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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Ninth Ordinary General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society (Limited by Guarantee) was held at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, on Wednesday, February 14th.

Mr. J. J. Boos, President of the Society, was in the Chair.

The Secretary (Mr. J. J. Schneider) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditor.

The Chairman then paid a last tribute to the late Federal Councillor Motta, who was five times President of the Swiss Confederation and for more than twenty years Minister of Foreign Affairs. M. Motta visited the College of the Society in February 1930 during his brief stay in London and the meeting rose in memory of the deceased.

The Chairman thereupon called on Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., Auditor, who elucidated the accounts which had been circulated among the members. The results of the year under review were considered very satisfactory, taking into account the exceptional circumstances and the reduced working period. A resolution that the accounts be received and adopted was passed unanimously, and the auditor, Mr. Green, was re-appointed.

The Chairman then reported on the activities of the Society during the past year. Steady progress was made till end of August, when the outbreak of war upset all plans. Despite many difficulties, however, the Society held its meetings during the latter part of the year and the support received from the members encourages the Society to look forward to useful activities in the future. The membership showed little change, 16 new members having been admitted during the year, whilst 20 resignations were received, mostly from members who had returned to Switzerland where they joined local Sections. The President's report embraced full particulars of the varied activities of the Society, including social functions. Although the latter will have to be considerably curtailed during the period of hostilities, the Society will, nevertheless, do all in its power to keep the flag flying and rally its members. In conclusion the Chairman expressed thanks to the Federal Authorities, the Swiss Legation, as well as the numerous Subscribers and Donors, for their unstinted help which will enable the Society to carry on until such time as normal activities at Swiss House can be resumed, in the interest of both our country and our young compatriots.

Mr. W. Meier, Chairman of the Education Committee, gave a detailed account of the manifold activities of the Education Department. It was his sad task to record the closing of the College in November, after an existence of over 17 years. During the first six months of 1939 the monthly average attendance was the highest for 8 years, and although it would be futile to speculate on what figures would have been reached, had not fate intervened, the ever growing reputation of the College in Switzerland was evinced by the steadily rising number of students in the course of several years. It was little short of a tragedy when Swiss House, which for years had been a hive of industry and a seat of learning, suddenly became deserted of its youthful occupants. May the day not

be too distant when they will return to resume their studies which came to such an abrupt end. The report of the College included full details of attendance, staff curriculum, examination results, Holiday Course, excursions, lectures, social functions and sports, as well as particulars of Evening Classes. The reports were unanimously adopted with acclamation.

The Chairman then proceeded to the election. Mr. W. Beckmann was elected Chairman pro tem. and Messrs. M. Rothlisberger and F. von Bergen were elected scrutineers. Mr. Beckmann, on behalf of the Meeting, expressed thanks to the retiring Council and Committee Members for their valuable services rendered to the Society during the past year. He particularly complimented the Chairman on his magnanimous work during his first year as President and referred to his arduous duties during a particularly difficult year, when due to the special circumstances he had to bear the brunt of the work. Mr. Boos was thereupon unanimously re-elected President with prolonged acclamation. The Chairman, in thanking the meeting for the confidence reposed in him, expressed his personal appreciation to the members of the Council and the Committees for their loyal support and singled out for special mention the meritorious services rendered by Mr. W. Meier, Chairman of the Education Committee, for his untiring efforts and able guidance of the Education Department. It was found that under the prevailing circumstances the Education and House Committees were not required and it was decided to suspend them until such time as normal activities are resumed. The Meeting then proceeded to the election of the Council and the General Purposes Committee. There were two vacancies to fill, namely that of a Vice-President and that of Hon. Secretary. Mr. O. Grob, who for many years held the office of Hon. Treasurer, and during last year that of Chairman of the House Committee, did not seek re-election in his latter capacity, being at present in New York. Mr. M. Schneider, Hon. Secretary, joined the colours in September last and has now taken up an appointment in Switzerland. The Chairman expressed the Society's appreciation to the two gentlemen for their valuable services during a considerable number of years. All the other officers offered themselves for re-election. As a result of the election Mr. L. W. Krucker was elected a Vice-President and Mr. R. Chappuis was elected Hon. Secretary.

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(S.M.S. Continued.)*Constitution of the Council and the General Purposes Committee for the Financial Year 1940 :*

COUNCIL : Mr. J. J. Boos, Chairman; Mr. W. Meier, Vice-Chairman; Messrs. R. Chappuis, Ch. Chapuis, G. E. De Brunner (Trustee), O. Grob, E. Hardmeier, M. Heilinger, G. Jenne, L. W. Krucker, J. J. Pfaendler, A. C. Stahelin, A. Steinmann.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE : President — Mr. J. J. Boos; Vice-Presidents — Messrs. W. Meier and L. W. Krucker; Hon. Secretary — Mr. R. Chappuis; Hon. Treasurer — Mr. M. Heilinger; Members — Messrs. W. Burren, W. Fuchs, P. Mathys, R. Senn. Auditor — Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A.; Press Reporter — Mr. W. Burren; Delegate to the Advisory Board of the Employment Department — Mr. Ch. Chapuis; Delegates to the Swiss Sports Committee — Messrs. R. Chappuis and F. von Bergen; Delegate to the N.S.H. — Mr. F. Streit.

Before the close of the meeting Mr. C. Chapuis reported on the activities of the Employment Department, which thanks to the untiring efforts of the Manager, Mr. J. J. Pfaendler, showed good results despite adverse conditions.

This terminated the proceedings.

W.B.

SWISS MINISTER'S WELCOME.**Afternoon Tea at Dorchester Hotel.**

I have no doubt that every Swiss who is likely to be in London on Saturday next, March 2nd, has made a note to attend the Afternoon Tea Reception which is to be given to our New Minister, Mons. Thurnheer, and to Mme. Thurnheer.

Judging by applications for tickets received up to date, this patriotic demonstration promises to be one of the outstanding successes of the Colony in Great Britain. There are still a number of tickets available, and those desirous of participating are asked to apply for them without delay so that full arrangements can be made with the Dorchester Hotel in good time.

As stated previously, tickets are available from all Societies and organisations, or from members of the Organizing Committee. The price is only 2/6d., and as compatriots are fully aware, the greater proportion of this amount is to be devoted to helping the Swiss Benevolent Society which is very much in need of funds in the present emergency.

Please do not delay sending your application with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to any Swiss Society, member of the Committee, or direct to the Organizing Secretary: Henry Bingguely, Bulle House, 167, Clapham Road, S.W.9. 'Phone Reliance 4150.

As accommodation is naturally limited, please **DO IT NOW.**

Bee.

ANONYMOUS.

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Right up to standard with our blah.
But Christmas comes with bright good cheer,
And Hallow'een with nuts and beer.
And Saint days with their special Fetes
Like Valentines who look for mates.
But in these times now shared by all
May only happiness befall
To YOU and YOURS. This is my Wish
To serve up with your Lenten Fish!

LETTER BOX.

E. B. — Nairobi. Many thanks for your remittance; your subscription runs out with issue No. 960 and will become due again with No. 1012. We have noted the new subscribers and appreciate very much that the S.O. is always eagerly awaited in your Colony. The addresses which you sent will have to be held over as under the terms of our licence we cannot mail any propaganda or complimentary copies.

L. S. — Salisbury. Thank you for the address of your friend who might become a subscriber; perhaps you can use your good influence on our behalf as we cannot mail propaganda copies.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, March 2nd, 1940, at 3.30 p.m. — Swiss Minister's Reception, and Afternoon Tea — at Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Tuesday, March 5th, at 6.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Saturday, March 16th, 1940 — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, at 2 o'clock sharp, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Divine Services.

Dimanche 25 février 1940: (HEURE D'ETE) à **Eglise Suisse**, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du Dimanche.

5h. Culte en allemand au Foyer Suisse.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 25. Februar 1940: (Sommerzeit) in der **Schweizerkirche**, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

11 Uhr. Gottesdienst. Mat. 6:25.

5 Uhr. Gottesdienst im Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Für Amtshandlungen u. alle Anfragen wende man sich an Pfr. Stutz, 23, Womersley Road, N.8. (MOU. 4649).

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