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CITY SWISS CLUB DINNER.**Thursday, April 2nd, 1942.**

The City Swiss Club, true to its tradition, to honour and entertain distinguished personalities in all walks of life, and of various nationalities, invited its members to meet the Swiss Economic Mission which has been sent by the Swiss Government to this country, at a dinner at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Thursday, April 2nd, 1942.

An enthusiastic welcome by more than 150 members and friends was extended to the Delegation, not only because they are compatriots of ours, but because of the great reputation which they enjoy in the political, diplomatic, industrial and economic sphere of our country.

The Swiss Minister, who had been asked by the Club to preside over the gathering requested the President to take his place, both as a compliment to him and to the City Swiss Club, this *beau geste* of the Minister was greatly appreciated and the "change over" was warmly applauded.

From the Swiss Legation were present: The Minister, M. de Jenner, Counsellor of Legation, M. Girardet, Counsellor of Legation, Major Schlegel, Military Attaché and M. Hilfiker, Vice-Consul. From the Special Division attended: M. Preiswerk, Head of the Division, M. Moretti, 1st Secretary of Legation, Messieurs Dominicé, de Salis, Berthoud, Stauffer, Bircher and Zobrist.

There were also present: Dr. Kullmann, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees (League of Nations), M. Haccius, Delegate of the International Red Cross in Geneva, and Messrs. Lorsignol and Dr. de Wolff from the Swiss Bank Corporation.

Towards the end of a simple but excellent dinner, the President proposed the toasts to H. M. the King, and to the President of the Swiss Confederation, both toasts were honoured with acclamation.

After so doing the entire company settled down to listen to the speeches which were to come.

M. L. Chapuis, as President of the Club, was the first speaker. He extended a warm and sincere welcome to the distinguished visitors wishing them success in their deliberations with H. M. Government.

He said:

"As Head of the Swiss Economic Mission we greet Monsieur le Ministre Hans Sulzer, who is Chairman of the Board of the world-famous engineering firm which bears his name. At the end of the last war, from 1917-1920, he was Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington. From the beginning of this war, up to the end of 1941, Dr. Sulzer has been Head of the Iron and Engineering Section at the Department for War Economy in Berne. He is the President of the Committee for the supervision of all Imports and Exports, and a member of the Swiss Brains Trust, known as the War Economy Committee."

In introducing Professor William Rappard, the President said:

"Professor William Rappard quite early in life was Professor of Public Economy at Harvard University. In 1913, he took the Chair for History of Economics and Public Finance in Geneva. Between 1917 and 1919, he was entrusted with various diplomatic missions in Washington, London and

Paris. From 1919 onwards, Professor Rappard has been successively Secretary of the Swiss National Red Cross, Director of the Mandate Section of the League of Nations, Director of the Institute for "Hautes Etudes Internationales" at Geneva, and a member of the Swiss Delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations, he is also a Member of the Swiss Parliament. Professor Rappard is the author of a number of well-known books on economic and financial questions, one of the latest being his book on "Government in Switzerland."

Of Professor Keller M. Chapuis said:

"Professor Paul Keller, after extensive studies in Geneva, Paris, Berlin and London, started his brilliant and distinguished academic career as a lecturer at the University of Zurich, from there, he was called to the Chair for Public Economy in St. Gall, where he stayed until the Federal Government called him to Berne to take charge of the preparations for War Economy organisation.

Professor Keller has travelled extensively throughout the world, especially in Japan where he probably met our Minister for the first time. Since 1938, he has been a Delegate of the "Département Economique." This is his third official visit to London since the outbreak of the war, and many of us were privileged to enjoy his acquaintance during his Mission here in the winter of 1940-1941."

The President continued by saying:

"The fourth Member of the Economic Mission is our highly esteemed Counsellor of Legation, M. A. Girardet, who is one of us, and as such, needs no further introduction.

We are also glad to welcome among us the two distinguished experts attached to the Mission, M. Lugeon and M. Boller."

For the elucidation of the visitors, M. Chapuis gave a short biographical exposé of the history of the City Swiss Club, mentioning that the Club was founded some 86 years ago in the City of London, and its membership had been, until recent years, confined to business men working in the City.

"To-day," — he said — "The City Swiss Club counts amongst its members, Doctors, Scientists,

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Engineers, Journalists and representatives of the Catering Trade. The City Swiss Club is purely a social institution, and its principal aims are to foster good comradeship amongst its members based upon a deep and sincere patriotic conviction."

The address of the President was much applauded by the entire gathering.

It was then announced that Minister Sulzer, the Head of the Delegation would speak to the company.

On rising, Minister Sulzer received an enthusiastic ovation, especially when he mentioned that he would speak in "Schwyzerdütsch." It is a long time since we heard our homely dialect at any official gathering of the Club, and everyone felt as if a breeze from our beloved country had swept through the Banqueting Hall.

Minister Sulzer expressed, on behalf of his colleagues, his sincere thanks for the invitation extended to the Mission, "it is an honour," he said, "which we greatly appreciate." He voiced his pleasure at seeing amongst many friends present, his former "Stabs-trompeter" in the person of our member, Mr. Alfred Schmid, who, during the last Frontier occupation 1914-1918 so valiantly served him, when he was in command of a cavalry squadron.

The speaker then related that the Federal Council has entrusted him and his colleagues to support our Minister, Monsieur W. Thurnheer, in delicate and important negotiations with the British Government in relation to the Economic situation in Switzerland, concerning principally the Import of raw material, and the re-export of manufactured goods. Similar Delegations have been sent to various other countries.

The speaker gave a very interesting and pithy exposé of the position and the endeavours made to obtain certain concessions; in view of the fact that these negotiations are, — when writing this report — still not concluded, I must refrain from reporting further.

On resuming his seat Minister Sulzer was heartily cheered.

The next and last speaker was Professor Rappard, who spoke in excellent English. The applause which greeted him showed that he was no new-comer to the City Swiss Club, and he too expressed his pleasure at being amongst his compatriots in London.

He said that the Swiss to-day are all united and prepared to fight for their existence and their independence. An aggressor from whichever side he should come would find that he has an opponent who will fight to the last for all that is dear to him.

Professor Rappard pointed out, that the Swiss Government, which is not in too an enviable position has so far, thanks to her adherence to a strict and impartial neutrality, earned the confidence of all countries; he said that if Switzerland is respected to-day, it is greatly due to the statesmanship of the late Federal Councillor G. Motta, who, through his incessant endeavours and guided by idealistic principles has gained an universal reputation.

The speaker then gave a description of life in Switzerland as it is to-day, mentioning amongst other facts the scarcity of taxi-cabs and motor-cars, due to the fact that petroleum which reaches our country through Germany is not on a very big scale; he said, that f.i., in Geneva there were more than 7,000 houses either to let or for sale.

In concluding his address which was listened to with the greatest interest, Professor Rappard said that life in Switzerland, although hampered by a good many irksome restrictions, is bearable and that, when one realises the hardships and privation with which other countries have to contend, our people should be grateful and should willingly bear the existing inconveniences.

Seldom has a visitor to the City Swiss Club earned the genuine applause, which was so spontaneously given, more than Professor Rappard, who possesses amongst many other qualifications the invaluable gift of a fine and lucid orator.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the City Swiss Club was greatly honoured by the company of such distinguished guests; everyone who attended this splendid gathering left with the conviction, that our Government has chosen well and wisely the men who are to conduct the negotiations which are for our country of such vital interest. May their deliberations be fruitful and accompanied with success, this is our most fervent wish, and in the meantime we extend to them the thanks for their labours in one of the gravest hours our homeland is passing through.

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Amongst those not already mentioned, were present:

C. A. Aeschimann, B. Appelbaum, T. H. Ascott, E. Bachofen, A. Baenziger, H. C. Balser, O. Bartholdi, A. C. Baume, W. Beckmann, J. H. Berger, H. Binggely, A. Bleiker, A. Bloch, M. Boller, A. Bon, J. J. Boos, M. Bowen, W. Breiting, P. Bucher, W. Burren, C. Campart, A. Candrian, V. P. Ceresole, Ch. Chapuis, R. de Cintra, A. W. Cockerill, H. W. Comfort, W. Deutsch, S. Dreyfus and Guest, J. Dubs, J. J. Eberli, Dr. Egli, E. Eha, E. Fankhauser, Chas. Fer, C. Filliez and Guest, J. Fischer, O. Frei, E. Frey, M. Gallusser, W. R. Gamper, W. E. Gattiker, A. Gerschwieler, W. Glauser, E. Glauser, E. A. Grau, J. L. Guggenheim, Ch. Gysin, Dr. G. Haefely, H. Hafter, M. Hartmann, J. Hausermann, C. Hausermann, G. Jenne, L. Jobin, J. J. Keller, S. Kemp, A. Kern, K. Kirchheimer, I. Kululundis, F. Kung, Hans Kung, C. Krebs, L. W. Krucker, F. A. Lanfranchi, A. Laemle, M. Leuba, O. Leutenegger, S. Lorisignol, M. Lugeon, G. Marchand, R. Marchand, M. Mathez, F. Matthey, B. M. Mavroleon, C. Mayr, W. Meier, J. Meier, P. Moehr, N. A. Mozer, C. Nater, E. Norton, M. A. Oboussier, H. Oswald, Dr. Hugo Rast, R. F. Reed, E. Reichenbach, A. Renou, F. E. Rittmeyer, T. Ritter, O. Rhon, R. J. G. Rolfe, A. Rueff, R. Ryf, A. Saager, Richard Saager, M. Saurat, J. Schmid, A. Schmid, E. Schmid, A. Schorno, M. Schumacher, J. A. Seiffert, C. E. Seinet, R. Senn, G. H. Smith, F. G. Sommer, J. H. Speich, M. Spitzer, Ch. de Steiger, H. Steiner, A. Steinmann, E. G. Suter, M. Trench, E. Ulmann, C. A. Wade, P. Walser, R. de Watteville, E. Werner, A. Wettstein, O. E. Wetzler, A. Widmer, F. Wiles, C. H. Willi, P. de Wolff, G. Wuthrich, J. Zimmermann, F. Zogg, A. M. Zullig.

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