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UNSER WEHRWESEN SEIT 1874 BIS ZUR GEGENWART.

(Nachfolgendes resümiert ein Referat, das Herr Bundesrat Dr. Scheurer letzten Sonntag in Zürich hielt, anlässlich des Parteitag der freisinnig-demokratischen Partei.)

Unsere Armee ist, wie die Verfassung, 1874 entstanden. Wir können gerade bei der Armee sehen, wie eine Entwicklung im ganzen gehen kann. Rückblicke sind notwendig im Leben eines Volkes. Wenn wir das tun vom letzten halben Jahrhundert, dürfen wir sagen, dass die Arbeit, die getan wurde, eine überaus fruchtbare war.

Die Landesverteidigung ist für alle Staaten eine der wichtigsten Fragen. Sie ist aber nicht überall gleich, die Aufgabe stellt sich verschieden für eine Autokratie, einen parlamentarisch regierten Staat und eine reine Demokratie, für einen Staat, der auf Eroberungen ausgehen will oder ein Land, das seine Unabhängigkeit wahren will.

Wie stellt sich die Aufgabe für uns? Wir müssen denken an die Neutralität, an die demokratischen Einrichtungen, an unser bundesstaatliches Recht. Wir können mit der militärischen Einrichtung zurückgehen auf 1874, aber damals waren Einrichtungen vorhanden, die auf Jahrhunderte zurückgehen. Wir hatten das allgemeine Militärreglement von 1817, das sehr auf die Kantone zugeschnitten war, aber doch eine gewisse Einheitlichkeit aufwies, dann die Militärorganisation von 1850, die das Werk weitergeführt hat. Die Bundesverfassung von 1874 hat den Grundsatz der allgemeinen Wehrpflicht nicht nur auf dem Papier durchgeführt. Der Bund übernahm auch den gesamten Unterricht und die Bewaffnung, er bekam gegenüber den Kantonen das Aufsichtsrecht. Man nahm dem Einzelnen die Last ab und stellte ihn sicher gegen Krankheit und Unfall. Wir dürfen heute noch dankbar der Männer gedenken, die damals im Vordergrund standen, eines Generals Herzog, eines Bundesrats Weltli und eines Oberst Frei.

Unser Land ist neutral. Es ist aber ein Irrtum, zu sagen, dass wir keine Armee brauchen. Wir haben die Verpflichtung, uns und dem Ausland gegenüber, unser Land gegen feindlichen Einbruch zu schützen. Wir müssen festhalten, dass unser Verzicht auf staatliche Eroberungen nicht sagen will, dass wir keine Armee brauchen. Der Grundsatz der Neutralität hat uns ermöglicht, in Ausbildungszielen und Ausrüstung etwas zurückzuhalten.

Wie steht es mit der Armee in der Demokratie? Die Demokratie ist für uns kein leerer Begriff, der Grundsatz ist bis in alle Einzelheiten durchgeführt worden. Ist nun eine Demokratie in der Lage, die Landesverteidigung durchzuführen?

Das Gesetz über die Militärorganisation von 1874 ist stillschweigend angenommen worden, ohne dass das Referendum ergriffen wurde. Von dort an blieb es bis Mitte der 90er Jahre still. 1895 wurde ein Versuch auf weitere Vereinheitlichung von Volk und Ständen abgelehnt. 1907 wurde dem Volk ein neues Gesetz über die Militärorganisation vorgelegt, das dann aber angenommen wurde. Erwähnt werden muss aber die Verwerfung der sozialdemokratischen Militärjustizinitiative im Jahre 1921. Die öffentliche Meinung hat sich immer sehr intensiv mit der Armee beschäftigt.

Zwischen Volk und Armee bestand immer ein enger Zusammenhang. Das ist für unser Land auch von höchster Wichtigkeit. Wohl ist die Forderung auf Demokratisierung der Armee aufgenommen. Hier muss man nicht Leute fragen, die ausserhalb der Armee stehen. Ein Soldat verlangt, dass er recht geführt wird, dass der Führer sein Handwerk versteht und es wohl meint mit ihm. Was der einzelne Mann will, dass in der kurzen Zeit Brauchbares geleistet wird, das will auch die Armee, die eine Schule der Willensbildung und körperlichen Ertüchtigung ist. Dass es Fehler gibt, ist klar. Wir haben aber alle den besten Willen, zu bessern. Wenn wir das Ganze betrachten, dürfen wir sagen, dass wir den Beweis erbracht haben, dass eine Demokratie die Landesverteidigung durchführen kann. Wie steht es nun mit dem Verhältnis von Bund, Kantonen und Militär? Im Jahre 1907 hat man die Zuständigkeit näher abgegrenzt. Wenn irgendein Gebiet nach Vereinlichung drängt, ist es das Wehrwesen. Heute müssen wir die schlimme Zentralisation vermeiden, die ungenaue Ausscheidung der Kompetenzen. Zu keinen Zeiten hatte man aber die Mitarbeit der Kantone entbehren können. Es ist notwendig, dass nicht nur die Eidgenossenschaft, sondern auch die Kantone ihre Pflicht erfüllen.

Eine weitere Eigentümlichkeit sind unsere Verschiedenheiten (Sprache, Weltanschauung und Berufe). Dass das grosse Schwierigkeiten bestehen, kann niemand abstreiten (5. Division Zürcher, Schwyzer, Tessiner); 2. Division Deutsch- und Französischschweizer). Bei Spezialwaffen kann es vorkommen, dass in Kadreschulen alle Sprachen vertreten sind. Wir können nur durch, wenn wir auf die berechtigten Eigentümlichkeiten Rücksicht

nehmen und gegen falsche Empfindlichkeit aufzutreten. Alle müssen sich bewusst sein, dass alle nur ein Ziel haben. Die Aufgabe ist wohl schwierig, aber die Tatsache, dass wir unsere Armee unter ein einheitliches Ziel stellen können, ist das einigste Band. So hat die Armee in den schwierigsten Zeiten die Einheit des Landes verkörpert.

Bundesrat Scheurer spricht zum Schluss den Wunsch aus, dass man nach 50 Jahren von uns sagen könne, unsere Generation habe ihre Aufgabe ebenso gut erfüllt, wie sie die von 1874 erfüllt hat. (National-Zeitung.)

SWISS INSTITUTE.

On Friday, the 16th inst., a large number (about 120) of members and friends of the Swiss Institute attended the third yearly lecture on "The European Situation," delivered by Mr. G. P. Gooch, M.A., co-editor of the *Contemporary Review* and late chairman of the Social and Political Education League.

The lecture was greatly appreciated by the whole audience, and we cannot do better than to follow last year's precedent by giving a verbatim report of it for the benefit of those members and friends who were prevented from being present.

THE COMMITTEE.

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am getting to feel quite at home in this hall, and I have come to regard my address to you on the European Situation as what we call in English "a hardy annual." But although my subject is always the same, the actual survey is always different, because the European situation is very much like the English climate—as an American once said, "In England you have no climate: you have only samples of weather." It is the same with the European situation. Every time I come here, I have a different story to tell, and I shall confine myself to-night to those countries where the situation is different to-day, in some important respect or respects, from what it was a year ago.

I begin with Russia, and I need not remind you that the great event in the history of Russia during the last twelve months is the recognition of the Moscow Government by Italy and Great Britain. The Bolsheviks have now been ruling Russia for 6½ years, and the recognition of them by Italy and Great Britain is a testimony to the fact that in the opinion of, at any rate, these two great countries, Italy and Great Britain, the Bolsheviks have come to stay. It does not in the least mean that we approve either their theory or practice in government, any more than we did before, but it means that we find it convenient to recognise their government as being the government of a country with which we desire to render our relations—political, economic and cultural—closer than they have been for many years. You know that at the present time a deputation from Russia is in London and is co-operating with representatives of our own government in attempting to clear off the slate all the many difficult problems, chiefly of a financial character, which must be concluded in a satisfactory manner before we can lend money to Russian industry on a large scale and before, on the other hand, the economic revival in Russia can continue and progress. Whether those negotiations will succeed altogether or in part I cannot tell you. I am afraid the difficulties are very great, and I am afraid also that the difference in mentality between the East and the West of Europe—or, to be more precise, between the English and the Russians—it is so great that it may prove difficult (though I hope not impossible) to reach a *modus vivendi*. I hope for the best, and I believe that it would be to the interests of both countries that an agreement should be reached.

About recognition I will say two things, only two. In the first place, without recognition a settlement of the outstanding questions between England and Russia would be impossible. In the second place, without recognition the entry of Russia into the League of Nations would also be impossible. It is too early to say whether recognition will lead to those two results, but it is not too early to say what I have just said—that without recognition both those results would be unattainable.

The economic condition of Russia is showing a very gradual improvement. Their finances are still in a very bad condition, but there is no doubt that there is a slow and gradual recovery of Russia from the terrible sufferings of no less than ten years. I regret to say that I see no indication of any revival of liberty, either of liberty of the press, liberty of thought or political liberty in the sense in which we understand it in the West of Europe, namely, representative government. Russia is still governed by a small minority of able, determined and extremely one-sided men. We cannot look ahead very far, but as far as we can foresee there is no party in Russia with the power to overthrow the Bolsheviks, and I therefore fear there is no very great chance of the establishment of real democratic liberty over that vast surface of the globe.

Now I pass from Russia to Poland. The chief event in the history of Poland since I spoke here

a year ago is the restoration of its finances. Poland is a country of large natural resources—plenty of coal, plenty of timber, plenty of corn, and its wonderful river, the Vistula, making a sort of natural highway through the heart of the country. In spite of all that, the finances of Poland became worse and worse, until last summer they became so dangerous that the Polish Government very wisely invited Mr. Hilton Young from England to go out and advise them. Mr. Hilton Young is known to many of you, I expect, as having been Financial Secretary to the Treasury under the Lloyd George Government, and as the author of a large and valuable work on British finance. He is a very old friend of mine, and the Polish Government could not have made a better choice. He went out last autumn, spent some months there, and drew up a scheme of financial reform which included economies on the one side and the increase of taxation on the other. I am glad to say that the larger part of that scheme has been accepted by the Polish Government, is being put into operation, and the beneficial effects are already being seen.

I hope that if Poland keeps the peace, and if she further reduces her army, and if the machinery for the collection of taxation is improved, in a year, or two years at the outside, the budget will balance.

Next to Poland I must speak of Lithuania. Lithuania is a little agricultural republic of only a little more than two million people who, in the Middle Ages, were for many centuries connected with Poland in a joint kingdom, independent within, but connected with Poland by having the same ruler, and then, as you all remember, at the partition of Poland, Lithuania was swallowed up in mighty Russia. At the end of the last war Lithuania became independent, and since I was here before, she has received the port and district of Memel. The town of Memel is German, and until the Great War it was the most eastern town and the most eastern port of the German Empire, but it is inhabited by Lithuanians, and at the Peace Conference of 1919 Memel and its district was taken from Germany, but was not given to anybody—it was kept at the disposal of the victorious Allies. For more than four years Memel remained in the possession of the Allies. All the time the Lithuanians were expecting to receive it (and indeed, when it was separated from Germany it was separated with the object of giving it to the Lithuanians). It was not, however, until the end of last year that Memel and its district were finally allotted to Lithuania. It may be a small affair to Europe to possess Memel, as a district, but it is a matter of vital importance to Lithuania, because it gives that country access to the sea by the river Niemen and a good port on the Baltic, and therefore, since I was here before, Lithuania has received the port and the connection with the Baltic which it has been desiring and needing ever since it became an independent state.

I now pass to Turkey, and I need hardly remind you that the great event in the history of Turkey during the last year has been the restoration of peace—peace between whom? I answer, peace between Turkey and Turkey's enemies and conquerors in the Great War. It was not until a few weeks ago that the state of war between England and Turkey came to an end, formally and legally—nearly six years after the end of the Great War. The Treaty of Lausanne was concluded a year ago, and I think that I spoke of it when I was here before, but it was only discussed by the various countries who signed it in the course of the year, and it has only been ratified by the two houses of our British Parliament during the last few weeks. Turkey, then, is at last at peace with Greece, with her enemies in the Great War, and, indeed, with everybody.

You know that the new Turkey is a very Nationalist Turkey. You know also that the number of subjects who are not Turks by race is now very small. Vast numbers of Armenians have been murdered or driven out, vast numbers of Greeks have been killed in battle, massacred or driven out. The new Turkey, which includes Asia Minor, Constantinople and Eastern Thrace as far as the great city of Adrianople—that new Turkey is a country inhabited almost entirely by Turks, which has not been the case at any period in the history of Turkey.

As regards Greece, you know that the great change has been from a monarchy to a republic. The expulsion of Greece from Turkey eighteen months ago and the terrible disaster of Smyrna led to the expulsion of King Constantine and to the placing of his son upon the throne of Greece, but although the Greeks retained the monarchy, the monarch had no power; he was a mere shadow, and only about a month ago a plebiscite was held on the question whether even that shadow monarchy should continue, and it was decided by a large majority that it should not.

Turkey is now a republic, and Greece is now a republic. Republics are becoming the rule in Europe, and monarchies are becoming the exception.

As regards the internal policy of Greece, I am afraid that I cannot report any satisfactory pacifi-

cation. Venizelos was recalled in order to put things straight, but when he got there he found that passion was still so hot that he could do very little. His health gave way and he retired, I suppose finally, from the stage where in past years he had played such a distinguished and such a decisive part.

The Greeks are a greatly gifted race, but they do not seem to understand the art of compromise, so well, at any rate, as some of the nations in the West of Europe.

There is one more thing I want to say about Greece, and that is to remind you of the fact that as a result of the great *débâcle* in Turkey about a million refugees were thrown into Greece, thrown out of Turkey, and out of what used to be Large Greece into what is now the Smaller Greece which we know to-day. Nearly a million of them—and when they arrived in Greece it was impoverished by years of war. Now I am glad to say the League of Nations has responded to the appeal of the Greek Government to come to the aid of the Greek refugees, and a committee has been appointed, under the guidance of Morgenthau, who was the American Ambassador to Turkey during the Great War. This committee is being very ably managed, and at the wish of the League of Nations the Bank of England advanced £1,000,000, to be spent under his direction in helping the refugees to become self-supporting. The money was not to be spent and has not been spent in relief. It was to be spent and is being spent entirely on what we would call reproductive expenditure, such as preparing the soil for crops, building houses and procuring agricultural implements. A second £1,000,000 has now been promised, and Greece will require, and will, I am sure, receive, several millions more. She asked for £10,000,000, and if she wants it, I am sure she will have it, because the Greeks, with all their faults (and every nation has faults of its own) are a very hard-working, thrifty race. They eat very little, perhaps less than almost any race in Europe, and they are extremely industrious and extremely clever. Scores of thousands of the refugees, I am glad to say, are already self-supporting, and I have not a doubt that in a few years their arrival in Greece will form a source of strength, financial, military and political, instead of a source of weakness.

I now pass to Bulgaria. Since I was here before, Bulgaria has been settling down under the new régime. Stamboulisky, that remarkable man, who governed Bulgaria like an autocrat during the years after the war, was overthrown by a revolution and murdered, and Bulgaria is now being governed by a number of people representing what we may call the towns, the middle classes, whereas the power of Stamboulisky rested entirely on the peasants. When he was overthrown, fears were expressed in this country and elsewhere that his pacific foreign policy might be changed. Bulgaria is steering a very steady course. Now that Greece has been defeated by Turkey, the expected war between Bulgaria and Greece will not take place, at any rate, not for a very long time, and the only danger of war between Bulgaria and any of her neighbours is between Bulgaria and Jugoslavia, or Big Serbia. If there is to be a war between them it will be on account of the problem of Macedonia, which Bulgaria always desired to obtain, and which, as you know, is now part of the dominions of the Serbian king. So pacific is Bulgaria that until a few weeks ago the Bulgarian Government suddenly arrested as many of the leaders of the Macedonian revolutionaries as she could get hold of, and thereby showed to her neighbour, Serbia, that she was bent on peace. Bulgaria is gradually recovering. Her people are very hard-working. The country can feed itself. I am sorry to say that I cannot report that the King of Bulgaria has found anybody to marry him. I think of that lonely young man in the great palace at Sofia with great sympathy. He is cut off from his family, who are, as you know, all living in Germany. He has no power, and his throne is considered so unsteady that no princess, or at any rate no fond and ambitious father with a daughter to marry is willing to trust that daughter to King Boris of Bulgaria. I hope that when things gradually settle down, as I believe they will, I may be able to announce to you on some future occasion that this lonely young man has found somebody to share his throne and his home with him, because, as everybody knows, he is a most excellent, attractive and democratic ruler.

As regards Roumania, we have all been thinking of the visit of the King and Queen to our midst: so that I regret to say that I think as badly of Roumania to-day as I did a year ago. I still think it is essentially the weakest of all the states in Eastern Europe. I do not mean "weakest" in the military sense, but in what we may call the moral foundations of national greatness. Finances are bad. There is a great deal of corruption in the Government and the Civil Service, and the Roumanians seem as unable to content the racial minorities who now form part of their enlarged kingdom as in the old days the Hungarians were able to content the remaining minority who were then under the rule of Budapest.

(To be concluded.)

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A spirit of very keen competition prevailed at the shooting range last Saturday and Sunday, and if attendance fell a little short of expectations, the results of the shooting were all the more satisfactory. Here are some of the best results:—

Saturday, May 17th—

Mr. Holliger, 84 and 90 points (possible 100);
Mr. Ernest, 89 points;
Mr. Krucker, 84 and 87 points.

Sunday, May 18th—

Mr. J. Haesler, 85, 89, 91 points (winner of the day's prize);
Mr. J. Haesler, junior, 88 points;
Mr. Krucker, 86, 88, 90 points;
Mr. A. Schmid, 86, 88, 88 points;
Mr. Holliger, 88, 89, 90 points;
Mr. Rohr, 83, 80, 85 points.

On* the 300-metre target Mr. Burger scored 16 out of a possible 25. Some improvements will follow on this target before long.

It must be borne in mind that the automatic (100-metre) recorder compares unfavourably with the ordinary way of marking, where the higher points are always allowed if the inner ring is but touched, so that the above scores would almost in every instance show from 8 to 10 points more. Nevertheless, we shall even now be able to increase these with practice.

Important.—A competition is being arranged for Saturday and Sunday, May 24th and 25th. Entrance fee 2/6. The first prize is being offered by members of the S.R.A. who have subscribed for this purpose, whilst another handsome cup has been kindly offered by Mr. Charles E. Barbezat. The prizes will be presented to the winners at the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill on Saturday, May 31st. The conditions will be made known at the range on Saturday before shooting starts. For further particulars apply to the Range Commission.

Gymnastic Society 'Schweizerbund.'

A gymnastic display (followed by a dance) was given by the Gymnastic Society "Schweizerbund" last Sunday evening and attracted a large number of members and friends to the spacious hall at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

The perfect execution of the various items on the programme bore witness to the hard and strenuous training, especially the parallel-bar exercises and pyramids. An original turn was introduced by a "Clown Reigen," performed by a few gymnasts in pierrot costumes. Great hilarity and applause accompanied a little comedy in Swiss dialect, entitled "Flitterwoche, oder: Vor em Turnfäst"; it was admirably rendered, and the rôle of "Tante" could not have found a better exponent.

Mr. G. Lüthy, the active president, in a short address referred to the great difficulties under which they were working, on account of lack of support, and appealed to all those interested in gymnastics to join their society either as active or subscribing members. Mr. Eric Block, on behalf of the Swiss Sports Committee and other invited representatives, heartily complimented the Gymnastic Society on the excellence of the display, than which there could be no better advertisement to secure the wholehearted support of the Swiss Colony.

THE INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW.

The Federal Military Department has granted permission to eight Swiss cavalry officers to accept an invitation to take part in, and compete at, the International Horse Show which will take place towards the end of June at Olympia. The officers in question will cross over from Paris, where they are already engaged for the Olympic Games during the month of July. The whole of the team, which will be in charge of Col. Ziegler, of Thun, are the guests of the organising committee, which is defraying the whole of the expenditure in connection with this official visit.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

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Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 3 JUIN au Restaurant GATTI et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 6.45 h. (sh. 5/- par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

"Schweizerbund" Swiss Club,

74, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

SWISS SPORTS

MAY 31st, 1924:

Special Sports Evening

DANCE (Famous Jazz Band). DINNER from 8 p.m.

Private Buses will start from the Club at 1.30 p.m.
Return Fare 2/-. Please book seats early. THE COMMITTEE.

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SWISS SPORTS, 1924

SUPPER from 7 p.m.

DANCE (with Special Band) till 12.30.

A Motor Coach will leave the Club for the Sports Ground at 1.30 sharp. Book seats early with A. WYSS, Steward.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 25 Mai, 11h.—Sermon de Charité.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
(Collecte spéciale en faveur du Fonds de Secours.)
6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner.

Dimanche, 1er Juin, 11h.—Confirmation.

BAPTEMES.

Margaret Violet TANNER, née le 28 Oct. 1922, fille d'Oswald et de Frida née Stuber, de Berne—le 11 Mai 1924.

Bertil WETTSTEIN, né le 8 Fév. 1924, fils d'Ernest et d'Allice née Valentin, de Russikon (Zurich)—le 17 Mai 1924.

Anne Marguerite WYDLER, née le 29 Mars 1924, fille de Guillaume et d'Anne née Schwainger, d'Ottensbach (Zurich)—le 18 Mai 1924.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, May 28, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Council Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, May 31st, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Tuesday, June 3rd, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C. (See adv.)

Thursday, June 19th, at 7 p.m.—55th FETE SUISSE at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Tea at 5 o'clock. (See adv.)

Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting).—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice at Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp).

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