

K.O. Keller †

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K. O. KELLER †.

We regret to announce the death at his home in Sunderland of Mr. Karl Otto Keller who passed away after a short illness on July 22nd last, at the age of 65. Born near Uster (Zurich) he laid the foundation of his subsequent fame as a marine engineer in a apprenticeship at the local engineering works, working afterwards for a short time at the Manufacture Franco-Suisse d'Automobiles at Geneva. His keen interest in engineering furthered by an exceptional talent and power of imagination demanded a larger field for its exploitation and at the age of 24 he set out for England. At the time of his death Mr. Keller was Managing Director of Messrs. Wm. Doxford & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland, he having been a member of the Board since 1928. The following personal notes are reprinted from the "*Sunderland Shipping Gazette*."

"A native of Switzerland, and trained there as an engineer, Mr. Keller came to England as a young man and first joined Messrs. Doxford's staff in 1905, when he came from Reavell's works at Ipswich. For three years he investigated the possibilities of gas engines for marine propulsion. When the investigations were abandoned about 1908, Mr. Keller took up an appointment at Thornycroft's works at Basingstoke, but in 1911 he returned to Doxford's to develop the Diesel type of oil engine which the firm had then decided to take up.

Mr. Keller was appointed chief draughtsman and chief designer, and it was largely due to his expert knowledge and inventive genius in this branch of engineering that the Doxford opposed piston type of marine oil engine was so successfully developed and became so famous throughout the world.

He was closely associated in this important departure in marine engineering with members of the Doxford family then in charge of the firm, and with the late Mr. Robert Haswell, who for many years was secretary of the engine department and later became managing director of the company. Many of the patents incorporated in the Doxford engine were the invention of Mr. Keller.

Doxford engines up to a total of about 2,000,000 indicated horse-power have been installed into motorships during Mr. Keller's long association with the firm of Doxford.

Mr. Keller's eminence in his chosen field of engineering was universally acknowledged, and on more

than one occasion he had read technical papers on the subject of marine oil engines to technical associations. He was a member of the Council of the North-East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, and in 1928 he read a paper to the members on "Combustion and its difficulties in Marine Oil Engines."

In 1938 Mr. Keller was chairman of the North-East branch of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers."

Marine engineering not being one of our staple industries the late Mr. Keller was little known in our Colony though he kept up an intimate friendship with a few compatriots. We are reminded, however, that a prophet is not without honour, save in his own country. The high esteem and admiration which he enjoyed in his adopted country is unmistakably demonstrated by the vast congregation that attended his funeral and which included apart from the Mayor and local dignitaries, the representatives of the shipbuilding, marine engineering and shipping interests in this country.

On behalf of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain we wish to tender to his widow our sincere expressions of sympathy.

LECTURE BY DR. G. P. GOOCH, Comp. of Hon. On "World Outlook."

The Members and friends of the Swiss Mercantile Society will be glad to learn that the Committee has been able to secure Dr. G. P. Gooch, Companion of Honour, to address them on *World Outlook*, on Wednesday, September 9th, at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 5.30 p.m. sharp.

The lecturer needs no introduction to the Colony and it is hoped that a large number of Members and their friends will avail themselves of this unique opportunity of hearing the views of a man of the standing of Dr. Gooch. The lecture has to start so early in order to enable Dr. Gooch to catch his train at 7 p.m. to reach home before black-out. For this reason the lecture will start prompt to time.

After the lecture the Monthly Meeting of the Society will take place, when the Chairman has some interesting news to give to the Members. The meeting should terminate in time to allow the Members to reach home before black-out. So please do come early!

Will you please also reserve Saturday, October 10th, for a most interesting lecture by a prominent personality. Details of this lecture will be announced in due course.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, 1st September, at 6 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. (See Advert.)

Wednesday, 9th September, at 5.30 sharp — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Lecture by Dr. G. P. Gooch, on "World Outlook" followed by a Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, 19th September — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by Mr. G. Keller's "Comments on the present situation."

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