

received from other Swiss societies was not enough. The directors allocated \$10.00 from the coffers, and \$1.00 each out of their own pockets. Assistance was given to a neighborhood movement to get a Swiss couple into a home. The 'Samariter Herberge,' a society, offered bed, bath, coffee for 10¢. Tickets worth \$3.00 were bought.

From the minutes of May 31, 1899, we learn that Mrs. George Hungerbuchler had been dispensing 'assistance money.' As she was selling her business, she wanted to be discharged and Mr. John Volet took over temporarily.

While the Minute Books gave us 'End Balances' for the years 1879/87, these were then omitted until 1902. The membership had dropped to 68 in 1892, in 1899 again stood at 82. For that year, the lowest number of cases since 1879 is recorded with 502, disbursing only \$381.28, reflected by the highest gain since 1883, \$226.86. There was, Mr. Koradi commented at the Annual General Assembly, January 30, 1900, a decrease in immigration, and improved business conditions, while there also was a 'great demand for volunteers in the southern wars.' The applicants in 1899 had consisted mostly of elderly people. Assistance in 1902 dropped further to \$385.00 for 448 cases; the membership stood at 84, and the books were closed with \$6771.93 in the Treasury.

In Willow Springs, Mo., a Swiss father of five, aged 2½ to 10, lost his wife in childbirth. He had a small farm. The crops had failed. His application for help was endorsed by the mayor. Consul Buff in St. Louis 'partly confirmed' the man's situation, and the Board sent \$5.00.

The year 1903 had started out well, President Koradi remarked at the AGA, January 27, 1904, but a sharp increase in assistance occurred later. 'The interruption and discontinuation of many establishments may continue for months,' he opined. The Swiss in the USA were generally well off and in demand for their abilities and general knowledge. And the immigrants were mostly energetic and enterprising young men, seeking a larger field of operation. Elderly people were now those most affected by the reverses. As the new year went on, business did further deteriorate. Assistance was on the increase. 'Several old, some crippled, men have been aided—not enough to keep them.' Mr. Koradi advocated more liberal help. Several should be placed in homes to get proper care. Assistance rendered went up to \$518.25, with 642 cases. And business was anticipated to stagnate into 1905, due to presidential elections.

'No hat was passed around' for contributions to the Schwyzer Kantonalshuetzenfest (April, 1905), and the year ended in routine fashion, as did 1906. On February 5, 1907, C. A. Baumgartner was elected as Distributor, 'an old resident, knowing the Swiss, with more time than most others.' He was a member since 1889, elected a director at the previous AGA, and could arrange days and hours to receive applicants to suit himself.

An elderly couple was found to be more or less crippled, he from a trolley accident in the fall of 1906. They had signed away further claims on the traction company. They needed a home, which would cost about \$400.00. The Philadelphia Society, their church and the sbs each pledged \$50.00, if the balance could be raised. The sbs contributed \$25.00 toward a new leg for a butcher. Another woman, earning a little money sewing, got assistance toward acquisition of a steel jacket she needed for support. When a widower in Bucks County asked for \$40.00 to send his three children to relatives in Switzerland, he was advised to apply to the Bucks County Almshouse to take care of his off-spring, as they were born here. Another couple was assisted throughout the year of 1907, but their condition worsened, and he died in fall. The Society agreed to pay \$2.00 monthly toward her rent. The total cases for the year remained at 393, requiring \$374.28. There were 99 members, and the assets rose to a net worth of \$7982.50.

The applications, however, took a sharp upturn in December 1907, the General Assembly 1908 was told, and they were to soar to 792 in the new year, due to 'a severe money stringency.'

The Society was willing to help one party with \$15.00, if enough money could be raised otherwise to send him to Switzerland. Very sick with TB, it was not considered wise to leave him with his large family. He ultimately was taken to a sanatorium in White Haven, and help extended to his family.

Consul Walther started as Distributor in October 1909. Dr. Kindig diagnosed the sickness of a Swiss patient as spinal consumption. He had been in this country 24 years, since 1900 in Philadelphia. A butcher, he was then a convalescent from typhoid, and suffered with rheumatism. Wanting to return to Switzerland, he was given \$5.00. Another man, who had received \$3.50 from the sbs in the years 1895/1905, turned out to be a 'professional beggar.' When he died (before December 1909), he left \$14,000.00. But most of the