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LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE GROUPE LONDONNIEN.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON APRIL 26, 1922.

1. Eleven members were admitted and notice was taken of four resignations.

2. It was noted with satisfaction that several new groups have joined our ranks, i.e., Christiania, Oberbaden, Mexico, etc. The Treasurer's report showed that the last concert produced a small deficit.

3. The Council fully supported the resolution, adopted by the City Swiss Club at its Annual Meeting, asking the Swiss Minister to study the question as to whether the United Kingdom could not be induced to abolish the visa at least for Swiss residing in this country, in view of the fact that Switzerland has now abolished the visa for British subjects. The above mentioned resolution was adopted by the City Swiss Club after a discussion about the visa question, brought up by the Secretary of the N.S.H.

4. The agreement between the "Echo Suisse" and the N.S.H. having now been ratified by our Committee for the Swiss Abroad, a circular will be sent to all our members, drawing their attention to this review.

5. The President explained how he had, through the intermediary of our Secretariat, tried to bring the Swiss Milk Industry and the Secrétariat des Paysans Suisses into contact with similar organisations in England. Useful information has been, and will continue to be, exchanged.

6. Mr. Gerber was appointed the representative of our Group at the Fifth Auslandschweizerstag at Basle (24th April, 1922). A wire, signed by Messrs. Stucki, de la Harpe, Nabholz de Traz, Hofmann and Gerber, sent friendly greetings from this big gathering of Swiss from abroad.

7. The Council decided to buy a thousand postcards and to sell them amongst the members in response to an appeal addressed by the "Bund der Jungen Stauffacherinnen" of Berne to the Legation.

8. The S.S.E. having invited the Groups abroad to discuss the suggestion of the Swiss Heraldic Society to propose a law against the abuse of the Swiss national emblem, Mr. Theo. Ritter was asked to study the question and draw up a resolution. After having listened to a careful report by Mr. Ritter, the Council adopted the following resolution unanimously:—"The Council of the London Group of the N.S.H., after having become cognisant of the arguments developed in the judicial report presented to the Swiss Heraldic Society on the question of the abuse of the Swiss national emblem, resolves that they approve of the proposals contained therein and would welcome their becoming law." The Council was, however, of opinion that such a law could only be applied abroad after having been rigidly observed at home.

The President read out the different marconigrams exchanged between England and Switzerland on the occasion of the inauguration of the direct wireless connection between Münchenbuchsee and London on April 12th.

10. It was definitely decided that we should in future have our lectures at the Central Hall, Westminster.

Dr. PAUL LANG,

London, May 5th, 1922.

Secretary.

SWISS CHURCH.

Avec le printemps, les hirondelles qui reviennent et la nature qui se pare de ses plus beaux atours, les ménagères sont prises d'une fièvre étrange: partout c'est le 'springcleaning' qui règne en maître. Il faut laver, nettoyer, repeindre les maisons par dedans et par dehors pour la plus grande joie des 'builders' dont Londres, grâce à sa saleté réputée, doit être le paradis!

A Endell Street aussi, le coup de baguette magique vient d'être donné, de main de maître, par exemple, et à des conditions très raisonnables, par notre compatriote, M. Bindschedler (9 Tolmer's Square, N.W.1). D'un bâtiment sombre et maculé est sorti comme par enchantement un édifice éblouissant dont on peut enfin admirer les lignes architecturales très pures: c'est d'excellent style Renaissance! A l'intérieur aussi, certains travaux ont été faits; un peu de peinture et un bon lavage ont suffi à lui redonner son aspect de neuf, clair et gai, qui rend si avenante la maison de prières des Suisses de Londres. Il sera d'autant plus agréable de s'y rendre.

SWISS INSTITUTE.

(Communicated.)

The Annual General Meeting was held last Friday at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. In his presidential report, Mr. A. L. Despond referred to the satisfactory results obtained during the past year, especially as far as the lectures are concerned, thanks to the efforts of Mr. H. Joss. The active members number at present 71; in addition to them, the programmes are being sent regularly to 210 friends, societies and institutions, and 35 donors help the Institute by their generous contributions, amongst whom H.E. the Swiss Minister, who follows its activities with sympathetic interest.

Within the period of seven months, 16 lectures were delivered, in addition to which there was one dramatic and humorous concert, two Sunday afternoon concerts, one Christmas party, one reception, the summer vacation being interrupted by the very successful 1st of August celebration. At most of the lectures the attendance varied between 30 and 55; on two occasions same exceeded 120. The Sunday concerts and the 1st of August celebration were each attended by 4-500 members and friends. The Chairman appealed to the members in particular to come to the lectures more regularly in future in order that the Committee may rely on a better average attendance for every lecture. In concluding his report and referring to the aims of the Swiss Institute, Mr. Despond spoke as follows:—

"The Swiss Institute has not been founded to provide work or a hobby for a few enthusiastic idealists. It has been built up and developed as an institution accessible to every Swiss and particularly to every young Swiss, where men of all shades of opinion will entertain them on all kinds of subjects connected with history, politics, travel, literature, science, art, etc., and so provide for healthy intellectual recreation. It is for the young Swiss themselves to draw the maximum of advantage from the opportunities afforded to them by our organization, and if every member will remember that if he takes a regular and personal interest in the Friday evening meeting by attending himself and bringing along his own friends, he will soon discover that the Swiss Institute is a source of knowledge and interest worth encouraging. It is wrong to think that we pretend to be some kind of angels, trying to pose as the image of virtue or as missionaries seeking to upset the social order in the Colony. We do not pretend to be the purveyors of wisdom neither. The Institute is simply here to give everyone an opportunity of extending his knowledge and enlarging his views on things in general with special regard, of course, to subjects connected with the life and customs of the nation whose hospitality we enjoy, this with the help of men and institutions that possess the necessary means of instructing us in a simple and inexpensive way."

The accounts for 1921-22 close with a credit balance of £10 15s. 3d. carried forward, this representing a loss on last year's balance of £27 11s. 8d., in spite of a very welcome increase in the donations of about £12. The loss is due to the very heavy expenditure incurred in connection with the 1st of August celebration (the amount of £31 15s. collected on that occasion having been handed over to the Swiss Benevolent Society) and the Sunday afternoon concerts, including additional expenses for stationery, etc. After the discussion, during which the necessity was urged, with regard to the Sunday concerts, to find a scheme which would bring the expenditure and the revenue on a more level basis, the assembly approved the accounts, with a vote of thanks to the hon. treasurer, Mr. L. Meyer, and the auditor, Mr. H. W. Gamper.

The Swiss Institute has viewed, with considerable pleasure, the growth of the Orchestra, which, thanks to the care and encouragement it received at Red Lion Square, and the enthusiasm of its older members, is now established on a sound basis. A scheme is to be worked out by the Committee of the Institute for the constitution of the orchestra into a subsection, so as to give it more strength and cohesion.

Mr. Despond being unable to accept re-election, the assembly elected unanimously to the Chair for the coming year Mr. H. Joss, a former president of the Institute, in addition to whom the following members will form the Committee: Messrs. Ad. Steiner, J. Cuhat, Louis Meyer, G. Hediger, Theo. Siegfried and A. Lanz.

As auditors the assembly nominated Messrs. H. G. Gamper and A. L. Despond, the latter being made at the same time a member of the Advisory Committee.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11 p.m.