

News from the colony

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articles free of charge, but the hope is expressed that in due course future contributors can be remunerated. One third of the space – the first issue has 32 pages – will always be reserved for readers' contributions, which they are asked to send in "on any topic of their choice" and written "as they please, even as poetry".

The least that can, so far, be said about this *Readers Paper* is that in the present time of Press concentration and small newspapers dying this is both an interesting and daring experiment in co-determinative journalism. For whoever contributes his 50 francs can, as a

member of the society, take part in its meetings and can assist in electing editors and determining editorial policy. Some very topical problems are touched on in the first edition: 'Democracy in the Swiss Army', 'Women in Politics', 'Does Switzerland contribute enough to Development Aid?', 'Kissinger's Foreign Policy' – to mention only a few of them. The paper stresses that it does not owe allegiance to any political party, or financial group, in short that it is totally independent. Its first number gives one the impression of a leftish trend. Its further existence is guaranteed if 5,800 supporters part with 50 francs and, in

addition, if at least 1,000 copies at 3 francs a piece are sold in the bookstalls. One of the declared aims of the paper is to "work for humanitarian and democratic alternatives in society, economy and state, where present mentalities and existing structures do not correspond any longer to the needs of the individual and of society as a whole".

Advertisements, it is stated, "are not on principle refused, but whether they are accepted or refused will be decided in each single case".

Whether the new publication can live, and perhaps even grow, remains to be seen within this year.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY



APOLOGIES

We apologise to our readers for the dreadful mix of copy which appeared in our last issue. Part of the article on "Efficiency" by Mrs. Gee Lebon was inadvertently printed with the article "A Premiere by the Lake", by Mrs. Yole Bowman and vice versa. We hope that readers will have managed to piece the puzzle together and made sense of the two stories. We also apologise to the two contributors whose works have been so appallingly mangled.



Concert at the Wigmore Hall

It was a pity that the quality of the performance by the Swiss cellist *Alfred Knuesel* and the British pianist *Russel Lomas* at the Wigmore Hall on Tuesday, 11th March, wasn't matched by the strength of the audience. The Wigmore Hall was about a third full. The first two rows appeared to be reserved to an invited audience. The next few rows were taken by students coming apparently from the various schools of music of London, and behind them members of the general public were sprinkled across the hall.

There was, however, nothing particularly dramatic about the poor attendance. Most Swiss artists who have made their London debut in the Wigmore Hall have had to contend with a diminutive attendance. This is the lot of

all unknown artists, and the Wigmore Hall is not always a stepping stone to fame. This rather lugubrious building with its garish and old-fashioned decorations often marks the end of the London ascent of budding artists.

But Alfred Knuesel and Russel Lomas were hardly that at all and their virtuosity found a loud echo among the young musicologists who had come to appreciate them. Their performance of Beethoven's piano and cello sonata in F major (Op 5, No. 1) was brilliant and loudly applauded. London's première performance of Sonata Op 225 by the American composer Hovhaness was particularly well noticed and the two musicians visibly translated Anglo-Swiss friendship into the harmony and entente of their performance. Alfred Knuesel had a remarkable instrument which students went to examine after the performance. It was a pity that its rich sounds were lost to the thousands of concert-goers who missed the evening but we hope that Mr. Knuesel and Mr. Lomas will one day become a duo of international recognition.

SCHWEIZERBUND

The AGM season among London's Swiss societies began with that of the Schweizerbund (Swiss Club). It took place in the congenial setting of the Presscala Club, Fleet Street, under the good care of Mr. John Albert Gluck and son. Mr. Virgil Berti, the President, raised the problem of the Society's Centenary Celebrations in 1979. He said that with the rapid flight of time, this was not as far away as it seemed. He called on ideas for the future celebrations and suggested that we prepare for these financially by raising the annual subscription fee from £1 to £2 as from next year.

The meeting was followed by drinks at the club bar, and it was a pleasure to meet several guests and members never seen at other Swiss gatherings in London. Dinner was simple and generous. Mr. Gluck moreover brought from his cellar an excellent claret. In his welcome address, Mr. Berti mentioned the presence of Vice-Consul Werner Reutlinger and Mrs. Reutlinger, who were representing the Embassy. He read a letter from Mr. Fritz Adams,

departing General-Consul, in which he regretted his absence and wished the Society a prosperous future. Mr. Berti asked the attendance to stand in silence in remembrance of Mrs. Emily Delaloye, a regular member who died at the beginning of the year.

Although the Swissair song books had been distributed by Mr. Jurg Schmid, the Secretary, there was no singing that night. But that certainly didn't reduce the pleasure of a very friendly function.

P. M. B.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The 1975 Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society took place on Wednesday, 12th March, on the top floor of a renovated Swiss house in the presence of a great many members. The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. André Jaccard after a get-together in the Canteen. Much of the proceedings were devoted to an examination of the accounts. These were far more complicated than hitherto because of the separation of the Swiss Mercantile Society into the Society proper, now a registered charity, and the Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd., a company handling the business side of the SMS, namely the school of English. This has undergone a complete face-lift during 1974, the year under review.

The President regretted the absence of the auditors to present the figures but managed remarkably well to explain the financial situation of the school. A balance sheet and a profit and loss account may be something familiar to many. In fact, such documents are presented to members of every society at every AGM. But as far as I am concerned, these lists of figures remain Chinese to me, and for this reason I will not attempt to report on them. Suffice it to say that the school's expenditure in 1974 totalled £101,884 against £68,285 in 1973. This expenditure was not covered by receipts and a deficit of £39,946 had to be carried to the general fund. With the various transfers and federal donations to the school, the deficit was converted into a loss of about £6,000.

Mr. Jaccard explained that the enormous increase in expenditure was in part due to rising costs, particularly in