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## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING  
November 8th, 1922, at the Union Helvetica.  
There were 40 members present. Mr. De Brunner  
was in the Chair.

The meeting was opened at 8.45; the minutes of  
the last meeting were read and passed after a few  
corrections.

The following members were unanimously elected  
as active members:—Mr. Jules Stadler, and Mr.  
Jean Stettler. A few other applications could not  
be dealt with, as the necessary signatures were missing.  
The Committee will pass them subject to approval by  
the next Ordinary Meeting.

The following resignations were accepted:—Messrs.  
Walter Frei, Guido Wirth, Edwin Lampert, E. Bachofen,  
Oskar Lustenberger. From the Chair the most hearty  
thanks were given to Mr. Walter Frei, who, as a  
member of the Education Committee, has given many  
hours and valuable assistance to our work. The Hon.  
Secretary was requested to write him and convey our  
regret and appreciation for his good services.

The Treasurer reported a number of outstanding  
subscriptions from 22 members who have left the U.K.  
without giving their new address. As he is unable to  
trace their whereabouts, it was decided to strike them off  
the list of members.

Information was given from the Chair on the  
correspondence with regard to the subvention we should  
get from Zurich for the Education Department.

The president has been able to get the rent for the  
Henrietta Street premises reduced to £260 per annum.  
Monsieur Henri Martin kindly presented our library  
with a copy of the "Rapport sur le commerce et l'indus-  
trie en Suisse en 1921," for which the president  
expressed our best thanks.

It was announced that in December and January  
two lectures will be given by two English teachers on  
"Banking and Currency" and "The devastated France"  
—the latter with Latin sides.

The Union Helvetica requests us to guarantee a  
certain number of suppers for the Smoking Concert  
on the 17th. It was decided to guarantee 50 persons.  
Three members have applied for the post of paid  
secretary. The appointment will be left to the Committee  
subject to the approval by the next Monthly  
Meeting.

A draft letter addressed to the Committee for a  
Central Club House was read by the president, and  
after a short discussion it was decided to send this  
letter, containing our point of view, and a few practical  
suggestions.

The president will represent the S.M.S. at the  
Annual Dinner of the City Swiss Club.  
The meeting closed at 10.40.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by his  
Correspondents*

TAXATION BY SWITZERLAND OF THE SWISS  
ABROAD AND THE RESULTS OF SUCH  
TAXATION.

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

Sir.—Every Swiss who lives abroad knows the  
nature of the present taxation imposed on him by  
Switzerland, but so far this subject has hardly been  
discussed and commented upon, except that one hears  
continual complaints of this taxation, which indeed hits a  
great number of Swiss abroad very hard.

Foremost, we have the immatriculation tax, which is  
disliked by the great majority; and the official reports  
disclose that the result of this tax did not come up to  
expectations and created more discontent than the small  
amount of tax collected was worth.

Further, every Swiss of military age who is pre-  
vented from fulfilling his military service by having to  
earn his living abroad, is called upon to pay a military  
tax which is far too highly rated on his earnings.  
There are a great many Swiss abroad who are not  
fortunate enough to possess private means and whose  
earnings barely enable them to pay for the mere  
necessities of life. If they cannot afford to pay, the  
only way open to them, to be in order with the auth-  
orities, is to plead poverty, which is repugnant to most  
of the Swiss, otherwise they are considered 'outcasts  
by the Consulate, inasmuch as it is officially stated that  
no papers or protection will be given them.

To give a typical example—is it possible for a man  
receiving in this country an income of £150 to pay a  
tax of £2 2s. 7d. plus matriculation fee 10s. for the  
first inscription and 5s. per year after?

Efforts are continually made by Swiss Societies to  
link all Swiss closer to the Motherland, but a Swiss  
who is "earmarked" by the Legation will naturally  
keep aloof and nurse his grievance.

The method of collecting these taxes is also very  
questionable. A Swiss wishing to obtain a passport  
is first marshalled into the military department, and if  
he is not clear with his taxes is treated in quite an  
annoying manner, and unless he can pay up or binds  
himself to pay, he stands little chance of obtaining a  
passport. Should he be lucky enough to be able to  
pay his military taxes, he is next called upon to pay  
his immatriculation and passport fees, and by the  
time he leaves the Consulate his pockets are empty.

It is questionable whether such procedure is within  
the spirit of the law, i.e., to refuse a passport or dis-  
continue the protection by the authorities owing to  
non-payment of extortions taxes.

It is very regrettable that it has come to the point  
that the Swiss Legation must even have recourse to  
the English police authorities to trace the addressees of  
Swiss in arrears with their Swiss taxes.

It must be admitted that the officials at the Consu-  
lalte have a hard task to enforce the law, but, on the  
other hand, a great number of Swiss have reason to  
complain of the rigid attitude adopted by the Legation.  
The Swiss authorities should always remember that  
the majority of Swiss are not living in foreign countries  
to evade military service, but simply owing to force  
of circumstances.

Is it not time that, like other countries, Switzerland  
ALSO should adapt herself to less antiquated  
conditions?

We remain, Sir, with patriotic greetings,  
Yours truly,  
DREI EIDGENOSSEN."

## WITH THE SWISS AT MANCHESTER.

The Swiss Minister, M. Paravicini, accompanied by  
M. Henri Martin, Counsellor of Legation and Commercial  
Attaché, were the guests of honour at the dinner and  
dance organised by the "Schweizerverein" of  
Manchester, on the occasion of the "Grütlifeier."

The Minister, who was in the Chair, pronounced the  
principal allocution. He first thanked the Swiss Club  
for the hearty welcome, and congratulated their  
president, Mr. E. Kubler, on his efficient leadership and  
first-class organisation of the festivity. He gave news  
from Switzerland and stated they were not of the best  
during these troubled times, but which nevertheless left  
room for hope and confidence in the future. Mr. Kubler  
expressed the Club's welcome and feelings of gratitude  
to the guests, who, besides the two above named,  
included: The Swiss Consul of Glasgow and Mme.  
Oswald, the Swiss Consul of Hull and Mme. Thévenaz.

The speech was followed by a few words of welcome  
from Mr. Guggenheim, the Swiss Consul of  
Manchester, who was accompanied by Mme. Guggenheim  
and his niece, Miss Violet Simon. During the  
excellent and varied concert given by Swiss artists of  
Manchester, a few humorous speeches by M. Oswald  
and M. Thévenaz caused considerable merriment to  
the audience. The successful social gathering was  
followed by a highly welcome dance.

The next day the Minister presided, at the splendid  
home of Mr. Guggenheim at Altrincham, Cheshire, at  
the second annual Consular Conference, a meeting of  
which he took the initiative in order to bring the  
Consulates in personal contact with the Legation, and with  
one another, and to discuss the numerous questions  
relating to the protection or assistance of compatriots,  
and their personal interests in the United Kingdom.

After this Conference, M. and Mme. Guggenheim  
gave a recherche luncheon, the guests being:—The  
Swiss Minister; M. Henri Martin; M. and Mme.  
Oswald; M. and Mme. Thévenaz and their niece,  
Miss Madeleine Grunauer; M. Fontanaz, Swiss  
Consul of Liverpool; M. and Mme. Kubler; and  
Miss Violet Simon.

During their stay at Altrincham as guests of M.  
and Mme. Guggenheim, M. Paravicini and M. Martin  
attended a luncheon given by the Lord Mayor of  
Manchester (Mr. Simon) and Mme. Simon, to which  
were also invited the Swiss Consul and the President  
of the Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, the Swiss Minister and his Commercial  
Attaché, with the Swiss Consul of Manchester, visited the  
magnificent Cotton Mills of Messrs. Armitage and  
Rigby at Warrington.

## SWISS BANK FOOTBALL CLUB.

SWISS BANK 1st XI v. LUDGATE CIRCUS 2nd XI  
THOS. COOK & SONS

(London Banks' Football Association Senior "B").

A very fast, clean, exciting and sporting game.  
Ludgate Circus had the best of the first half and led  
at half-time by 3 goals (Anderson 3) to 1 (Tobin).  
The second half was full of thrills all through. Tobler  
reduced the lead, and then Bestall scored a fourth point  
for the Circus. Way went into the net with the ball  
to score the Bank's third goal. From then on to the  
end the Swiss had the best of the play, but were  
opposed to a very stubborn defence. Ludgate Circus  
won the best game of the season by 4 to 3. Gourbach,  
the Bank's centre forward, was injured very early in  
the game, and this greatly handicapped the home team's  
attack. Zuercher played a fine game for the losers.

Team: Zuercher; Herzog, Kurz; Schwendener, Way,  
Borland; Tobler, Hickson, Gourbach, Tobin, Holton.

SWISS BANK 2nd XI v. EMANUEL ATHLETIC  
1st XI.

The Swiss Bank 2nd XI were visitors to Emanuel  
Athletic at East Dulwich. A very fast game developed  
right from the beginning, keeping the visitors' defence  
busy. The goal had several narrow escapes, and the  
Emanuel could score but one point before half-time.  
After changing sides the Swiss were not able to give  
any relief to the opponents' pressure, and the Bank's  
goalie, who was the busier of the two, had to deal with  
firing shots. In spite of the home team winning  
by 6 to 0, they had very bad luck in hitting the cross-  
bar about half a dozen times. The game was very fast  
all through, exciting and enjoyable.

Team: Grob; Peter, Zurlinden; Bonjour, Steiner,  
Higgins; Schranz, Smith, Bohannan, Benz.

SWISS BANK 3rd XI v. AQUARIUS 4th XI.  
on our Ground at Preston Road.

The Swiss Bank 3rd XI, strangers to victory this  
season, came out of their shell last Saturday. The  
visiting team, was leading at half-time by one goal.  
The home team scored 20 minutes after the interval,  
and soon afterwards a nice centre from the left wing  
led to the winning goal. Now the visitors made  
splendid efforts to break through a sound defence,  
but were unlucky not to equalize. Result: Swiss Bank  
2nd XI.

Team: Freuler; Scherz, Cassal; Wangler, Dr. Rufer,  
Stutz; Gunther, Stubl, Weber, Birrer, Schaub.

## SOCIAL.

The marriage of Mr. E. Robert, Secretary to Mr.  
Henri Martin, Counsellor of Legation, to Mrs. J. Stacey  
took place quietly at the Paddington Registry Office on  
Nov. 11th. Mr. Henri Martin was one of the witnesses  
at the ceremony.

On Armistice Day, Nov. 11th, a large laurel wreath  
adorned with lilies and poppies was deposited at the  
Cenotaph by some members of the Swiss Colony in  
memory of the Swiss who fell in the Great War.

Mr. P. Carmine, the well-known member of the  
Swiss Colony, who has been for some weeks past  
under surgical treatment at the Victoria Sanatorium  
at Berne, was obliged to undergo a very serious  
operation on Wednesday, the 15th Nov. The following  
telegram of good wishes was despatched to him on  
Tuesday:—"Swiss Colony, with you in thought, wishes  
your operation every success."

Later on Wednesday afternoon the good news was  
received that the operation had passed off very suc-  
cessfully.

Sincere congratulations, and we trust that Mr.  
Carmine may make a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Leon Jobin-Bessire of 46, Glebe Rd., Barnes,  
presented her husband with a son, Lucien Frédéric, on  
Nov. 10th. Both mother and child are progressing  
well.



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## EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C.2.

Dimanche, 19 Nov., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.  
Service pour les Jeunes à l'occasion  
de la Semaine de Prières.

6.30.—Pfarrer U. Wildbolz.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, Nov. 20th, at 8 p.m.—FRENCH Y.M.C.A.:  
Lecture by M. Fred. Treuthardt on "La Société  
des Nations" at Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham  
Court Road, W.C.1.

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, at 7.15 p.m.—Association of  
British Members of the SWISS ALPINE CLUB:  
Annual Dinner at Gatti's Restaurant.

Thursday, Nov. 23rd, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS BANK  
CLUB: Dance at the Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk  
Street, S.W.1.

Thursday, Nov. 23rd.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual  
Concert and Dance at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, Nov. 24th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS AI SPORT-  
ING CLUB: First Annual Dinner and Ball in aid  
of London Hospitals at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Friday, Nov. 24th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE  
HELVETIQUE: Lecture in English by Dr. W.  
Wegelin on "Finance Reforms in Switzerland (incl.  
Capital Levy Initiative)" — at Central Hall, West-  
minster.

Friday, Dec. 1st.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Ban-  
quet and Ball at Prince's Restaurant.

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCAN-  
TILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland  
Hotel.

Sunday, Dec. 3rd, at 3 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL  
SOCIETY: Concert at Steinway Hall.

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57

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