

# Swiss Mercantile Society

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### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, September 8th. Mr. J. J. Boos, President, was in the Chair and about forty members were present.

Two new members, Messrs. F. Engst and J. Woodtli, were admitted and one resignation was accepted.

The Chairman announced the birth of a daughter, on August 1st, to the wife of Mr. W. Burren, a member of the General Purposes Committee. All present offered hearty congratulations.

Before proceeding to the second part of the meeting, the President drew the attention of the members present to the 55th anniversary celebration of the Society.

Usually at this time of the year, the Society used to hold its Annual Banquet and Ball, one of the most popular functions in the Colony in pre-war days.

Present times, alas, are not appropriate for such functions; nevertheless, the Committee decided to mark the occasion by giving members and friends an opportunity of meeting at a luncheon which has been arranged for Saturday, October 9th, at 12.45 p.m. for 1 p.m., at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane. Following the luncheon, the President will give a short account of the Society's activities during the last few years which have been very difficult ones for the S.M.S.

Our sister Societies and the Swiss Legation will be represented and it is hoped that members will make a special effort to support the function and bring along their friends. A particular welcome is extended to the ladies and the Committee hopes that it will be a representative gathering.

The Society has been fortunate in being able to combine this function with a lecture by Dr. G. P. Gooch, Companion of Honour, on the subject of "World Outlook." Dr. Gooch is no stranger to the S.M.S., having lectured at Swiss House annually for a large number of years. Many members will no doubt recollect some of his outstanding pronouncements on international affairs and some of his masterly exposés on the political situation as it presented itself from time to time.

Please, therefore, apply for tickets without delay, but, in view of the present catering difficulties, in no case later than October 1st.

This terminated the official proceedings which were followed by a discussion on the

#### "BEVERIDGE PLAN."

The President, Mr. J. J. Boos, has made a thorough study of the Plan which, thanks to his initiative, was available at the Headquarters of the S.K.V. shortly after its publication. In fact a translation in form of a summary has since been published under the auspices of the S.K.V. and has created tremendous interest in Switzerland. Mr. Boos was therefore without doubt the person best qualified to open the discussion, which he did by means of a well prepared paper. He first gave a brief outline of the history of social relief in this country and the various institutions created for that purpose. He traced the circumstances which led to the formation of a special Committee, appointed by Parliament to study ways and means of devising a system of social security commensurate with present day requirements and standards. The President then gave a lucid and comprehensive résumé of the Plan as submitted to Parliament by Sir William

Beveridge. In concise and tabulated form were enumerated the benefits foreseen, the contributions payable and the expenditure involved. Comparative figures showed the big changes which the adoption of the Plan will bring about from the existing systems of national insurance and the justification for these changes. They also went to show how greatly the Beveridge scheme will affect every citizen, including of course all Swiss resident in this country. The President expressed the hope that, as mentioned in the Report, provision will be made to safeguard the interests of any assured who should leave this country after having contributed to the scheme for a considerable number of years. Comparative figures were also stated to give an indication of the benefits available under the Beveridge scheme as compared with similar schemes already existing in Switzerland, from which could be gathered that social security in Switzerland does not lag behind this country.

Finally, Mr. Boos dealt with the most important criticisms and comments on the Plan and expressed the hope that all difficulties and obstacles would be overcome and that the majority, if not the whole, of the benefits under the Plan would be made available to the community at large. What a tremendous social revolution the adoption of the Plan will mean, was clearly illustrated by Mr. Boos' address.

A most interesting and constructive discussion then followed, in which a number of members took part. The question of a comprehensive health service was particularly touched upon and the discussion also went to underline the vast difference between a comprehensive State scheme and the industrial insurance schemes as are now in force.

In conclusion, Mr. W. Meier, Vice-President, who occupied the Chair during the discussions, called on Mr. W. Beckmann who proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the President for the masterly way in which he had presented the subject. This was duly seconded by Mr. L. W. Krucker and endorsed by all present with prolonged acclamation.

Thus ended one of the most interesting and constructive discussions held at Swiss House.

W.B.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Nearly two hundred members and friends attended the Tea Party given by the City Swiss Club on Saturday, August 29th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.

The Swiss Minister and Madame Thurnheer honoured the Club by their presence.

The famous Dorchester Hotel Orchestra provided the music during the tea, and later on during the dancing. The arrangement of the Committee was much appreciated by the members and their Ladies.—

The Monthly Meeting, which took place on Tuesday, September 7th, at Brown's Hotel, was attended by well over 100 members.

Mr. Arnold Lunn, the well-known author and sportsman, addressed the gathering on his experiences in Switzerland, during a number of years. Mr. A. Bon, President of the City Swiss Club, thanked the speaker for his excellent address, expressing the wish to hear him on another occasion at one of the Club Meetings.

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