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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING

November 8th, 1922, at the Union Helvetia.

There were 40 members present. Mr. De Brunner was in the Chair.

The meeting was opened at 8.45; the minutes of the last meeting were read and passed after a few corrections.

The following members were unanimously elected as active members:—Mr. Jules Stadler, and Mr. Jean Stettler. A few other applications could not be dealt with, as the necessary signatures were missing. The Committee will pass them subject to approval by the next Ordinary Meeting.

The following resignations were accepted:—Messrs. Walter Frei, Guido Wirth, Edwin Lampert, E. Bachofen, Oskar Lustenberger. From the Chair the most hearty thanks were given to Mr. Walter Frei, who, as a member of the Education Committee, has given many hours and valuable assistance to our work. The Hon. Secretary was requested to write him and convey our regret and appreciation for his good services.

The Treasurer reported a number of outstanding subscriptions from 22 members who have left the U.K. without giving their new address. As he is unable to trace their whereabouts, it was decided to strike them off the list of members.

Information was given from the Chair on the correspondence with regard to the subvention we should get from Zurich for the Education Department.

The president has been able to get the rent for the Henrietta Street premises reduced to £260 per annum.

Monsieur Henri Martin kindly presented our library with a copy of the "Rapport sur le commerce et l'industrie en Suisse en 1921," for which the president expressed our best thanks.

It was announced that in December and January two lectures will be given by two English teachers on "Banking and Currency" and "The devastated France"—the latter with lantern slides.

The Union Helvetia requests us to guarantee a certain number of suppers for the Smoking Concert on the 17th. It was decided to guarantee 50 persons. Three members have applied for the post of paid secretary. The appointment will be left to the Committee subject to the approval by the next Monthly Meeting.

A draft letter addressed to the Committee for a Central Club House was read by the president, and after a short discussion it was decided to send this letter, containing our point of view, and a few practical suggestions.

The president will represent the S.M.S. at the Annual Dinner of the City Swiss Club.

The meeting closed at 10.40.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by his Correspondents.

TAXATION BY SWITZERLAND OF THE SWISS ABROAD AND THE RESULTS OF SUCH TAXATION.

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

Sir,—Every Swiss who lives abroad knows the nature of the present taxation imposed on him by Switzerland, but so far this subject has hardly been discussed and commented upon, except that one hears continual complaints of this taxation, which indeed hits a great number of Swiss abroad very hard.

Foremost, we have the immatriculation tax, which is disliked by the great majority; and the official reports disclose that the result of this tax did not come up to expectations and created more discontent than the small amount of tax collected was worth.

Further, every Swiss of military age who is prevented from fulfilling his military service by having to earn his living abroad, is called upon to pay a military tax which is far too highly rated on his earnings. There are a great many Swiss abroad who are not fortunate enough to possess private means and whose earnings barely enable them to pay for the mere necessities of life. If they cannot afford to pay, the only way open to them, to be in order with the authorities, is to plead poverty, which is repugnant to most of the Swiss; otherwise they are considered 'outcasts' by the Consulate, inasmuch as it is officially stated that no papers or protection will be given them.

To give a typical example, it is possible for a man receiving in this country an income of £150 to pay a tax of £2 2s. 7d. plus matriculation fee 10s. for the first inscription and 5s. per year after?

Efforts are continually made by Swiss Societies to link all Swiss closer to the Motherland, but a Swiss who is "earmarked" by the Legation will naturally keep aloof and nurse his grievance.

The method of collecting these taxes is also very questionable. A Swiss wishing to obtain a passport is first marshalled into the military department, and if he is not clear with his taxes is treated in quite an annoying manner, and unless he can pay up or binds himself to pay, he stands little chance of obtaining a passport. Should he be lucky enough to be able to pay his military taxes, he is next called upon to pay his immatriculation and passport fees, and by the time he leaves the Consulate his pockets are empty.

It is questionable whether such procedure is within the spirit of the law, i.e., to refuse a passport or discontinue the protection by the authorities owing to non-payment of extortionate taxes.

It is very regrettable that it has come to the point that the Swiss Legation must even have recourse to the English police authorities to trace the addressés of Swiss in arrears with their Swiss taxes.

It must be admitted that the officials at the Consulate have a hard task to enforce the law, but, on the other hand, a great number of Swiss have reason to complain of the rigid attitude adopted by the Legation. The Swiss authorities should always remember that the majority of Swiss are not living in foreign countries to evade military service, but simply owing to force of circumstances.

Is it not time that, like other countries, Switzerland also should adapt herself to less antiquated conditions?

We remain, Sir, with patriotic greetings,
Yours truly,
DREI EIDGENOSSEN."

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WITH THE SWISS AT MANCHESTER.

The Swiss Minister, M. Paravicini, accompanied by M. Henri Martin, Counsellor of Legation and Commercial Attaché, were the guests of honour at the dinner and dance organised by the "Schweizerverein" of Manchester, on the occasion of the "Grütfeliezer."

The Minister, who was in the Chair, pronounced the principal allocution. He first thanked the Swiss Club for the hearty welcome, and congratulated their president, Mr. E. Kubler, on his efficient leadership and first-class organisation of the festivity. He gave news from Switzerland and stated they were not of the best during these troubled times, but which nevertheless left room for hope and confidence in the future. Mr. Kubler expressed the Club's welcome and feelings of gratitude to the guests, who, besides the two above named, included: The Swiss Consul of Glasgow and Mme. Oswald, the Swiss Consul of Hull and Mme. Thévenaz.

The speech was followed by a few words of welcome from Mr. Guggenheim, the Swiss Consul of Manchester, who was accompanied by Mme. Guggenheim and his niece Miss Violet Simon. During the excellent and varied concert given by Swiss artists of Manchester, a few humorous speeches by M. Oswald and M. Thévenaz caused considerable merriment to the audience. The successful social gathering was followed by a highly welcome dance.

The next day the Minister presided, at the splendid home of Mr. Guggenheim at Altrincham, Cheshire, at the second annual Consular Conference, a meeting of which he took the initiative in order to bring the Consulates in personal contact with the Legation, and with one another, and to discuss the numerous questions relating to the protection or assistance of compatriots, and their personal interests in the United Kingdom.

After this Conference, M. and Mme. Guggenheim gave a *recherché* luncheon, the guests being:—The Swiss Minister; M. Henri Martin; M. and Mme. Oswald; M. and Mme. Thévenaz and their niece, Mlle. Madeleine Grounauer; M. Fontannaz, Swiss Consul of Liverpool; M. and Mme. Kubler; and Miss Violet Simon.

During their stay at Altrincham as guests of M. and Mme. Guggenheim, M. Paravicini and M. Martin attended a luncheon given by the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Mr. Simon) and Mme. Simon, to which were also invited the Swiss Consul and the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, the Swiss Minister and his Commercial Attaché, with the Swiss Consul of Manchester, visited the magnificent Cotton Mills of Messrs. Armitage and Rigby at Warrington.

SWISS BANK FOOTBALL CLUB.

SWISS BANK 1st XI v. LUDGATE CIRCUS 2nd XI THOS. COOK & SONS

(London Banks' Football Association Senior "B")

A very fast, clean, exciting and sporting game. Ludgate Circus had the best of the first half and led at half-time by 3 goals (Anderson 3) to 1 (Tobin). The second half was full of thrills all through. Tobler reduced the lead, and then Bestall scored a fourth point for the Circus. Way went into the net with the ball to score the Bank's third goal. From then on to the end the Swiss had the best of the play, but were opposed to a very stubborn defence. Ludgate Circus won the best game of the season by 4 to 3. Goubach, the Bank's centre forward, was injured very early in the game, and this greatly handicapped the home team's attack. Zuercher played a fine game for the losers.

Team: Zuercher, Herzog, Kurz, Schwendener, Way, Bornand; Tobler, Hickson, Goubach, Tobin, Holton.

SWISS BANK 2nd XI v. EMANUEL ATHLETIC 1st XI

The Swiss Bank 2nd XI were visitors to Emanuel Athletic at East Dulwich. A very fast game developed right from the beginning, keeping the visitors' defence busy. The goal had several narrow escapes, and the Emanuel could score but one point before half-time. After changing sides the Swiss were not able to give any relief to the opponents' pressure, and the Bank's goalie, who was the busier of the two, had to deal with firing shots. In spite of the home team winning by 6 to 0, they had very bad luck in hitting the cross-bar about half a dozen times. The game was very fast all through, exciting and enjoyable.

Team: Grob; Peter, Zurlinden; Bonjour, Steiner, Higgins; Schranz, Smith, Bohannan, Benz.

SWISS BANK 3rd XI v. AQUARIUS 4th XI on our Ground at Preston Road.

The Swiss Bank 3rd XI, strangers to victory this season, came out of their shell last Saturday. The visiting team was leading at half-time by one goal. The home team scored 20 minutes after the interval, and soon afterwards a nice centre from the left wing led to the winning goal. Now the visitors made splendid efforts to break through a sound defence, but were unlucky not to equalize. Result: Swiss Bank 2, Aquarius 1.

Team: Freuler, Scherz, Cassal; Wangler, Dr. Rufer, Stutz; Gunther, Stubi, Weber, Birrer, Schaub.

SOCIAL.

The marriage of Mr. E. Robert, Secretary to Mr. Henri Martin, Counsellor of Legation, to Mrs. J. Stacey took place quietly at the Paddington Registry Office on Nov. 11th. Mr. Henri Martin was one of the witnesses at the ceremony.

On Armistice Day, Nov. 11th, a large laurel wreath adorned with lilies and poppies was deposited at the Cenotaph by some members of the Swiss Colony in memory of the Swiss who fell in the Great War.

Mr. P. Carmine, the well-known member of the Swiss Colony, who has been for some weeks past under surgical treatment at the Victoria Sanatorium at Berne, was obliged to undergo a very serious operation on Wednesday, the 15th Nov. The following telegram of good wishes was despatched to him on Tuesday:—"Swiss Colony, with you in thought, wishes your operation every success."

Later on Wednesday afternoon the good news was received that the operation had passed off very successfully.

Sincere congratulations, and we trust that Mr. Carmine may make a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Léon Jobin-Bessire, of 46, Glebe Rd., Barnes, presented her husband with a son, Lucien Frédéric, on Nov. 10th. Both mother and child are progressing well.



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Dimanche, 19 Nov., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Service pour les Jeunes à l'occasion de la Semaine de Prières. 6.30.—Pfarrrer U. Wildbolz.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, Nov. 20th, at 8 p.m.—FRENCH Y.M.C.A.: Lecture by M. Fred. Treuthardt on "La Société des Nations" at Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1.

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, at 7.15 p.m.—Association of British Members of the SWISS ALPINE CLUB: Annual Dinner at Gatti's Restaurant.

Thursday, Nov. 23rd, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Dance at the Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk Street, S.W.1.

Thursday, Nov. 23rd.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Concert and Dance at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, Nov. 24th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS ALPINE CLUB: First Annual Dinner and Ball in aid of London Hospitals at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Friday, Nov. 24th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Lecture in English by Dr. W. Wegelin on "Finance Reforms in Switzerland (incl. Capital Levy Initiative)" at Central Hall, Westminster.

Friday, Dec. 1st.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at Prince's Restaurant.

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Hotel.

Sunday, Dec. 3rd, at 3 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Concert at Steinway Hall.