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CITY SWISS CLUB.

The members of the City Swiss Club assembled on Saturday, December 6th, at Brown's Hotel for the last Monthly Meeting and Luncheon to be held in the present year.

The fact, that the Meeting was to be followed by a causerie and a show of pictures by an eminent member of the Club, brought a large number of our compatriots to the Headquarters of the Club.

From the Swiss Legation were present: M. de Jenner, Chargé d'Affaires, Messieurs Girardet, de Rham, Capitaine Schlegel, M. Hilfiker, and from the Special Division: M. Preiswerk, Head of the Division, Messieurs Moretti, Dominicé, Huber, Stauffer, Dr. Bircher and Zobrist.

The Swiss Bank Corporation was represented by Mr. Lorsignol and Dr. de Wolff.

An excellent Luncheon consisting of Assiette Tessinoise, Dindonneau de Norfolk à la Broche, Pommes Fondantes, Choux de Bruxelles, and Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce was served, which created a happy and festive atmosphere, and soon kindled that spirit of Xmas feeling, which in spite of the serious times we are passing through, cannot altogether be obliterated.

The President, M. L. Chapuis, after having proposed the toasts to H. M. the King and Switzerland, expressed his pleasure at the large gathering extending a special welcome to M. de Jenner, who represented the Swiss Minister who was unavoidably prevented from being present.

The business part of the Meeting was finished with in record time and everyone settled down in anticipation to enjoy the second part of the Meeting.

The President, amidst acclamation introduced M. W. Preiswerk, a member of the Club, who had kindly consented to give a short compte rendu of his recent trip to the United States and Canada covering a distance of about 20,000 miles.

The description of the journey by the speaker was most interesting, and the witty way of its delivery caused at times, great amusement.

Much appreciated were the numerous and beautiful coloured photos, mostly from the Eastern part of Canada.

M. L. Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, expressed on behalf of all the members present, his thanks to M. Preiswerk for the most enjoyable and interesting causerie, which, no doubt, filled everyone with longing to one day visit this vast continent so rich in natural beauty.

In wishing everyone a happy Xmas, as far as present times may permit, he closed one of the most entertaining meetings the Club has held in the past.

ST.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Saturday, December 13th. Mr. J. J. Boos was in the Chair, and the Meeting was well attended.

After Mr. J. Fleur de Lys had been unanimously elected a member of the Society, the Chairman gave a résumé of the activities of the parent Society in Switzerland, with particular reference to the propaganda drive to increase the membership to 45,000. He also reported that the first English course at Froburg had been successfully concluded and that a second course would begin middle of January.

The meeting then adjourned to the lecture room. The Committee, encouraged by the great success of the film show in November, had arranged another film show. This time it was an Englishman, Mr. T. S. Lutas, a great admirer of our country, who showed us a series of films depicting the beauties of our homeland. Mr. Lutas is a member of the Amateur Cinema League, yet the films he showed might well have been taken by a professional, such was the excellence of the photography.

The first of the six films of this veritable "Tour de Suisse" started with an excellent map of the country, the rivers, lakes and railways running across the map like snakes to portray their course more vividly. The itinerary began with the capital, Berne, and one could soon see from the titles and pictures that the lecturer was both an artist and a writer. The Bernese Oberland figured prominently in the films and all the famous sights, such as most of us know them, appeared before our eyes, recalling happy days spent in times that seem quickly to be receding into the past, but evoking a great desire for the day when these scenes of unforgettable beauty can be visited again. Many of the pictures, such as the glaciers, the Blue Lake, etc., were in colour, which greatly enhanced their charm. Apart from the well known views the lecturer often left the trodden path to show us scenery which perhaps very few of those present had witnessed. Of striking beauty were the panoramic views of the mountain ranges and coloured pictures of mountain peaks silhouetted against the light of sunrise and sunset. The splendour of these giants of the Alps was shown from almost every conceivable angle and the effects of light and shade were singularly well contrasted. But the views were not confined to mountain scenery alone. Town and country life was also vividly portrayed and anyone who had not visited Switzerland could have obtained a very comprehensive idea of the country from this show. One could see that Mr. Lutas had been a regular visitor to our country, for he must have spent a great deal of his time in securing so many pictures, and it was a great tribute from an audience composed largely of Swiss, that such a large proportion of his views were applauded for their excellence. Apart from the places already mentioned, views were included of the regions of Lake Geneva, Lucerne, Lugano, etc., but it is not the purpose of this report to enumerate all the many places visited, as they are all so very familiar to Swiss readers. All present, however, had been taken back in their minds to the days of their childhood and pleasant holidays. It also brought home to them once again how grateful we Swiss have to be that our beautiful country has been spared the ravages of war. These sentiments were very ably

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voiced by Mr. A. C. Stahelin, who on behalf of the audience expressed thanks to Mr. Lutas for his most interesting and entertaining film show. He also thanked our member Mr. A. Tall for having introduced the lecturer, thus providing a most pleasant afternoon at Swiss House. All present heartily supported Mr. Stahelin with prolonged acclamation.

The next Meeting of the Society will be held on the third Saturday in January, *viz.* the 17th, and not as customary on the second Saturday. It will be followed by a lecture and film show by Mr. A. Kern, a compatriot of ours, who will relate in pictures and words his experiences and reminiscences of tours to Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Tunis, Egypt, Syria and other Mediterranean countries. As most of these countries are now in the forefront of the news, members and their friends will no doubt wish to hear and see more from one who speaks from first-hand knowledge. Please, therefore, reserve January 17th for the S.M.S.

W.B.

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL TO LATE PILOT-OFFICER ROY A. MARCHAND.

On November 25th, shortly after noon, a procession of private cars made its way from Hatton Garden to Bromley Hill Cemetery, taking some thirty friends of Mr. and Mrs. René Marchand to the unveiling of the memorial to their only son, the late Pilot-Officer Roy A. Marchand.

It was a grey winter day, but the rain of the early morning had fortunately ceased, giving way to better conditions and presently the little band were foregathered around the Memorial, which was shrouded in the folds of a large Union Jack.

Mr. René Marchand performed the unveiling ceremony, placing a wreath of autumn leaves upon the Memorial "With love from mother." It bore the shape of wings, symbol of the Royal Air Force.

The Rev. Marcel Pradervand, Pasteur of the Eglise Suisse in London, then delivered a fine and most moving address in English, extolling the fine qualities of this young hero, whose love of adventure caused him to give up his medical studies, to join the R.A.F. some time before war was seriously thought of as an inescapable probability. Mr. Pradervand stressed how all who had known Roy, while deeply mourning his untimely passing, were proud of him and the supreme sacrifice he so gallantly made on that most memorable of Sundays, September 15th, 1940. He concluded his address with a most beautiful prayer in French, thus bringing to a close a little ceremony which, by its very simplicity, will leave a deep and lasting impression upon all who were present.

Mr. Marchand afterwards invited his friends to a luncheon at the "White Hart" Hotel in Bromley where, in a number of thoughtful speeches, further tribute was paid to the young hero.

It was revealed that Pilot-Officer Roy Marchand, during his comparatively brief spell on active service — in France and in this country — brought down 15 enemy planes, of which he had been officially credited with nine — the others being "probables."

It was also stated that, had he lived, he would have had promotion and would have been recommended for the D.F.C. or some similar honour. These were the words of his Commander.

Mr. Léon Jobin, partner of Mr. Marchand, spoke last and his words will not be forgotten by those who had the privilege of hearing them. It was a wonderful speech, straight from the heart, and it expressed sentiments of regret, of pride and, finally, of eternal hope, which was the key-note throughout and which rendered this unveiling such an uplifting and unforgettable event.

The Memorial takes the form of a Marble Plinth, capped with the wings of the Royal Air Force, whilst, at the foot, is the Badge of the 73rd Fighter Squadron in coloured Bronze.

W. D.

EGLISE SUISSE (Langue française) 79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

Dimanche 21 décembre : 11h. Culte et sainte Cène
3h. ARBRE DE NOEL.

Noël, Jeudi 25 décembre : 11h. Culte et sainte Cène.

Dimanche 28 décembre : 11h. Culte de fin d'année Cène.

CHACQUE DIMANCHE : Culte à 11 heures.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser au pasteur M. Pradervand, 77, Wood Vale, N.10 (TUDor 5277).

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE (Deutschsprachige Gemeinde) "Oak Room," Kingsway Hall, 75, Kingsway, W.C.2.

Sonntag, den 21. Dezember :

Kein Morgengottesdienst.

3 Uhr. Weihnachtsfeier in der Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street.

Weihnacht, Donnerstag 25. Dezember : 11 Uhr. Gottesdienst u. hl. Abendmahl.

Jeden Sonntag um 11 Uhr : Gottesdienst.

Für alle Amtshandlungen, wende man sich an Pfr. E. Jornt, 3, Powis Place, Gt. Ormond Street, W.C.1 (TERminus 3091).

Missing in November 1941, on active service, Pilot Officer R.A.F.V.R. V. M. Albrecht, only son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Albrecht, formerly of 20, Palmeira Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, now at Queen's Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, January 10th, 1942, at 12.45 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. (See Advt.)

Saturday, January 17th, 1942, at 2.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting followed by a film lecture by Mr. A. Kern (see report) at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, January 17th, 1942, at 1 o'clock p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Annual General Meeting — at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

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