

# L'activité du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger de la N.S.H. en 1929

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favourite resort in the Engadine, lies about 5,670 feet above the sea, in the sunny sheltered upper valley. Flowery meadows and larch and pine woods enhance the beauty of the situation. The magnificent Hotel Berina, which is open all the year round, commands a fine view of the Piz Berina and Piz Palù. Samaden is famed for its sports facilities. It possesses a fine golf course, laid out in 1893, on which championship and other matches are played during the season. On this course the Margna Cup will be competed for in July, and the open championship of Switzerland will be decided there in August, while other fixtures are also arranged.

For many years Pontresina has held sway as a climbing centre, and a favourite health resort. It is situated in a sunny valley in the Upper Engadine at the foot of the magnificent Berina mountain chain, and possesses numerous hotels and boarding houses. The contour of the district is specially adapted for all kind of sport. Extensive meadows stretch out in front of the houses forming good skiing grounds both for beginners and experts. For advanced skiers Pontresina is the starting point for some of the finest skiing expeditions in the Engadine. In the summer its position gives it great advantages as a high Alpine station and climbing centre.

The references to Golf Courses ought to be of special interest to "Kyburg." We hope that he has greatly benefited by his few days' respite and will be ready to tackle the Gleanings again next week with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

### THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION FOR SWISS CHEESE.

On June 8th 1927 the U.S.A. raised the duties on Emmenthal cheese in accordance with Article 315 of the American Customs Tariff. This article enacts that in order to fix the duties to be levied on imported goods, the costs of production in the home country and in the country from which the goods are imported must be compared. Should the costs of production be less high in the other country, the difference must be balanced by means of higher duties. An American customs committee came over to Switzerland in order to find out the costs of production in Switzerland and applied to the various organisations and associations of milk producers and cheese-makers for all necessary information. The reason for the steps taken by the U.S.A. lay in the complaints of the American makers of Emmenthal cheese in the State of Wisconsin and Ohio, who demanded better customs protection. Their production of "Swiss cheese" amounted to 3.5 per cent. of the total cheese production in the U.S.A. in 1923, and to only 4 per cent. of the total milk produce. Swiss exports have not, as yet, shown any decrease in consequence of the rise in duties, but they would in all probability have gone up without this new burden. As the question of the cost of production has a fundamental importance, a few objections may be made here against the conclusions arrived at by the past investigations.

One of the methods of calculating the costs of production of milk, and therefore also of cheese, was as follows: the part of the total expenditure of a dairy ascribed to the costs of production for milk was calculated according to the proportion of the receipts for milk as compared with the total receipts of the dairy. If, for instance, the total receipts amounted to Frs. 50,000, and 25,000 of these were due to milk produce, half of the expenditure was also put down to the latter. The other method was that of deducting the cost of the manufacture of cheese from the selling-price of cheese. These two methods cannot rightly be applied to conditions in this country, the methods employed in Swiss dairies being entirely different from those employed in America.

The costs of production in a large dairy with varied branches of work cannot be calculated in so simple a manner, and the methods employed are therefore liable to criticism from a scientific point of view.

At the time of investigation (1923-24) other kinds of dairy produce in America were sold at a loss, and these losses were partly made good by a rise in the price of milk; it will therefore be seen that the allied branches of dairy-farming had their share in the rise in the costs of production which were put down to milk produce. The time in which the investigations into Swiss conditions took place was also exceedingly favourable for American Cheese Makers owing to the fact that that price of ground in America has gone down by about half, and that the Swiss franc is again at par in New-York. Swiss costs of production were converted into dollars at the time for the sake of comparison with American costs of production, the value of the Swiss franc being about 9 per cent. lower than that it is to-day. Moreover the interest on outstanding debts was calculated at 6 per cent. for America and at 4.5 per cent. for Switzerland. In addition to this the American Tariff Committee looked upon New York as the place of destination for "Switzerland cheese," whilst Chicago is, in reality, another very im-

portant market, and the costs of production of cheese exported by Switzerland are considerably raised by the additional freight,—a matter which was not taken into consideration in the American report. Nor can we agree with the rise due to quality. "Switzerland cheese" having attained higher wholesale prices in New-York than American cheese, the difference in the prices was added to the American costs of production. According to these methods of calculation and these different suppositions, the costs of production of the Swiss Emmenthal cheese are lower than the costs of American cheese, and also lower than they are in reality, in spite of the fact acknowledged by experts that Swiss exports meet with great difficulties on the World's market on account of their high prime-cost. S.I.T.

### DINING CARS FOR WORKMEN.

A novel 'dining car' has been brought into service by the S.B.B. on the new goods station near Basle, which will be used until the various buildings are erected.

The car consists of two old railway carriages which have been transformed into a 'restaurant car' with all the latest appliances. The cars have electric light and heating throughout. One carriage serves as restaurant whilst the other is used as kitchen and office.

The canteen is open day and night and it is said that a greater variety of meals are served than on a real restaurant car. The service is of great benefit to the nightworkers and to others, as the prices are very moderate.

The whole organisation is in the hands of the "Schweizer Verband Volksdienst" whose staff specialise in this kind of establishment, and are prospering in various large railway stations.

The canteen at Basle will be able to be used elsewhere once the station buildings are complete.

### Doings in Our Colony.

#### SWISS COLONY DINNER TO MONSIEUR PARAVICINI.

We have received the following circular which we reprint for the benefit of our Readers who may not be members of one of the Swiss Clubs in the United Kingdom:—

London, 19th April, 1930

Dear Sir (or Madam),

You will be pleased to learn that in order to mark the completion of Monsieur C. R. PARAVICINI'S 10th year of very distinguished service as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James', the Swiss Societies in London have arranged a DINNER & CONCERT to be given in his honour in the name of the Swiss Colony in the United Kingdom on SATURDAY, 31st MAY, 1930 at the Monaco Restaurant, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.1. (Evening dress optional—Ladies cordially invited.)

At the same time, a presentation will be made to Monsieur Paravicini on behalf of the whole Swiss Colony in the United Kingdom. This presentation is to be on democratic lines, i.e., the necessary funds are to be raised by voluntary individual contributions not exceeding 2/6 each, and you are invited to subscribe to the list of your Society not later than the 15th of May.

Accommodation for the Dinner and Concert being limited, it is essential that those who wish to attend should apply early for tickets (at 7/6 each) to their Society.

With patriotic greetings, Yours very truly,  
for the ORGANISING COMMITTEE,

JULES ZIMMERMANN, Hon. Secretary.

#### SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

On the 10th of April we had the pleasure of listening to the Annual Concert of the Swiss Choral Society. The Choir was in excellent form and, under the very able conductorship of Mr. E. A. Seymour, all the songs were rendered in a way which made it a real joy to listen to the melodies of well-known composers like Attenhofer, Angerer, Silcher, Ulrich, Suter and Mendelssohn.

I do not intend to criticise each item as, generally speaking, the singing was very good, and some songs, such as "Waldesrauschen," "Der Jäger Abschied," etc., were especially well rendered.

We would like to congratulate the Choir on the remarkable progress which they have made, and we hope that this progress may continue and that we shall have further opportunities to appreciate the serious work and steady improvement of this Society.

It must, however, be very disheartening for the members when they see how little support they get. The Conway Hall was hardly half filled and one really wondered how it is possible that a concert like this cannot produce more interest amongst the Swiss in London. Apart from any feeling of Patriotism or "Heimatgedanken" I would like to emphasise that the production of this, at present, small Choir are such that it is well worth to take the trouble to go and hear them.

As the Choir, judging by the attendance at the

concert, seems to get quite a good support from English people, it would perhaps be advisable to include some English songs in future programmes. At the same time I would like to mention that the bass voices in the Choir are somewhat weak in comparison with the very good tenors, and it would improve the choir as a whole if new members could be found, especially to strengthen the lower voices. Amongst so many Swiss in London this should not be difficult.

The solo parts were divided between Mr. Samuel Kutcher whose violin solos were greatly enjoyed by the audience, and Miss Berta Zimmer who sang songs of Brahms and Strauss.

There was also a Yodel-Double Quartett composed of members of the Choir whose efforts were received in good spirit.

### L'activité du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger de la N.S.H. en 1929.

Le onzième rapport annuel du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger vient de paraître.

En le parcourant, on est frappé dès l'abord par la diversité et l'étendue de la tâche accomplie en une année par un appareil administratif réduit en somme à sa plus simple expression. Il est vrai que l'oeuvre continue à bénéficier des bases posées par ses fondateurs, Gonzague de Reynold et Robert de Traz, et que la Commission des Suisses à l'Etranger fut toujours présidée par des hommes de valeur, en tout dernier lieu par M. Schürch, rédacteur en chef du "Bund." Le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger eut, de plus, le privilège d'avoir à sa tête, durant 5 ans, M. E. Zellweger, homme d'une grande culture et de beaucoup d'initiative, doublé d'un juriste éminent; le rapport nous apprend qu'il vient de céder sa place à M. Job, Dr. ès lettres, ancien directeur de l'Ecole Suisse de Naples.

L'Organisation des Suisses à l'Etranger compte actuellement 180 groupes, 100 conférences ont été organisées durant l'année 1929. Félix Moeschlin a parlé aux Etats-Unis de la Suisse, force spirituelle. La vie artistique et littéraire de la Suisse italienne a été révélée par M. Zentralli, de Coire, dans diverses colonies suisses de France et d'Italie. En Allemagne, M. Charles Fournet a initié son public aux trésors de la littérature éclosée sur les bords du Léman. Gobi Walder et Emile Balmer ont lu des fragments de leurs oeuvres, l'un en Allemagne et l'autre en Autriche. Des soirées de chansons populaires suisses furent organisées en Belgique avec le concours de M. Bundi et de Mlle. Hellmüller, dans les Balkans, avec le concours de M. E. Pignat. Le Colonel Léderrey a parlé en Espagne de la formation du soldat suisse et Emile Gos, en Italie, des splendeurs de la région qui va du Léman au Corvin, etc. Le rapport du Secrétariat donne, en un schéma frappant, un tableau de ce service des conférences fort intéressant à étudier de près. Le service des films a remporté un succès significatif. Presque toutes les sociétés suisses de France y ont eu recours, celles d'Italie également, d'Allemagne, de Londres, d'Amérique, etc. Le service des journaux a été réorganisé en vue d'une plus grande extension. L'*Echo Suisse*, la revue des Suisses à l'Etranger à laquelle le Secrétariat collabore régulièrement a augmenté son tirage. La distribution des almanachs Pestalozzi a atteint le chiffre de 4,000.

Au pays, également, le Secrétariat s'est dépensé dans de nombreux domaines. Les problèmes posés par la situation juridique des Suisses à l'Etranger (taxe militaire, situation des travailleurs suisses en Italie, Suisses sinistrés de guerre) ont été suivis avec beaucoup d'attention et ont exigé du ler Secrétaire des études très approfondies propres à amorcer des solutions satisfaisantes.

Plus d'une soixantaine de recrues venues de l'étranger ont bénéficié des services du Secrétariat. La Maison de vacances des Suisses à l'Etranger au Château de Rhäzüns a ouvert pour la première fois ses portes à la plus grande joie de ceux qui purent en profiter. La Fondation "Oeuvre de vacances des Suisses à l'Etranger" au capital de 70,000 francs, due à la générosité d'un Suisse autrefois à l'Etranger et indépendante de l'oeuvre de la Maison de vacances, a permis aux plus pauvres de venir presque sans frais respirer l'air du pays à Rhäzüns. Le Secrétariat a été chargé de plus, par le Comité en faveur d'une Maison Suisse dans la Cité Universitaire de Paris, de mener à bonne fin la collecte qui doit permettre l'érection d'un home d'étudiants suisses à Paris. Ses efforts ont été couronnés d'un plein succès.

Une seule ombre au tableau, c'est que les fonds du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger sont près d'être épuisés, les souscriptions régulières ne couvrant qu'une partie des dépenses; aussi, une campagne financière s'impose afin de continuer à assurer le plein rendement d'une oeuvre aussi utile aux Suisses de l'étranger qu'à notre pays lui-même.

### SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Many will doubt the veracity of the report that, when a squad of men went to clear the ground and demolish the huts at Bellinzona, they found two Bernese (or were they from Zofingen?)