

# S.M.S. represented at meeting in Lucerne

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in Geneva, but went on to quote the solutions which the Secretary-General to the Conference, Mr. Raul Prebisch, had outlined to cope with the inherent weaknesses of the trade patterns of underdeveloped countries.

Whilst it was too much to hope for their full acceptance, they were certainly a good starting point for the discussions of the solution of the trade aspect of the plight of the underdeveloped countries. The real measures adopted by the United Nations Trade and Development Conference could be read in the daily papers in a few weeks' time.

Following his address, Monsieur Heimo answered numerous questions put to him by the audience on both topics and a cordial vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. W. Renz, for a most interesting and instructive address, was enthusiastically supported by all present.

WB.

### PERSONAL

We announce with deep regret the death of Mrs. Elsa Bucher, wife of Mr. Paul Bucher of 21, Pemberley Avenue, Bedford. Mrs. Bucher came to England in 1947 and was well known in Bedford. At the time of her death she was a member of Bedford Inner Wheel. She died in Switzerland on 19th May after a long illness — borne with courage and fortitude. She was 59.

We express our deep sympathy to her husband in his bereavement.

\* \* \*

We regret to announce the sudden death on 30th May of Mr. Carlos Vonaesch of 10 Twineham Green, Woodside Park, London N.12. We extend our deep sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Eileen Vonaesch, and to his sister, Mrs. Ida Schuhmacher.

### PLEASE NOTE

In the last issue of the "Swiss Observer" it was announced that the Nouvelle Société Helvétique would be holding their Open Meeting on Tuesday, 16th June. In order not to clash with the meeting of the Swiss Economic Council, the N.S.H. have postponed their meeting which will now take place one week later, viz. on Tuesday, 23rd June. There will be a general discussion on current questions of importance to our Colony. Non-members will be welcome.

### SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Editor regrets that she is unable to publish the report of the A.G.M. of the Swiss Rifle Association. Lack of space forces her to postpone publication until the next issue.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out or renewing gift subscriptions: Mrs. L. Bristow, Councillor Joan Barbara, Monsieur F. Heuer (Berne) and Messrs. E. P. Banderet, A. Burkhalter, F. Conrad, H. Furger (Zurich), F. Hendel, C. Perraudin, M. Wiesendanger, C. H. Willi (Cannes and Lucerne). We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

### PERSONAL

We wish to congratulate Mr. Th. von Speyr on his appointment as a Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation as from 1st July. Mr. von Speyr is at present a Deputy Manager.

### S.M.S. REPRESENTED AT MEETING IN LUCERNE

The Annual Delegates' Meeting of the "Schweizerischer Kaufmännischer Verein" took place in Lucerne from 8th to 10th May. Traditionally, the Municipality and the Canton are always at variance regarding the responsibility for the weather. It was, therefore, not surprising that it rained heavily on the first two days, and that on Sunday the "Town of Lights" was resplendent in brilliant sunshine. The hospitality, however, accorded to the 350 delegates and guests was all the time of the friendliest.

The representatives of over 72,000 commercial employees met at the Kunsthhaus. There were delegates from most of the 127 sections. Of the four foreign groups (Brussels, London, Milan and New York), Milan and London were represented, and the Cercle Commercial de Paris also had two members present. The Swiss Mercantile Society's official delegates were its President, Mr. A. Jaccard, and Vice-President, Mr. L. W. Krucker, himself a Member of Honour of the S.K.V., and other representatives were Mr. J. J. Boos, Member of Honour, Mr. H. Andrea and Mrs. Walter Meier.

The Honorary President of the S.K.V., former National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, a great friend of the Swiss abroad, was present, and so were about twenty of the S.K.V.'s Honorary Members. The President, Mr. H. Buechi, welcomed the delegates and guests, and Mr. H. Troendle of Lucerne was in the chair.

Following the highly interesting talk on "Topical Problems seen by the Employees" by the Secretary-General of the S.K.V., National Councillor A. Meier-Ragg, and the *exposé* dealing with the protection of the tenant and the consumer by the *Secrétaire Romand*, Monsieur R. Pidoux, the assembly of delegates accepted a number of resolutions. One concerned the new Vocational Training Bill which the S.K.V. considers of great importance. The organisation, however, are emphatically against a proposal that there should be a shortened office apprenticeship in addition to the present three-year training. The second resolution asked that, whilst agreeing to the measures proposed to curb the excessive boom, the employees' salaries should be brought in line with other incomes which had benefited from the boom conditions. The third resolution concerned the negotiations with employers' organisations regarding working conditions for employees. Whilst acknowledging the satisfactory co-operation, the S.K.V. regrets that it has not been possible to give a fourth paid holiday week to older employees. The resolution expressed the hope for better old age provisions. A fourth resolution asked for improved housing programmes.

The assembly also decided to hold the delegates' meeting only once every two years in order to reduce costs. Proposals for the necessary changes in the constitution are to be submitted to next year's meeting.

Mariann.