

City Swiss Club

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1948)**

Heft 1084

PDF erstellt am: **21.07.2024**

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LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Twenty-eight members gathered at the Glendower Hotel on the 31st January for the 5th Annual General Meeting of the above Society.

In his report on the past year, during which the Club became affiliated to the British Philatelic Association, the President, Mr. F. Streit, briefly reviewed the chief events of the season and thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the monthly meetings by giving displays, etc. He hoped that their efforts would stimulate many other members, both old and new, to exhibit their treasures.

Mr. Streit announced with regret that Mr. J. J. Schneider, Vice-President, and Mr. W. Fuchs, Hon. Treasurer, had asked to be relieved of their offices and thanked them for all the good work they had done for the Society.

The Hon. Treasurer gave detailed explanations of the Accounts and Balance Sheet as at the 31st December 1947, which once more showed a satisfactory surplus for the year and were duly accepted.

Under the temporary Chairmanship of Mr. L. Jobin, the meeting proceeded with the election of the Officers for 1948, which resulted in the following appointments:—

President: Mr. F. Streit; *Vice-President*: Mr. W. Burren; *Hon. Secretary*: Mr. F. G. Ebbutt; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. G. Wahl; *Hon. Packet Superintendent*: Mr. E. Huber; *Committee Member*: Mr. M. Waloff.

After a few amendments of the Society's Rules had been approved, the meeting closed and members adjourned to the Dining Room to join their guests, who included the President of the Finchley Philatelic Society. The excellent luncheon which followed raised the spirits of all participants to such a pitch that the tickets for the Tombola, in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society, were rapidly disposed of and bidding for the various lots donated by members was so brisk that last year's record contribution of twenty pounds to that worthy institution was soon exceeded. A halt was only called when the auctioneer, Mr. G. Wahl, triumphantly announced that the sum of twenty-five pounds had been raised. On behalf of the S.B.S., Mr. Rothlisberger extended congratulations and most sincere thanks to all for this magnificent effort.

F.G.E.

THE RT. HON. R. A. BUTLER, M.P., at the CITY SWISS CLUB.

The principal guest at the Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club, which took place on Tuesday, February 10th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, was the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, M.P. and Minister of Education in H.M. late Government.

Mr. R. de Cintra, President of the Club, was in the Chair and there were 98 members present.

Following an excellent dinner served by the Management of the Dorchester Hotel, the President extended a hearty welcome to the guest of honour and Dr. A. Escher, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires.

Mr. de Cintra in mentioning the new appointment of the Swiss Minister, Dr. Paul Ruegger, as President of the International Red Cross in Geneva, voiced his,

and the Members regrets at the fact, that through this important appointment, the City Swiss Club and the Colony will lose the collaboration of Monsieur Ruegger. It was unanimously decided to express to the Minister the congratulations of the Club on the occasion of his nomination.

The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, who is a most polished after dinner speaker, very wittily spoke on the subject: "Things to Come."

He referred to his love of Switzerland and voiced his admiration for its political institutions which he was able to study at close quarters during his extended stay at Geneva.

A most remarkable statement by the speaker was the one stating, that on broad lines — even if great differences in details and methods exist — there was no fundamental dissimilarity between the general policy of the Conservatives and the Labour party, and that only if an agreement on broad lines, between all parties, can be obtained a people will get the necessary strength to build and achieve something new.

Mr. Butler admitted, with personal regrets, that before 1939 there existed many relics of feudal times in England.

He said that a tremendous "revolution" had taken place nearly unnoticed because it had come gradually and that to-day we all have to strive towards an ideological broad agreement in the western world.

The speaker, in terminating his address, also paid a great personal tribute to his staunch and undaunted leader, Mr. Winston Churchill, and his genius; who, in his speeches in the U.S.A. and at Zurich has launched the concept of a "Federated Western Europe."

On resuming his seat, Mr. Butler received a great ovation from the gathering.

Monsieur Escher, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, replied in a charming and most clever way. He emphasised the essential points of difference between Switzerland and any other Federation.

He mentioned how carefully all the political, racial and geographical differences and minorities are considered in the election of any federal representative, and that a man once elected to the Federal Council is no longer a representative of his canton or county but is a Swiss and solely influenced in his decisions by what is desirable for the country as a whole.

Loud applause greeted the words of Monsieur Escher.

Mr. de Cintra before closing the Meeting expressed to the speakers the thanks of the members for their interesting addresses.

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