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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."

**Pension Suisse** 20 Palmeira Avenue,  
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.

English & Swiss Cuisine. Sea Front.

57 1922

## 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. Guggen-  
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