

# Swiss Bank Club

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away that feeling, which I am convinced I can do, I shall indeed be happy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you with all my heart.

I need hardly emphasize that these words, spoken with emotion, were fully appreciated, it was the swan song of a man, who deserved all that was said about him. It does not often happen, that Society work gets such recognition, as many will know by their own experience, but when it comes in such a spontaneous fashion, it will go a long way to encourage members of the younger generation to put their backs to the wheel, to keep up traditions which have been handed down untarnished for a great number of years.

Le roi est mort, vive le roi! I cannot but say a few words about the one, who has taken up the task as successor to M. Paschoud, namely Mr. Lehmann. After he had listened to all the speeches, he must have felt wellnigh bewildered, it is no easy matter to succeed a man who has left such a reputation behind him, and one is apt or inclined, to expect from his successor that he should carry on, where the former, who had all the experience behind him, left off, this is, of course, impossible. M. Paschoud thanked the Members for their loyalty and faithful collaboration, two things which are essential for leading a Society successfully. Let us then hope that the same loyalty, the same faithfulness will be transferred to the new leader, and I have not the slightest doubt, that the S.M.S. will add a new successful chapter to their prominent history.

ST.

#### SWISS BANK CLUB.

The annual assembly of the Swiss Bank Club this year took the form of a smoking concert, held at the Bridge House Hotel on Friday last. Including friends of the members, about 200 persons were present.

The programme of music was contributed by the Swiss Choral Society and a group of well-known artists, who all received a warm welcome. Mr. Albert Hutt (bass) and Miss Lorraine La Fosse (soprano) provided the "straight" turns, Miss Edith Faulkner delighted her audience with her "Comedy and Character Cameos" and Mr. Fred Gwyn greatly amused with his "nonsense."

#### THE LEAGUE'S WIRELESS.

One evening seven years ago, a member of the League Secretariat, Sir Arthur Salter, sitting in his study on the lakeside at Coppet, about 10 miles from Geneva, tuned-in on Daventry, on the off chance of hearing the news bulletin. The night, by good fortune, was favourable to long-wave reception. The then Director of the League Section of Economics and Finance heard, to his astonishment, a report to the effect that Greece had issued an ultimatum to Bulgaria. Sir Arthur Salter at once telephoned the Secretary-General of the League, Sir Eric Drummond, who, in turn, put through a call to Paris to M. Briand, at that time President of the Council of the League. The news having been confirmed, steps were taken for the immediate convocation of the Council. This was held within 48 hours and a telegram dispatched at once appealing to the Greek and Bulgarian forces to stand fast. The telegram reached its destination just one hour before the time fixed by the Greek commander for an offensive. Had not Sir Arthur Salter heard the Daventry news bulletin on that particular evening there would not have been sufficient time in which to put in motion the machinery of the League, and there might well have been another Balkan war.

There is now a material sequel to this dramatic incident. The League to-day possesses its own means of communication with the outer world. It owns, or controls in times of emergency, a group of wireless transmitters and receivers which are capable of establishing direct inter-communication with every country possessing a transmitter which can be heard in Geneva. The stations have only been completed during the present month. Within an hour of the finishing touches being given to one of the short-wave transmitters it was being used for an important message direct to Tokyo. Since then the transmitters and receivers have been engaged daily in direct traffic to and from Tokyo and Shanghai. One evening last week a temporary change-over was made from telegraphy to telephony and in an experimental transmission the voice of Sir Eric Drummond speaking in Geneva was heard in North America.

But little play of the imagination is necessary to show how great a part the new League stations may play in international affairs. Should it come their way to avert disaster and lessen human suffering, this would only be in accordance with the traditions of wireless.

The League wireless station consists, in conformity with customary practice, of two units—a group of transmitters situated on a plain at Prangins, near Nyon, about 15 miles north-east of Geneva, and a corresponding group of receivers in a rural suburb of Geneva known as Colovrex.

It was at this latter station, two years ago, while it was still under construction that the song of a Surrey nightingale was received with such fidelity that a Swiss nightingale in the woods close by answered the sounds as they passed out from the station. Prangins and Colovrex are linked together by telephone cables and are each in direct communication with the League Secretariat and the Swiss Post Office, so that a telegraph official in the new buildings where the Disarmament Committees are now sitting can, by touching a key, send a wireless signal direct to Shanghai.

The transmitting station at Prangins, like its counterpart at Colovrex, is truly international in character. The buildings have been constructed, as might be expected, with Swiss material and by Swiss labour. The rotating electrical machinery is almost exclusively Swiss; the two highest towers for the support of the long-wave aerials (each 460ft. high) are also Swiss, but of the aerial arrangements for short-wave long-distance working, one (in duplex) is British (Marconi) and two are German (Telefunken). Coming back inside the station one finds that the 50 kilowatt transmitter for long-wave European working (which is not League property, but becomes automatically at the service of the League in times of emergency) is British (Marconi) and that one of the two short-wave transmitters is French (S.F.R.) and the second British (Marconi), but the latter is equipped with Dutch (Philips) water-cooled valves. This combination has not only satisfied national rivalry among the leading countries, members of the League, engaged in the construction of wireless stations but it has undoubtedly provided the League with the most up-to-date and efficient instruments that each contributing country can provide.

The long-wave transmitting aerial is arranged for all-round radiation. This is not the case with the short-wave aerials. The British short-wave aerials, two in number, are suspended from one pair of masts. They are each provided with a reflector and are so directed and arranged that they can be used simultaneously if necessary—one transmitting to South America and the other to Japan. The German short-wave aerials cannot work simultaneously in opposite directions, but are arranged to throw their energy, beam-like, in one instance towards Java or Central America and in the other towards North America or Australia. The leads-in from the aerials are so planned that they can be connected in a few minutes to either of the short-wave transmitters. Also, in the case of the British short-wave transmitter there has been fitted a device, in use for the first time in long-distance wireless, whereby a simple lever movement and the twisting of a handle (like the steering handle of a motor-car) changes all the coils and accessories (in two stages of the transmitter) essential for a change of wave length. Four different fixed short-wave lengths can be brought into practice, if necessary, each with an interval of some seconds only.

The power of each of the two short-wave stations is rated at 20 kilowatts in the aerial. This sounds small power when it is compared with that in use a few years ago in the long-wave stations. Actually it is considered by experts to be sufficient for the League's needs, and those countries on the other side of the world with which Prangins has established contact each report "thumping signals." The Far East traffic is holding up at the moment further long-distance test transmissions both in telegraphy and telephony.

At Colovrex, the receiving station, there are directional aerials of German design and manufacture and a British direction-finding aerial. These can be coupled with seven different receivers of German make, and an American duplex telephony equipment which, if needs be, will permit a member of the League Secretariat to engage, through his ordinary telephone instrument, in conversation with people in other continents. For straightforward listening the operators have an instrument range of from 14 to 30,000 metres.

T.

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, April 6th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société des Secours Mutuels — Annual General Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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6.30 — M. M. Pradervand. "Ressuscité."

Course du Lundi de Pâques. Invitation à chacun. Rendez-vous Waterloo 9h50 a.m. platform 3.

#### MARIAGE.

Jean Jacques Aberdhalde de Nesslau (St. Gall) et Bertha Ida Deloff, née Roth, de Oerlikon le 17 Mars.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux instructions religieuses, 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.)

Karfreitag, den 25. März 1932.

11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

Ostersonntag, den 27. März 1932.

11 Uhr morgens: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst und Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.

Ostermontag: Ausflug nach Chalfont, St. Giles, Treffpunkt: Baker Street, Metropolitan Station 10.45 a.m. Proviant mitnehmen, Thee unterwegs.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmanden-unterricht und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde. C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Tel: Chiswick 4156).

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