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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, OCT. 5th.

The nature of the agenda sent out for this Special General Meeting was such as to stimulate the interest and warrant the expectation of very lively proceedings; the resignation of a President in the middle of his year of office was sufficient to secure a record attendance, nearly a hundred members being present when the meeting was opened at 8.20 by Mr. A. C. Stahelin, the President. He explained that certain seemingly insurmountable differences had arisen between the Education Committee and the Headmaster of the School and that he—the President—was anxious to place the position before the members in general meeting; in order to enable him to state his case in an unfettered way he proposed as temporary chairman one of the vice-Presidents, Mr. G. Jenne, who was duly voted to the chair.

Mr. Stahelin then rose again, and after referring to the great success of the Day School, which had become an important and essential factor in the commercial education of the rising generation at Home informed the meeting that recently they had had the privilege of the visit of a well-known authority on commercial education in Switzerland, namely Mr. Blumer, who was the chief educational expert in the canton of Zurich. Naturally the Committee was anxious to benefit by the observations of such an authority; following a verbal exchange of views Mr. Blumer was asked to commit his impressions to writing. A most instructive report had been received which Mr. Stahelin read out to the meeting. Whilst paying a high tribute to the efficiency of the School and its teachers the report contained some constructive criticism and definite proposals for re-organisation. (At this point a short discussion took place as to the advisability of asking the Headmaster to be present, but the majority of the members decided that his presence should be dispensed with.) The recommendations contained in Mr. Blumer's report were carefully considered by the Education Committee, and while some of them were at present impracticable on account of the financial sacrifices involved, they had drawn up a memorandum embodying certain administrative reforms on which they had agreed. This memorandum was submitted to the Headmaster for his approval. Unfortunately no agreement was reached and only gratuitous correspondence had been the result. Mr. Stahelin was proceeding to read out this correspondence when he was interrupted by Mr. De Brunner with the statement that a compromise had since been reached which fact made it unnecessary to go into further details. Mr. Stahelin disagreed, and upon Mr. Schubach not endorsing the statement of his co-trustee, Mr. De Brunner, the meeting decided, on the proposal of Mr. Werner, that the whole of the correspondence should be read to the meeting, which was done. A somewhat unsatisfactory relationship was disclosed, chiefly because the Headmaster declined to recognise the authority of the Education Committee or to carry out their instructions. It was evident that the Committee members had left no stone unturned in order to clear the way for a satisfactory understanding, and had even agreed to a resolution, suggested by the three trustees, giving the latter triumvirate absolute powers in settling any disputes which might arise between the Headmaster and the Education Committee. Though Mr. Stahelin warmly recommended acceptance of this resolution the meeting was clearly disinclined to pass such a reactionary measure and divest the elected Committee of their constitutional powers and responsibilities. Messrs. Werner, Paschoud, Ungricht, Boehringer, Beckmann and Braga spoke against this departure, pointing out that the members in general meeting were the only and final court to pass judgment on the administration and dispositions of the elected Committee. In the course of a protracted discussion during which Mr. De Brunner, supported by Messrs. Pfandler and Joss, ably exposed his point of view, the members had an excellent opportunity to form an independent judgment, and when finally the resolution was put to the vote it was lost by an overwhelming majority. This disposed of the "pièce de résistance" of the evening, and no time was lost in dealing with the remaining item on the agenda, namely the resignation of the President. Mr. Boehringer proposed and Mr. Sommer seconded that the meeting refuse to accept the resignation, which was carried with acclamation and coupled with an expression of absolute confidence in the Education Committee. Mr. Stahelin returned to the chair and expressed his satisfaction that the meeting had so unmistakably approved his policy and given the Education Committee the necessary mandate to continue on the lines agreed by them.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Miss Louise André, Morges: "Jean de la Fontaine." Mr. R. Wolfensberger, Zurich: "Consideration of European Political Affairs, Bolshevism and the Future." Mr. Oscar Hess, Delemont:

"History of Spain and Bull Fights." Mr. A. Ducret, Lausanne: "Chopin." Miss Alice Anderhub, Eschenbach: "A Day in Brussels." Mr. R. Schönenberger, Zurich: "Shakespeare and Bacon." Mr. Oswald Halter, Oberdiessbach: "Notes on the Discovery of the Egyptian Past." Mr. Robert Schaad, Basle: "The Port of Antwerp." Miss Klara Laubscher, Täuffelen: "Criticism on the book called 'Porro Uncum.'" Mr. Paul Baillifard, Bagnes: "The Mentality of our Modern Times." Mr. Walter Sieber, Münsingen: "The Gemmi Pass." Mr. J. Lerch, Lucerne: "Protection." Mr. B. Berney, Lausanne: "Switzerland During the War."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Do you prefer nationalism to Internationalism?" Proposer, Mr. R. Thiel, Neuchâtel; Opposer, Mr. W. A. Wartmann.

"Can you create universal peace by disarmament?" Proposer, Mr. C. Meyer, Geneva; Opposer, Mr. Max Hintermann, Schaffhausen.

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(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2

We have pleasure in inviting our Members and friends to the **Annual General Meeting**, which will be held at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, on **Wed., 12th October**. Tea will be served at 6.30 p.m.

AGENDA.

- 1—Reading of Minutes. 3—Report of Auditors.
2—Cash Report. 4—Report of Pastor.
5—Miscellaneous.

For the Kirchenpflege: A. STEIGER, President.
F. S. SOMMER, Hon. Sec.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of "The Swiss Observer" to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2
(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 11 Octobre, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme: "La source de vie." Jean 6/40.
6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
Jeudi, 13 Octobre.—8h., au Foyer, soirée de discussions pour jeunes filles.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798).
Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, den 9. Oktober, 1927: 11 Uhr vorm. und 7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Am Mittwoch den 12. Oktober, abends 6.30: Familiäre Gemeindeversammlung der Schweizerkirche im Foyer Suisse, zu der jedermann herzlich eingeladen ist.

NOTICE.

We should like to draw our members' and friends' attention to the fact that the **Rt. Rev. Bishop A. Bury, D.D.**, Rector of our Church and until recently Bishop for Northern and Central Europe, has kindly offered to preach to our Congregation at 11 a.m. on **Sunday, October 23rd, 1927**. It is hoped that our members will attend in large numbers, and that they will bring along their English friends.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 19—1 Uhr in der Kirche, Mittwoch, 3—5 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse.
Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc., an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telephon Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, 29th October, at 8.15 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOC. and SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRA: Concert at Wigmore Hall in aid of the "George Dimier Fund."

Friday, Nov. 25th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Victoria Hotel, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.