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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

REPORT OF THE CONSISTOIRE

With few apparent changes, 1971 can be described as a period full of constant endeavour to reinforce unity and understanding, and above all to achieve a revival of Christian faith amongst our young generation passing through this vast city of London, where loneliness prevails and friendship has to be sought. To reach all our compatriots would be an impossible task were it not for our faithful members who sacrifice a great deal of their precious time in visiting the sick or elderly, in organising lectures and concerts, or preparing meals, and in attending meetings and acting on our behalf in organisations outside the walls of our Church and performing a Christian service. To all we express our gratitude; their keen interest and collaboration in such varied ways are most valuable if we are to maintain a progressive existence of our spiritual centre. Equally, our Ministers who have demonstrated a positive leadership without much regard for their own comfort, must be thanked for and congratulated on the unsurpassed harmony which now exists within our community, a fact emphasised by the growing sequence of combined and ecumenical services.

In recent years, a far greater understanding has emerged with our friends of other denominations; the wide valleys separating us are narrowing, a common spiritual language is creating an atmosphere of new fellowship and is helping to resolve problems seemingly insoluble.

Communication between the various parts of our congregation owes much to the Church magazines (*Messenger* and *Stimme*). We are most thankful to all who contribute to their success in several ways.

The structure of our church building is such that we see little of our organists. Nevertheless, the contribution they make to our regular worship and the part they play in special services and concerts are immensely appreciated.

In the early part of the year Mrs. Uhlmann, newly elected President of the Commission of Swiss Churches Abroad, paid us a welcome visit, and although her stay was limited, we are in no doubt that Mrs. Uhlmann was able to recognise the deep involvement of our Pastors in their fruitful work, and the need for an active and spiritually rich Church Centre in London.

Not often do we find a full church on the Sunday morning, but such was the case on our Church Assembly Day when Mr. Pradervand, our invited and

always welcome guest, shared in conducting the bi-lingual service. Much profound thinking ensued from his stimulating sermon. An interlude harmoniously filled by Mr. Paul's favourite music, followed the popular lunch, and preceded the Church Assembly, created for the purpose of giving all members an opportunity to be consulted, and to voice their opinion on the various aspects of our activities. It is regrettable that this meeting did not attract the expected attendance. Mr. R. P. Glarner, Chairman and active member of the German-speaking Parish Council, was introduced to the assembly and unanimously elected to full membership of the Consistoire, thus bringing the latter to full strength.

Pastor Hostettler who had spent more than two years with us as Assistant Minister returned to Switzerland richer, we believe, by a valuable experience gained through his own effort to create a sound, purposeful, and most of all Christian atmosphere in the youth club. His dynamism undoubtedly left its mark. His duties have been taken over by Pastor Müller who comes from Neuchatel.

Owing to lack of funds, the completion of the renovation and furnishing of the hall had to be postponed. We nevertheless felt the necessity of replacing the tables and chairs. By good fortune, some were offered to us at a low price by the Swiss Embassy to whom we express grateful thanks. Their interest in the well-being of our Church is influential and effective.

How wonderful it would be to conclude here and leave you with the feeling that all is well with our ad-

ministration. It is therefore with much regret that we have to report the deficit of £1,719 in our final accounts for 1971. An excess of expenditure of ONE FIFTH of our total budget is causing us great concern. This deficit does not include an extra sum of £500 spent on urgent repairs to No. 1 Womensley Road, as the invoice will not be submitted before January 1972. Our balance sheet clearly shows that a watchful effort was made to reduce our expenses wherever possible. Unfortunately more we could not do without risking deterioration to our buildings, remaining uncovered as far as insurances were concerned, curtailing our activities, and even lowering the standard of living of our Ministers. Truly, not one of these suggestions could or should be implemented. How are we to close this widening gap? Without the generous help of the Federation of Protestant Churches to whom we are particularly grateful, our financial state would be even more precarious. The solution to this everlasting problem seems to rest with all our compatriots who are prepared to accept a just responsibility towards keeping the Church alive and prosperous in terms of moral authority.

As the report was being printed, we received the sad news of the death of our revered President, Dr. Olivier Béguin. He died on 1st April after a painful illness borne with great courage and unflinching Christian faith. We shall record our appreciation of his great services to the Church in next year's report.

On behalf of the Consistoire:
J. BADER,
Vice-President 1971

53rd SWISS NATIONAL FAIR

"Comptoir Suisse"

Lausanne 9th-24th September 1972

General Fair Of Consumer Goods

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Sunley Buildings, Piccadilly Plaza,

MANCHESTER (phone 061-236 2933)

FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE U.K.

The Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K. held its Annual Meeting at the Embassy on Friday, 23rd June. The Meeting was preceded by a Reception offered by our Ambassador, Dr. A. Weitnauer and by a lunch taken on our laps in the Residence's living room.

The Meeting, under the chairmanship of Dr. Hans Egli, was held in the soberly decorated white dining room. Minutes and the brief 1971 Annual Report were speedily accepted. The treasurer pointed to the healthy accounts of the Federation, with assets standing at £461.25 but warned that its annual income could prove insufficient if the Federation assumed more commitments.

Among those present were two guests from Berne, Mr. Marcel Ney, Director of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, and Dr. Philippe Garraux, lawyer and member of the Commission for the Swiss Abroad, who had spoken at the Nouvelle Société Helvétique the night before. The Swiss Societies were well represented. Apologies had been received from Mr. B. Simon, vice-president of the Federation (but the Swiss of Manchester were represented by Dr. H. R. Bolliger), from Prof. J. P. Inebnit (Yorkshire Swiss), from Mr. R. M. Suesse (Swiss Economic Council and Swiss Hostel) and Mr. G. Gandon (former president of the now defunct Société des Secours Mutuels and Swiss Accordion Club).

An important part of the evening was spent listening to the Delegate's Report. Dr. Bolliger, representing the Swiss of the North at the Commission for the Swiss Abroad, took this opportunity to encourage the attendance to take part in the 50th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad at the end of August and remarked that the Swiss of Britain were always poorly represented at these annual gatherings. He reiterated the position he had already stated at the annual dinner of the N.S.H. regarding the "*Aufenthalterstimmrecht*" and urged us all to fight against such an eventuality.

Mrs. Meier then recalled that many Swiss societies in Britain had openly rejected, two years ago the suggestion of full political rights in Britain. She added that the possibility of voting in Switzerland after a three week's stay as recently suggested in Berne, apart from being geographically unjust, would diminish the impact of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, which is often likened to a kind of Parliament for the citizens of "Fifth Switzerland".

Mr. A. Kunz then quoted an example where the opinion of the Swiss abroad had not been taken into

account: The decision by the National Bank, after the monetary difficulties last year, to waive interest payments on foreign accounts held in Switzerland. These measures, which were later rectified, initially affected both Swiss nationals and foreigners alike. This intervention sparked off some discussion. Mr. Ney recalled that no one, even in Switzerland, had been officially consulted in order to safeguard the efficiency of this measure.

Mrs. Meier continued by reviewing the varied themes which had received close attention from the Commission for the Swiss Abroad. These were namely the problem of land acquisition in Switzerland, Military Exemption Tax, Federal Social Welfare, Withholding Tax, Old Age Pension, Help to Students from abroad. She said that no new regulations or legislations in these fields had been, or would be taken without prior discussion by the Commission. She raised the problem of information of the Swiss abroad on Swiss matters, and conversely, the question of informing the Swiss at home of Swiss matters abroad. In this respect, she referred to the possibility suggested in Berne of using "The Swiss Observer" to this end.

It was however agreed by all members that the Colony's fortnightly was not particularly well suited as a medium for information of the Swiss at home. Should more be told in Switzerland of Swiss things in Britain, then the already existing journalistic channels would be more appropriate. It was suggested that use could be made of the ATS, via the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne, for the transmission of British-Swiss news to our compatriots.

The Committee was re-elected *en bloc*. A new delegate from Scotland, Mr. Hansjörg Wirz, was elected in replacement of Mr. O. Hartmann, who had resigned owing to demanding professional obligations.

The travelling expenses of delegates at Berne were then discussed. Practically all the Federation's expenditure falls under this heading. The Federation's resources are at present quite insufficient to meet the full expense of the several trips which delegates usually make every year. The delegate from the South accepted a token £80 last year, whereas other delegates included their visit to Berne in a business trip. More than one of those present expressed the wish that delegates should be given more material support in view of their important services, even if this required increasing the Swiss societies contribution to the Federation. The Committee has been authorised to give full financial aid to the delegates, but this delicate matter remains at the discretion of those primarily concerned.

Other matters raised included the

possibility of re-editing the Colony Guide. It was generally felt that the time and expertise required would make such a project difficult to realise. Mr. J. Bader, representing the Consistoire, asked whether the funds of the Swiss Sports Committee, which has not held a function since 1956, could not be put to the use of the Federation. This suggestion was received with interest, but no decision seems to have been taken on this score. A last problem, raised by the President, was that of London-Swiss participation in the Kramgasse exhibition this August. The attendance demonstrated little interest in using this showcase of the Swiss abroad. The smallest of the three windows still available will be used for a photographic display of Swiss life in London, the others will probably be reserved by Swiss firms in Britain. The main display of Swiss life in Britain will thus remain the Yorkshire Swiss window, with a full-scale reproduction of the Hebden Bridge annual Landsgemeinde.

The last word came from Dr. Philippe Garraux who thanked his hosts for being invited to the meeting, which he compared for its liveliness to a "Lach und Schiess Gesellschaft" session. The meeting was officially closed at about 10.30 p.m. The Presidents of the Swiss societies in the U.K. had been together for four hours.

(PMB)

N.S.H. JUNE MEETING

Having waited for Dr. Philippe Garraux for 18 months and expected him to speak at two monthly meetings, members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique finally heard this prominent Berne lawyer and member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad at their June meeting.

The theme was "Intercantonal Co-ordination in Schooling", a problem whose complexity and importance was amply demonstrated by the Speaker. For this evening, members of the Swiss Mercantile Society, the City Swiss Club and the Unione Ticinese had been specially invited by their Club Secretaries. Although the response was rather disappointing nearly all the seats available were occupied and the attendance was sufficiently important to appreciate the effort of a person who had come from Berne to make a most interesting exposé. Dr. Garraux has kindly given us the text of his conference, which we shall be printing in a coming issue.

LANDSGEMEINDE OF THE SWISS OF THE NORTH

For the first time in the history of the Landsgemeinde of the Swiss of the North, the sun was really reluctant

to appear. The fifty compatriots who turned up at the meeting point at the Hebden Bridge Memorial Park for the 24th of these annual events immediately made for the Civic Hall under pouring rain, where they enjoyed a traditional and warming cup of coffee at the invitation of the civic authorities of Hebden Bridge. A short service and a sermon based on the Book of Kings was then delivered by Pastor A. Nicod.

The planned and regular walk to Hardcastle Craggs had to be postponed owing to persistent rain. The party broke up as some remained in the hall for a picnic and others had their lunch in their cars.

The clouds cleared somewhat in the beginning of the afternoon and the stroll up to Hebden Hay could take place in pleasant weather. At about 2.30 p.m. all was ready for the traditional Landsgemeinde on the Ruetli-like plateau of Hebden Hay, conducted as usual by Professor Inebnit. He called those present, canton by canton, following their date of entry in the Confederation. Many children and young people were present, some of whom were staying temporarily in the North.

After a very pleasant gathering on Hebden Hay, the gathering descended to Hebden Bridge for high tea and later heard welcoming speeches from representatives of the Swiss Col-

ony and the Upper Calder Valley authorities. Professor Inebnit disclosed that everything was going well with the model of the Landsgemeinde due to appear in a shop window in the Kramgasse during the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad. It will be transported to Switzerland by a removals firm.

The "Swiss Week" organised by the Hebden Bridge-Swiss Association was less eventful than in previous years. Held under its auspices was a Bier Keller evening on 16th June at the Civic Hall. There was music and dancing, Swiss wines and cheeses. On the following day, films of Swiss life and scenery, and shots of past Landsgemeinde were shown at Hebden Bridge's Little Theatre. A raffle was organised and the first prize, valued at £120, was a holiday in Switzerland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We should like to most warmly thank the following subscribers who, since last December, have kindly sent us donations or taken gift subscriptions. Needless to say, this support has been most highly appreciated.

Mr. C. A. Aeschimann, Mr. V. Abate, Mrs. J. Alberti, Mr. O. Braga, Mr. F. Burri, Mr. W. E. Bion, Mr. A. P. Berti, Dr. W. A. de Bourg, Mrs. F. Sist-Bracco, Mr. J. W. Bonjour,

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Swiss National Day Celebration and Dance

TUESDAY, 1st AUGUST, at 19.45 sharp

(Doors open at 19.00)

WIMBLEDON TOWN HALL, WIMBLEDON

Next door to Wimbledon Station

PROGRAMME

The programme, as usual, includes items of a patriotic nature.

The main address will be given by

H.E. The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Albert Weitnauer

The well known singing and dance group "Chanson veveysanne" will provide the main entertainment programme of the evening.

DANCING

REFRESHMENTS

LICENSED BAR

TICKETS at 40p available at the door or in advance at 30p from the Swiss Mercantile College.

SEE YOU AT WIMBLEDON ON 1st AUGUST

Mrs. R. Peter-Frehner, Mr. R. Pfenninger, Mr. L. Portman, Mr. H. Racheter, Dr. H. Rast, Mr. E. Ribl, Mr. O. Roethlisberger, Miss E. Ruettimann, Mr. E. Ritzmann, Mr. A. A. Rohrer, Mr. A. F. Rigiani, Mr. J. Revilliod, Mr. W. Renz, Mr. J. de Stoutz, Mr. O. Schoenholzer, Mr. W. Scherer, Mrs. E. Schaerer, Mr. J. Stingelin, Mrs. E. H. Stroud, Mr. G. E. Suter, Dr. P. Stauffer, Mr. P. Savoie, Mr. R. R. Schmid, Miss G. Siegenthaler, Mr. J. Scheiwiller, Miss A. L. Scheuermeir, Mr. B. Trunninger, Mr. C. E. Thiébaud, Miss V. Tripp, Mr. E. Ullmann, Mrs. M. Winkelmann, Mr. W. Wagner, Dr. D. H. Weisen-danger, Mr. H. E. Widtman, Mrs. E. H. West, Mr. C. E. Webrer, Mr. A. Wirz, Mr. J. L. White, Miss M. Wood, Dr. D. J. Wander, Mr. A. M. Zullig, Mr. J. Zimmermann.

FORTHCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS

Until Sunday, 23rd July. Victoria and Albert Museum. International Exhibition of Ceramics: Pieces by Lamercy, Defraoui, Presset, de Crousaz, Lifka, Chappallaz, Zahner, Linck, and Gerber.

Until Saturday, 29th July. Hanover Gallery, 32a St. George Street, W.1. Exhibition of lifesize figures by Eva Aepli.

Saturday, 15th July. Royal Festival Hall, 8 p.m. The soprano *Andrée Maillard-Back* sings arias from Figaro and Idomeno at a Beethoven-Mozart Concert given by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under John Canarina.

Monday, 24th July. Royal Albert Hall, 7.30 p.m. The tenor *Hughes Cuénod* sings the part of Carabietier in a performance of Berlioz' Benvenuto Cellini, given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Colin Davis.

Sunday, 30th July, and Saturday, 5th August. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.15 p.m. *Edith Mathis* sings one of the star roles in the film *The Marriage of Figaro* (Rolf Lieberman Production).

Monday, 7th August. Round House, Chalk Farm, 10 p.m. The Oboist *Heinz Holliger* is one of the soloists at a concert at which he will play his own *Siebengesang* with the BBC Orchestra under Pierre Boulez.

8th to 13th August. International Summer School, Canterbury. The oboist *Heinz Holliger* holds master classes to which listeners and players are welcome (details from Trevor Wye, 4 Abbots Walk, Canterbury).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

London Swiss societies take a summer break for the coming two months, but the next shoot of the Swiss Rifle Association takes place on Sunday, 17th September.

1st AUGUST CELEBRATION in London: Tuesday, 1st August at the Wimbledon Town Hall, 7.45 p.m. (please see advert).

SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR: Saturday, 4th November, 12 a.m. Central Hall, Westminster, London.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Phyllis Walker, of Solothurn, wife of the late Paul Joseph Walker, of Wembley, on 7th June, 1972. Mrs. Walker was a faithful reader and we should like to convey our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

RECTIFICATION

Having read our article on the two "Swiss linked" firms blacked in the Hull container dispute in our 9th June issue, Panalpina International Transport Ltd. have asked us to stress that they are not affected at all by this dispute, as Panalpina Northern Ltd. and themselves are two distinct and separately managed companies. They also would like to point out that the Panalpina official quoted in our article was certainly not speaking on behalf of the company. Panalpina International Transport Ltd. in fact consider that there is not the slightest link between the Swiss associations of the companies affected at Hull and the blacking itself.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

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PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNINO DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicdo, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS W.4 and S.E.21, and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 3rd Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor. (2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15 and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme".

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.

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