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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



R. DE CINTRA,
President,
City Swiss Club.

As will be seen in another part of this paper, Mr. R. de Cintra, has been elected President of the City Swiss Club, on the occasion of the General Meeting, which took place on Tuesday, April 29th, 1947, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.

Mr. de Cintra, who, for the second time occupies the Chair, having been President of the Club in 1922, is a native of Chêne Bougeries, a commune of Geneva. He was the son of a medical practitioner in Geneva and received his education in that town.

After having been for some time with a Banking Institute, he arrived in this country in February 1912, in order to join the old family business of Messrs. Dimier Brothers, of which he belongs to the fourth generation.

Faithful also to a family tradition, he at once took an interest in the affairs of the Swiss Colony. He entered the City Swiss Club in February 1913, and shortly afterwards was elected on the committee, to which, with the interruption of one year (1920/21), he belongs to this day.

His activity in the Colony was, however, not confined to the City Swiss Club alone, right from the beginning he interested himself in the work of the Swiss Benevolent Society, where he rendered some good services as a voluntary helper and where he became eventually one of their stewards.

After the death of Mr. Charles Barbezat, he became President of the Swiss Sports, this popular annual event had to be abandoned during the last war, and it is hoped, that under his leadership a revival of this Sports festival will be effected.

Being a member of a concern which represents one of the principal industries of our country, he belongs to the Council for the Study of Swiss Problems, where he occupies the post of Hon. Treasurer, and President of the Watch section. Mr. de Cintra is also President of the "Cercle Genevois," and as such has presided over the annual Escalade celebrations from 1914 onwards.

For many years he took a keen interest in Trade Association work, which brought him in touch with the London Wholesale Jewellers & Allied Trade Association, on which institution he sits on the Council, and is Chairman of their Watch committee.

In 1920, he married the daughter of the late Mr. George Dimier, the "grand old man" of the Swiss

Colony, and he is the proud father of three children, two daughters and one son.

During the war years he joined the Civil Defence Service as a warden, where he was in charge of more than 450 Fire Guards in his district, thus doing his share of duty for the country which has given to us Swiss such long and generous hospitality.

One would think that an active life like his, would leave little time for hobbies, and yet Mr. de Cintra is a keen reader and an enthusiastic mountaineer.

Although the principal part of his life (35 years) has been spent in this country, he has remained a true and faithful Swiss, one of his chief endeavours is, and has been to foster cordial Anglo-Swiss relations and understanding; as this is one of the chief aims of the City Swiss Club, he is a worthy successor to the late President, Mr. A. Bon, who has been such a successful exponent of this policy.

Mr. de Cintra has expressed to the writer his regrets, about his "Complete ignorance" of "Schwyzerdütsch," this, I am sure will be forgiven him, and those of the members not belonging to the "gauche," as our French-speaking compatriots are described as in the Club, will endeavour to speak, when using one of our national languages, French, even if it is only "le Français Fédéral."

In congratulating Mr. de Cintra on his election to the Presidency of the Club, which enjoys a great reputation in the Swiss Colony, we wish him a successful year of office in his responsible position for the benefit of the City Swiss Club in particular and for the London Swiss Colony in general.

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