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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, May 10th, was attended by about 70 members.

Mr. J. J. Boos, who presided, regretted to inform the members that during the recent bombing of Schaffhausen, the K.V. building in that town was slightly damaged and that two members of the Section unfortunately lost their lives.

The President then referred to the business transacted at the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V., held at Geneva on May 6th and 7th, to which the London Section had sent a telegram conveying best wishes. He was also pleased to report that the Swiss National Old Age and Invalidity Insurance scheme was making progress and that our Central Secretary, National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, was one of the members of the National Committee. From discussions so far reported, there is every hope that with the year 1948 this scheme should become a reality, a fitting year seeing that it will be the centenary of the new Federal Constitution.

The ladies group has already met on two occasions and one concrete result of their endeavours was evinced by the fact that quite a number of lady members, who had previously not taken an active part in our deliberations, were present and showed a keen interest in the proceedings. A further tangible proof of their interest in the members' welfare generally was an announcement that they will arrange for tea and refreshments to be served prior to the meeting on June 14th.

Mr. W. Meier, Vice-President, was able to report that apart from the French Circle and the Russian Elementary Class, which had already been in progress, a Class for French (Elementary) had also been formed and would shortly start working.

The meeting learnt with regret of the resignation through ill health of our Swiss Minister, Dr. W. Thurnheer, and it was resolved to send a letter expressing the Society's thanks for the keen interest he had shown in the S.M.S. during his stay in London and best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

When the new Minister, Mr. P. Ruegger, arrives, the

Society will take an early opportunity of making contact with him.

The meeting was followed by a talk on Company Law and the Companies Act 1929 by Mr. W. Woodhouse sen., who practised law for over 50 years and whose firm in 1929 acted as legal advisers to the S.M.S. when the Society was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Mr. Woodhouse, from his vast experience, gave the members a very lucid outline of the Law. He also explained in great detail the working of both private and public companies, their formation and registration, directors meetings, annual general meetings of shareholders, internal organisation etc., and finally their liquidation. He was able to enlighten the members on many special points of which not even those with many years experience in company matters had cognisance.

A very animated and interesting discussion followed the address. Questions were put by a large number of members and many were able to give useful hints from their own experience.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin explained the reasons which prompted the S.M.S. to register as a Company Limited by Guarantee and referred to the safeguards and obligations resulting therefrom to the members.

Mr. W. Beckmann, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Woodhouse, who incidentally celebrated his 80th birthday the day previous, complimented him on his lucidity and the splendid manner in which he had dealt with an intricate subject. This was seconded by Mr. W. Deutsch and endorsed by the meeting with prolonged acclamation.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, June 14th at 7 p.m., preceded by refreshments which will be served from 5.30 onwards.

Following the meeting there will be another discussion amongst members, the subject being "WHAT WE SHOULD AIM AT IN EDUCATION." Mr. W. Meier will be the principal speaker and it is hoped that many members will take part in what should prove a most interesting discussion.

WB.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

The Monthly Meeting of the N.S.H. was held at Swiss House on Saturday, May 20th.

The large number of members present gave a very warm welcome to the President, Mr. A. F. Suter, who had recovered sufficiently from his injuries to come to London for this meeting. Mr. Gottfried Keller voiced the feelings of all members when he wished Mr. Suter a speedy and complete recuperation.

Following the official proceedings, Mr. Keller gave his customary talk on current events. The members were particularly interested to hear the latest news from Switzerland. He also gave an excellent survey of world events and as usual a most interesting discussion ensued.

A hearty ovation was accorded to Mr. Keller by an appreciative audience before the close of the meeting.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Saturday, June 17th.

WB.

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