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tion and understanding of the British Navy; of price control which kept strict watch on increases of wages and prices of commodities, proving to be a blessing in disguise. Under Economics the Social Peace was also mentioned, old age pensions founded on a 2% wages deduction, and finally in that field should be mentioned the granting of credits, the arranging of exhibitions and the raw material position as it affected chemical and engineering industry.

Another point raised was the activity of the 5th Column, and the firm attitude of the Department of Justice and Police was much to be admired in view of continual and varied threats from the powers surrounding Switzerland. Nevertheless, the Swiss press insisted on a fearless attitude and whilst censorship was exercised to some extent, our papers bravely defended the neutral point of view. These departments, under the care of Dr. Rotmund and Mr. Scheim had to deal with up to 300,000 exiles, and the terrific tension which such a huge influx of homeless, displaced and asylum-seeking persons must have created, commands the ad-

miration of all those who were silent spectators. The Rückwanderung Komitee is having under its special care the 60,000 Swiss so far returned, often penniless and sometimes despairing, three months help and more is given and both the Federal Treasury and private relief funds are assisting and relieving in no uncertain manner. Many of these people who occupied leading positions abroad have adapted themselves very quickly and are, no doubt, producing much good work in their turn.

The debit balance of our country has risen to an enormous figure, and whilst the position is indeed difficult, the currency is sound and the outlook confident.

The Federal Railways do not earn their keep yet, but as servants to the public they are doing an excellent job which visitors to our country will increasingly appreciate.

The Postal system has agreed to three distributions.

On the Radio question there are, of course, differences of opinion on programmes, yet every endeavour has been made to offer feasible and acceptable entertainment to every type of listener.

The Interior Department ably led by Dr. Etter concerned itself seriously with higher, particularly technical education, cultural developments and relations with established colonies in foreign lands, a task now largely handled by Pro Helvetia in which Society Dr. Laett, we were happy to learn, occupies an important position.

Another point touched upon is the question of Votes for Women, the much discussed relation of Switzerland towards the United Nations which, we understand, the Swiss people are anxious to join provided they can do so with honour compatible with Swiss tradition. It was also pleasing to note that our relations with Russia had again been put on a sound footing, largely due to the efforts of Dr. Zellweger whom one might wish to be the first Minister in Moscow.

On relations with our immediate neighbours there is every hope that if Italy obtains a reasonable peace, trading conditions and inter-change of goods will again take place in the near future. The same can, of course, be said of France where conditions are improving. As to Germany nothing can be added, no relations exist with that country.

Mr. J. J. Huber, our new Manchester Consul, in proposing a heartiest vote of thanks for a most interesting and descriptive address, and Mr. Senn in seconding this proposal, expressed the feelings of all present.

We should fail in our duty if we did not here extend our gratitude to the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger at Berne who sponsored Dr. Laett's tour to this country.


HELM.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Education Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. is arranging courses of Evening Classes for various subjects as in previous years.

Language courses in English, French, Italian, German and Spanish, as well as Shorthand in English, French and German (system Stolze Schrey) will be formed should sufficient demand be forthcoming. Should you wish to partake in any of these subjects apply for further particulars to "Evening Classes," Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd., 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. Phone: Mus. 2894.

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## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Wednesday, May 8th. The Chairman, Mr. J. J. Boos, in welcoming the members present, expressed regret at the comparatively small attendance, which he attributed to the fact that our meeting coincided with another function in the Colony. It is to be hoped that such clashes will, if at all possible, be avoided in future in the interest of all concerned.

One new member, Mr. A. J. Staehelin, London Representative of O. S. E. C., was elected. Mr. Staehelin has shown a keen interest in our activities ever since he was appointed to his present post and his election was enthusiastically supported by all present.

Messrs. M. E. Hauwyler and J. J. Pfaendler were elected official delegates to represent the London Section at the Delegates' Meeting of the S. K. V. at Davos on May 25th and 26th. Our Section will, therefore, be represented for the first time since 1939 and another link with our association at home has thus been re-established.

Educational matters were reported on by Messrs. Meier and Marfut and as a full account of the reopening ceremony of the College can be found in this issue, suffice it to say that members were pleased to learn that the Society has at last been able to resume one of its main activities, the education of our young compatriots.

Arrangements can now be made to revive some of our Evening Classes, which were so popular a feature in our educational programme of pre-war years. Providing sufficient applications are received, courses will be held in English, French, Italian, German, Russian, etc., as well as Shorthand and other commercial subjects. Anyone interested should apply for fuller particulars to the Secretary, S.M.S. College, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. Phone: Mus. 2894.

The Ladies' Group, which held its Annual General Meeting on April 24th, reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mrs. Jenne, its very active Chairman, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was passed by the meeting for her valuable services to the Group in particular and the Society in general.

An new Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Mrs. M. Meier, with Miss R. Abate as Hon. Secretary and Miss L. Baertschi as Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. Meier, on behalf of the Ladies' Group, proposed a coach trip to Whipsnade one Sunday early this summer, a full day outing for members and their families, with a picnic luncheon and tea. This proposition was warmly welcomed by the meeting and it was decided to leave the necessary arrangements in the hands of the Ladies' Group and the General Purposes Committee. Fuller details will be circularised in due course.

Following the official part of the meeting, Miss Mary Butt, Secretary General of the International Bureau of Education at Geneva, addressed the members. Her lecture on "What can be done internationally for Peace and true Education," was a particularly fitting one, coming so shortly after the international conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in London, at which she was one of Great Britain's official delegates. Miss Butt referred to the tremendous power in education both for good and evil and the necessity for crea-

ting an international authority for education. She traced the many gallant attempts made in the past by eminent educationalists to create such an authority, which had, however, all proved abortive. Organisations such as the one she represented had no official status in the Comity of Nations, but progress had at last been made in so far as Education figured in the Charter of the United Nations, hence the creation of Unesco which will have its seat in Paris.

The aims and objects of this organisation were vividly described by Miss Butt and she said that it remained to be seen whether Unesco would succeed where the League of Nations had failed, i.e. to put education on a sound international basis in the interest of peace and true education. The problem will not be an easy one, since most nations still regard education as their prerogative and would strongly resent any outside interference. Miss Butt said that a great deal could be done by teachers and parents all over the world to further the aims of UNESCO in the interest of true international enlightenment.

A very animated and interesting discussion followed Miss Butt's address, in which several members present took part and finally a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Miss Butt for the excellent manner in which she had expounded her subject. Thanks are due to the Ladies' Group who had been instrumental in arranging this much appreciated lecture.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, June 12th at 7p.m., at which some of our members will relate their experiences and impressions on recent trips abroad. The meeting will be followed by a Table Tennis Match between teams of the Unione Ticinese and the S.M.S., to which members and friends of both Societies are cordially invited.

WB.



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