Around the colony

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AROUND THE COLONY.

Who does not still remember that "black Wednesday" of last September, when the fate of millions of people, yea of civilization itself, was at stake.

Was there to be war with all its terror and misery, or would humanity yet awhile be allowed to live in peace?

In those days one man had the courage to wave matters of prestige and conventionality aside and bring a mad world to its senses. It was only at the eleventh hour that the spectre of war could be bannished and those days have since been called the days of the "great crisis."

The immediate result of those depressing days was, that people got nearer to each other. The need for concentrated action and a better understanding was felt, unity amongst all classes and denominations was considered to be a duty of each citizen, one has, as the French say "serré les rangs."

This spirit could also be found in the Swiss Colony, there too the need was felt to get nearer together, so as to be prepared against all eventualities.

Renewed activity amongst the various Swiss Societies set in, members of the Colony, who for years had taken no part in its activities, came back to the one or the other fold, in short a wave of patriotism swept through the Colony.

To a great extent the different Societies represent the Swiss Colony, and it is through them that the people of this country know its members and the work they perform, what very few can achieve single handed, concentrated action and unity of purpose can accomplish with a much better chance of success.

True enough there are still a number of our compatriots who stand aside, and let the others do the work, through which they are in the end the beneficiaries. Whatever the reason is, for this aloofness, let it be said that they render a bad service both to their country and ultimately to themselves. —

One great and shining example was given to the world by the country which extends such a generous hospitality to us, when England, some few years ago had to face one of the greatest crisises in their history.

The English people heard and followed the clarion call for unity which was sounded, and the result was that England's prestige which had suffered an undeniable set back abroad, was regained, and the havoc of mismanagement created by the Government of that time, could be slowly but surely repaired.

This great and courageous rally had its effect also in our Colony. For some time a greater activity and better understanding could be noticed, although there is still plenty of room left for improvement.

The fateful days of last September have given our compatriots a greater impetus for unity which made itself felt in no unmistakable way.

Good news, it is indeed, that one Society, which for the last few years seemed to be condemned to a slow and sure death, is to be ressurrected. The Swiss Choral Society which at one time enjoyed a fine reputation as a useful member of the Colony, has come into being again; this body has been reorganised and stands to-day stronger than ever, and there is not the slightest doubt that their usefulness will soon be felt again in the Colony. This remarkable feat is due to two facts, firstly a spirit of patriotism has enabled the members to find a way out of a regrettable impass, and secondly to one member, a late President of the Society, Mr. Manzoni, who was successful in gathering around himself a number of our compatriots, who were animated by the same spirit. Things which had happened in the past were forgiven and forgotten, and our national motto: "Un pour tous, tous pour un" was remembered and acted upon accordingly.

Another Society, which stands high in the rank of Swiss Societies, for their useful work, has, according to the report at their Annual General Meeting made great strides of late. We speak of the Swiss Mercantile Society, which recently celebrated with great success their 50th Jubilee. A drive for new members has been most successful.

Two other important institutions, the Unione Ticinese, which is under the leadership of a young and energetic President, and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, (London Group) have both been able to increase their membership considerably, which speaks well for their respective leaders, and of the spirit which animates their members.

The same good news reaches us from other Societies in London and the Provinces.

The City Swiss Club, which is perhaps the most conservative body in the Colony, too has received a new lease of life.

ck, who is the Press reporter of this leading Club, spoke in his last report of the monthly meeting, that the secretary of the Club has been successful in transfusing new blood "dans les veines d'un corps débile et anémique." It was a little unkind of him to make such a sweeping statement, if the Club had, in the past perhaps not shown greater activity, it was not due to a lack of patriotism, but principally through the circumstances prevailing throughout the world, which necessitated a certain element of hesitancy and precaution. ck having for a great many months failed to attend the monthly deliberations of the Club, and not being present at the last three splendid Annual Banquets for some reason or other, was hardly justified in writing in such a fashion about the ailments of a Society which has proved its worth time after time. Equally unjustified and unfair was the criticism voiced about the Menu which was served by Messrs. Pagani's on the occasion of the last monthly meeting.

Messrs. Pagani's rightly felt distressed about this statement, and the Editor of this paper unconditionally tenders his apologies for having published same. —

Even our paper, has to a certain extent, benefited by this new enthusiasm which has swept over the Colony, and with new courage and with a lighter heart we shall in future work for the benefit of the Swiss Community.

ST.

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ZURICH

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L'ALLEMAGNE ET LA NEUTRALITE DE LA SUISSE.

En ce qui concerne la question souvent discutée depuis quelque temps de la neutralité et de la presse, nous apprenons de source compétente que des pourparlers ont eu lieu à Berlin ces dernières semaines entre le ministre de Suisse et le ministère des affaires étrangères du Reich à propos d'un article paru dans un périodique national-socialiste sur la question de la neutralité, sous le plume d'un certain Dr. Bockhoff. Avant même que le Conseil fédéral l'ait chargé de s'approcher du ministère des affaires étrangères, le ministre de Suisse à Berlin en avait pris l'initiative et avait adressé un rapport.

La question de la validité de la reconnaissance de la neutralité suisse par l'Allemagne n'a jamais été en discussion. Cette question est claire et jamais les milieux allemands n'ont mis en cause cette validité. Par contre, l'entretien de Berlin a visé la portée de l'article sus-mentionné et les deux parties furent pleinement d'accord pour constater que seules les déclarations gouvernementales font foi et que des polémiques de journaux ne peuvent être mises en balance avec les déclarations d'un gouvernement.

Le point de vue suisse, qui fut souvent confirmé, n'a pas changé, à savoir que la neutralité est une notion de droit international ne concernant que l'Etat. Du côté suisse, on n'a jamais rien dit d'autre ni laissé entendre autre chose à Berlin.

Les bruits concernant la conclusion d'une convention entreprise avec l'Allemagne sont une pure invention.

Au cours des entretiens, le droit de critique n'a jamais été contesté, même du côté allemand; par contre, on s'est plaint, du côté allemand, du fait que certains journaux — de l'avis des milieux allemands — ne se livrent pas seulement à des critiques, mais à de l'excitation.

La commission suisse de la presse a examiné lundi dernier l'attitude de différents journaux et au cours d'une de ses prochaines séances, le Conseil fédéral prendra une décision, sur proposition du département fédéral de justice et police.

On souligne dans les milieux compétents que le Conseil fédéral poursuivra avec fermeté la politique suivie jusqu'ici.

(*Tribune de Genève.*)

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION 1939 ZURICH.

The Sports at the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich, 1939.

Zurich is Switzerland's most sporting city. Its geographical position, its many and varied relations with the rest of the world, and its comparatively large population were factors which combined to intensify its sporting urge. To-day the city possesses numerous stadiums and grounds for the practice of every form of national and universal sport. However important the event or varied the programme, Zurich can cope with it. There are two splendid sport grounds with accommodation for large crowds of spectators, a covered stadium, an indoor swimming pool, an open velodrome, an artificial ice rink, two open-air swimming basins with artificial waves, numerous large gymnasiums and a lido.

With such extensive facilities for the practising of sport of every kind, it is not to be wondered at that every year a large number of first-class national and international sporting events are held in Zurich, and that ever and again the city produces teams and individual sportsmen whose performances win them international fame.

It is obvious that a city with such sporting traditions behind it should feel the urge to put on a worthy and comprehensive sport programme during the National Exhibition of 1939, whose organisation has been entrusted to it. Thus sport will be included in the Exhibition not only with respect to its social, economic and cultural aspect, but also as a popular attraction in itself.

In the course of this programme, numerous international events will be staged, whose most important are:

In February, the ice-hockey world's championship; during the exhibition, international regatta, horse race, motor race for the newly created Zurich Grand Prix, international football, tennis, waterpolo tournaments, etc.

CHRONIQUE TECHNIQUE ET DES NOUVEAUTES INDUSTRIELLES.

A l'Exposition nationale de Zurich 1939, les Chemins de fer suisses exposeront une locomotive électrique d'une puissance de 12,000 CV., considérée comme la plus forte du monde. La partie électrique sera fournie par les *Ateliers de Construction Oerlikon* et la partie mécanique par la *Société Suisse pour la Construction de Locomotives et de Machines à Winterthur*. La locomotive est actuellement en cours d'exécution.

Il y a quelque temps déjà, les Anglais organisèrent un grand raid Londres-Johannesburg (Transvaal). Deux jeunes sportifs énergiques, Scott et Guthrie, sortirent victorieux de l'épreuve. Leur exploit accompli ils déclarèrent qu'au cours de leur voyage ils avaient fait usage, avec profit, de l'*Ovomaltine* de la maison Wander SA., à Berne.

La *Cia de Electricidad del Sud-Argentino à Buenos-Aires*, possède, à Mar del Plata, la plus grande et la plus moderne des stations balnéaires en Argentine, une importante centrale électrique équipée de divers groupes Diesel-électriques. L'accroissement constant de la consommation d'énergie électrique a nécessité une extension de la centrale, qui fut complétée par l'installation d'un moteur Diesel-Sulzer de 2600 ch.eff. à 214 t/mn. Ce moteur, alimenté en fuel-oil lourd, est muni d'un dispositif spécial particulier à la