

The Swiss Statistical Society

to

The Royal Statistical Society

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Meston of Agra and Dunottar,
K. C. S. I., L. L. D. President of the Royal Statistical
Society, London

My Lord,

On this happy occasion of its one hundredth birthday, we have the honour to request the Royal Statistical Society to accept the heartfelt congratulations and the best wishes of the Swiss Statistical Society. They are the congratulations and wishes of a somewhat younger sister, who might even have been a daughter, since the Statistical Society of London was already thirty years of age at the birth of the organization we have the honour to represent.

Speaking on behalf of the foreign visitors at the Jubilee celebration of fifty years ago, Dr. von Inama-Sternegg said:

“The Statistical Society of London, by its unceasing labours of the last fifty years, has earned for itself the undisputed right to the title of the first and most important Society in the world for promoting the growth of statistical knowledge and stimulating the development of statistical operations and research.”

These views are shared by all the statisticians of Switzerland. Indeed we may add thereto a feeling of sincere national and scientific gratitude. When, in 1885, your late vice-President, Dr. Frederic J. Mouat, published his essay on the History of the Statistical Society, he divided it into four parts. Between his general introduction and his conclusions, he inserted a section on What the

Society has done for the Science of Statistics, and another on What the Society has done for the Nation. Had he been less modest, he might have added yet another chapter on what Great Britain has done for the science of statistics among other nations.

In a brief report published in the "Journal de Statistique Suisse" on the celebration of 1885, Dr. J. Kummer, the late director of the Swiss Statistical Bureau, wrote: "In London, in the same city in which at the first World Exhibition (1851) the idea of international statistical congresses had emerged, the International Institute of Statistics was conceived." Of these congresses, Dr. Kummer added: "We owe some very remarkable studies and the most fruitful suggestions to these gatherings. To them is due at least part of the credit for the foundation of our Swiss Statistical Bureau and for the progress it may have realized."

Although, as Dr. Mouat expressly reminded us, "the International Statistical Congresses which have met in the different European capitals have no immediate connection with the history of the Statistical Society", Switzerland is nevertheless indebted to your Society for much intellectual stimulus, as it is to the statisticians of Great Britain in general for the foundation of its Central Statistical Office.

It is in these sentiments of admiration, respect, and gratitude that, on behalf of the Swiss Statistical Society, we have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servants,

The Secretary:

Dr. C. Brüscheiler

The President:

Prof. Dr. E. Grossmann