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SWISS BANK CORPORATION.
Cocktail Party at the
Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel.

As mentioned in one of the previous issues of the "Swiss Observer" the "Schweiz. Bankverein" has recently celebrated its 75th Jubilee.

This event, I understand, has been duly celebrated in Switzerland, and in order to follow suite, and to mark the occasion, the London Office invited its staff to a cocktail party, on Monday, June 30th, 1947, at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, E.C.

It was a happy idea of the Management to request the company of their former and present collaborators to an informal party, thus giving them an opportunity to mix freely in a congenial way, outside their daily meeting place.

Over four hundred Ladies and Gentlemen assembled in the large Hall of the Great Eastern Hotel, in which were tables spread with appetising delicacies and refreshments of all kinds.

Whilst, I highly appreciated the invitation extended to me by the Management on this occasion, as the only outsider, it has been something of an ordeal. "Gate-crashers" are nowhere very popular, and on this special occasion it required all my wit (which some of my constant readers do not estimate as one of my outstanding qualities) to explain my presence. Some of my old friends of the Swiss Bank Corporation, thought, that by a "fluke" I had now joined their illustrious circle, and have landed, or been left stranded, in the Banking world.

However, I must admit, that I felt exceedingly happy amongst them, in fact, I was staggered to see with what eagerness they kept me supplied with all the good things which were available, and I sincerely hope, that if I should, at one time or other, require some attention in a purely business matter, I shall meet with the same attention and cordiality.

It is too much of a good thing to hope that an occasion of this kind could be celebrated without at least some speeches, but let me tell you the one's given were short, witty and enjoyable.

Before I give a short *résumé* of what was said, I would like to mention that the company was honoured by the presence of two former Managers of the London Office, who have since become General Managers, namely Messrs. M. Golay and A. Nussbaumer, who both are well-known in the Swiss Colony in London.

Another item worth mentioning is, that the Staff had the option of having a proper banquet with about seven courses (I don't think) or accepting a food parcel, similar to the one sent some time ago. I have been told, that they almost unanimously chose the latter, no doubt, owing to pressure from home quarters, which goes to prove that Bankers are not only practical but obedient people.

The first speaker of the evening was Dr. P. de Wolff, Manager of the London Office, who, on stepping before the microphone, received a hearty ovation.

Dr. de Wolff said that he did not think that many were present who were older than the Bank, but expressed the hope that all those in attendance would still be going strong, when the Bank reached its first century.

He expressed his pleasure in welcoming Messrs. Golay and Nussbaumer, who by their presence gave a token of their personal interest in the welfare and the development of the London Office, and thus proved that they had not forgotten the days when they were in London.

Dr. de Wolff continued by saying that at the outbreak of the war about 120 members of the staff joined the colours, and those who have joined the Bank since, had almost all come from the services.

In a very witty way he referred to the times when both Management and Staff joined in fire-watching during the last war, saying by doing so they were brought closely together, and began to know and appreciate each other better.

He informed the company that Mr. Wangler was leaving the London Office to join their New York Office, wishing him luck and happiness in his new sphere of activity.

Dr. de Wolff terminated his address by inviting the assembly to drink to the future prosperity of the Swiss Bank Corporation coupling with it the names of Messrs. Golay and Nussbaumer.

This toast was responded to with great enthusiasm, and the speaker's words were vociferously cheered. The "toasting" was kept up with great perseverance by both sexes and came only to a close when Mr. Golay, General Manager at the Head Office, came to the microphone. He too was accorded a hearty reception.

Mr. Golay said that it gave him great pleasure to celebrate the foundation of the Bank in the midst of his old friends and members of the London Branch, a pleasure which was shared by his colleague of the General Management present.

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Jm Winter gleiches Haus in Arosa Sporthotel Valsana

After extending a special welcome to his friend and former colleague, Mr. Lorsignol, he continued by saying:—

“ I also observe many new faces, many of you, I believe, have served in the Forces. Having been myself a sergeant in the Swiss Army, I wish to extend to you a most hearty welcome, I would like also to tell you all, and particularly the English portion of the staff, how much we Swiss in Switzerland, who have been spared, at great cost, the horrors of the war, admire the discipline, bravery and fortitude with which the British people are fighting against adverse circumstances. I have at the bottom of my heart not the slightest doubt, that the energy and the intelligence of the British people will enable them to surmount sooner than it is expected the great difficulties of to-day.” (Applause)

The speaker said that the Managers of the London Office were told during the difficult years of the war how much the splendid behaviour of the London staff was appreciated, and it gave him pleasure to express to-day in person his own and the thanks of his colleagues for the sense of duty which they had shown during those years.

Mr. Golay mentioned that a gathering of this kind would give everybody the possibility of making contact with each other, expressing the wish that this contact would remain.

In conclusion the speaker said that the Management are studying at present a scheme whereby an allowance will be granted, according to material possibilities, in order to help the staff to overcome the present cost of living. (Long and loud applause.)

Mr. Alec Smith, then replied on behalf of the Staff, thanking both Mr. Golay and Mr. Nussbaumer for having specially come over from Switzerland for this occasion. He also expressed the appreciation of his colleagues to Dr. de Wolff for what he had said, and for the generous promise of a Food parcel, cost of living bonus and for the party which was greatly enjoyed.

As in the meantime the refreshments had all been consumed, the company slowly dispersed, gaily and in high spirits, because of what they had had, and what was “to come.” With an envious heart, I left the Abercorn Rooms, because food parcels and Bonuses seem only to be reserved for Bankers, but nevertheless it was a pleasure to attend, and I wish the Swiss Bank Corporation

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

ST.

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA.**Swiss Crew at Henley.**

The only Swiss entry at the Henley Royal Regatta, which began on Thursday, July 5th, 1947, was the Ruder Club, Zurich, the See Club, Zurich, having previously withdrawn their entry.

On the first day of the Regatta the Swiss crew was opposed by the London Rowing Club, “A” crew in the Grand Challenge Cup, which race they won in fine style by 1½ lengths.

On Friday, the Ruder Club, Zurich was up against the strong Jesus College Cambridge “A” crew, who, the previous day had beaten Leander Club, the holders of the cup.

It was a great and thrilling performance, the crews rowed level all the way to the Mile post up the enclosures, within 200 yards of the finish Jesus made a spurt which Zurich were unable to answer, and they lost by half a length in 7 min. 22 sec.

Amongst this year's Zurich crew were four oarsmen who rowed at Henley in July 1936, when the Ruder Club, Zurich, won the Grand Challenge Cup (against Leander); the Stewards' Challenge Cup (against Leander) and the Diamond Challenge Sculls, E. Rufli (against J. H. Tyler), namely: E. Rufli, K. Schmid, H. Betschart and O. Neuenschwander.

It was largely due to the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, that the Ruder Club, Zurich, was able to compete in 1936, when, through the intermediary of the “Swiss Observer” an amount of over £100 was collected to defray a part of the expenses.

During this year's stay the Zurich crew were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Claisse at Purbeck & Little Purbeck, Shiplake, who made their stop a very agreeable one. Madame Claisse, the charming hostess was born in Neuchâtel.

On Saturday evening, after the conclusion of the races, they invited the Swiss crew and a large number of guests, amongst them the Swiss Minister and Madame Ruegger, to a cocktail party at their beautiful home at Shiplake, and it was there that we had an opportunity to interview members of the crew.

Needless to say the crew were not a little disappointed at not having, as in previous years, reached the final, but in good sportsmanship they admitted that their opponents were just a trifle too good, and therefore deserved to win.

Mr. E. Rufli, who, took the Diamonds for two years in succession (1935 and 1936) told the writer, that it was a great disappointment to the crew to watch this year's final from the “tribune.”

Monsieur Ruegger, the Swiss Minister, congratulated the crew on their fine performance, wishing them good luck for next year's Olympic games, a wish in which we join heartily.

The Zurich crew left early on Sunday morning *en route* for Switzerland.

Crew: H. Betschart, bow, O. Neuenschwander, M. Wolfensberger, K. Albicker, W. Betschart, E. Rufli, G. Oehinger, K. Schmid, stroke, W. Barth, cox.

ST.