

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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The magnificence of the reception at the Guildhall, in all its glory and its medieval splendour, was a revelation to the Swiss. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress being particularly attentive to the Swiss Parliamentarians gave them additional pleasure and satisfaction.

There is, however, no word sufficient to express the delight of the Swiss Delegation with the Dinner which the Swiss Minister and Mme. Paravicini gave in their honour. M. Paravicini's interest in every member and Mme. Paravicini's renowned charm as a hostess impressed everybody greatly. In addition the Delegation formed the conviction that the Swiss in Great Britain have a point to which they can rally at any time and find true Swiss friendship. M. Paravicini's kind thought to invite leading personalities to meet the Delegation, amongst others the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, was much appreciated.

The occupation of the various Swiss Parliamentarians being numerous, they could not be everywhere at the same time, though they would have liked intimate contact with the Swiss Colony in London.

However two of the Delegates, alt Nationalrat Weber and Nationalrat Tschudy visited the Swiss Mercantile Society and School and carried away an excellent impression. Another reception which gave great pleasure was at the Union Helvetia, where the President, Mr. Indermauer, received, with eloquent words, Nationalrat Dr. Haeblerlin and Mme. Haeblerlin, Conseiller National Sandoz and Mme. Sandoz, Nationalrat Dr. Scherer and Mme. Scherer and Nationalrat Tschudy. The evening spent at the Union Helvetia was a great success in the opinion of all present.

It may be mentioned that at two meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union a Swiss Delegate was in the chair, a proof of the esteem Swiss enjoy also in international affairs. We can add that alt Nationalrat Dr. Studer, President of the Federal Insurance Tribunal in Lucerne, was appointed to speak about National Minorities. His thesis gave occasion to a very heated debate.

We might rightly say that the Swiss Delegates are taking with them a most wonderful souvenir of London and English hospitality and, we also hope, of the few Swiss of the London Colony they came into contact with.

We are also justified to add that the "Swiss Observer" which was distributed amongst the Delegates, created a stir and we hope that our weekly paper may obtain, in future, the help from our Home Country, which it so much deserves.

J. H. SPEICH.

### "SCINTILLA" MAGNETOS.

Following the two recent successes of which we informed our readers, we hear that SCINTILLA LTD., have again to register splendid achievements with their magnetos.

The third European Mountain Race held at Shelsley Walsh was won by Stuck on an Austro-Daimler racer, who at the same time created a new speed record for this race with a SCINTILLA magneto fitted to the engine. Meanwhile the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd home at the Grand Prix d'Europe held at Francorchamps, all Bugatti machines, and the 5th, an Imperio machine, were all fitted with SCINTILLA magnetos.

### AN ANNIVERSARY.

The papers are at present full of reports about the terrible earthquake disaster in Italy. This brings back to mind the catastrophic earthquake which took place in the Canton of Valais exactly 75 years ago.

The seat of the disturbance was then at Visp and Stalden, but the shocks were felt all over Switzerland and as far as the north of Germany. At Berne, Bienne, St. Gall, and Zurich the church bells started to ring and chimneys fell in. On July 25th, 1855, shortly after 1 o'clock p.m. a strong shock was felt, which brought down the ceiling of the "Dreikönigs-Kirche" at Visp, whilst St. Martin's church showed some large cracks. On the following day several more intense shocks took place with the result that the steeple of the church came down, destroying the whole building.

The population hurriedly left their dwellings, whilst their houses tumbled down. Several people were injured by falling bricks and timber, but fortunately no loss of life occurred. All the houses at Visp, at that time about 130, were partly destroyed or made uninhabitable; after a thorough investigation by the authorities only six houses were found to be fit to rebuild.

Visitors to Visp can still notice to-day cracks in the brickwork of some of the buildings which were caused by the earthquake of 1855. The villages of Stalden, Grächen, St. Niklaus and Zermatt also suffered heavy damages. A curious fact to notice was, that houses made of stone withstood the shocks less well than the wooden ones. At St. Niklaus nothing was left except the

rectory. Throughout the valley the mountain side showed considerable clefts. It was reported that the springs at Bad Leuk registered an increased temperature, and where the land was formerly flat new hills were formed.

A rather tragic-comical incident occurred. The communities of Ems and Leuk had a law suit pending, lasting several years, regarding a mountain forest. This wood completely vanished, no doubt much to the disgust of the lawyers briefed on the case.

A committee, under the Presidency of General Dufour, was formed in order to provide the population with housing accommodation. N.Z.Z.

### ECONOMIC NOTES. FOREIGN TRADE.

From April to May while imports have declined by 4.9 million francs, exports have increased by 1.5 millions. On the other hand by comparison with the month of May 1929, imports have decreased by 15 millions and exports by 6.9 million francs. To properly appreciate these figures one must, it is true, take into account the drop in prices which has occurred in the interval, notably in wholesale prices which have dropped fifteen points in twelve months as is shown below.

In May the balance of foreign trade amounted to 211.3 million francs for imports and 163.1 millions for exports. This shows a deficit of 48 millions or 22.8 per cent. against a deficit of 54.6 millions or 25.3 per cent. for April.

With regard to imports, here are the figures for the principal groups; we give the figures for the preceding month in brackets:

Foodstuffs, drinks and tobacco: 43 millions (43). Raw materials for Agriculture: 6 millions (8). Fuel: 16 millions (14). Raw materials for industry: 46 millions (46). Manufactured goods: 52 millions (55).

We notice from the statistics that from May 1929 to May 1930 the import of automobiles has dropped by 22 per cent., those from the United States by 25 per cent. and those from other countries by 16 per cent.

With regard to exports, the total figure is divided as follows amongst the chief categories:

Foodstuffs: 14.1 millions (14.1). Textiles: 52.2 millions (53.7). Machines and metallurgical products: 42.7 millions (39.8). Watch-making 23.4 millions (23.5). Druggists' and chemical products and colouring matters: 14 millions (12.9). S.I.T.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Miss H. Bietenholz, Gossau, St. Gall: "My impressions of England and the Englishman." Mr. H. Brunner, Zurich: "Something about English People." Mr. E. Gurtner, "Empire Free Trade." Mr. R. Wickart, Zug: "White Coal or Electricity." Mr. H. Vogt, Biel: "An Outline of the Swiss Watch Industry." Mr. Bahnik, "A Journey to the Seaside." Mr. R. Naef, "Astronomy." Mr. H. Brunner, "Schiller and Goethe."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Is War Inevitable?" Proposer: Mr. W. H. Heiniger. Opposer: Mr. R. W. Moeschlin.

Mr. Wilson of the League of Nations Union delivered a lecture on the League of Nations on Friday last at the Swiss Club. The lecture evoked a great deal of interest as the subject—the aims of the League and what it has already achieved—is one that is very dear to the heart of the Swiss. It is to be hoped that Mr. Wilson may be prevailed upon to address us again in the near future. The lecture was followed by an excellent musical programme in which amongst others Mr. Bossart Junior and Miss Neeser were undoubtedly the stars.

On Saturday, July 25th 1930, the students were taken to the Zoo accompanied by Mr. A. Levy, Headmaster of the S.M.S. College.

### Home News—(Continued)

deceased was for 25 years manager of the iron works in Vallorbe, and a member of the Grand Council for 30 years. From 1925-26 he was a member of the National Council. He represented Switzerland at many international congresses. N.Z.Z.

### LAUSANNE.

On Friday the 25th July at 9.15 a.m. a terrible accident occurred on the flying ground at Lausanne. The Commander of Civil Aviation, Captain Strub, was about to fire a rocket to indicate the landing place to the competitors of the Round Europe Flight, when the rocket suddenly exploded and the whole charge went into his face. Half of the face was torn away and a part of the brain was laid bare. He was taken to hospital in a hopeless condition but died before arrival there. He is father of two children. F.

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## Swiss Rifle Association

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

### L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu le MARDI 5 AOÛT au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démonstrations.  
Admissions. | Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 95955).

### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française.)

(Les services ont de nouveau lieu à l'église, 79, Endell Street.)

Dimanche 3 Août 11 h.—M. Marcel Pradervand. Les cultes du soir seront supprimés dès le 27 juillet.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798).—Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30—12 h.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2  
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 3. August 1930.

11 Uhr vormittags: Gottesdienst.

### KREMATION.

Kremiert wurde am 25. Juni, der am 1.10.1905 geborene HANS FANKHAUSER von Trub (Bern); gestorben am 25.6.1930. Die Asche wurde in der Schweiz beigesetzt.

### ADRESSAENDERUNG.

Alle Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen, Religionsunterricht u.s.w. sind an Pfarrer C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4. (Telephon: Chiswick 4156) erbeten.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, August 5th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting at Paganis (see advert.).

Wednesday, August 6th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, August 28th, at Sp.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE and SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Lecture by Professor Dr. C. Schröter of Zurich with over 100 coloured lantern slides on "Naturschutz in der Schweiz und der Schweizerische National Park," at King George's Hall. Admission free.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice every Saturday and Sunday at the Range (see advert.).

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