Juventute and the Benevolent Societies of the London and Liverpool colonies, for the benefit of eleven children. Members will have observed a continuous decrease in the number of applicants, and an analysis shows that over the past three years very few children of really necessitous Swiss parents, for whose benefit the scheme has been principally established, have been forthcoming. This is due to manifold reasons, such as children outgrowing the age limit set by Pro Juventute, the many formalities involved, and, undoubtedly, the improved economic conditions of this country. The President and Mrs. Renz, the Agents for Pro Juventute for the last seven years, feel themselves unable to undertake any longer the very considerable work involved, and the Society, after due deliberation, has decided that, in view of all the circumstances, they would not assume sponsorship for 1959.

Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger.

This was held at the end of August at Baden and Zürich. It witnessed the consolidation of the Solidarity Fund Scheme and further progress towards the establishment of new legislation with regard to Military Tax and Invalidity Insurance. A full report of the proceedings was published by the President, representing the Society, in the "Swiss Observer". Mr. A. F. Suter (accompanied by Mrs. Suter) and Dr. H. W. Egli attended in their capacity as members of the Ausland-Schweizer-Kommission of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Membership.

The Society deeply regrets the deaths of their old members Messrs. F. Kibiger and E. F. Sommer. Nine members resigned and twelve members were admitted. A check of our membership records shows a total of 175 members.

Swiss Fortnight in October, 1959.

The Society has pledged its collaboration in favour of this major cultural and industrial manifestation of Switzerland in the United Kingdom. Members are invited to give their maximum support so as to ensure its resounding success.

On behalf of the Council:

February, 1959. W. RENZ,
President.



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