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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, May 12th, and was attended by a large number of members and friends, who were welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. W. Meier.

The chief item on the agenda was the President's report on the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Lucerne on May 1st and 2nd. As this was the 75th Anniversary Meeting of the association, it was fitting that London, as the largest foreign Section, was represented by a delegation consisting of no less than eight members, three of whom had been officially deputed whilst the others made the journey either on business or combined with their holidays. The following were present: Mr. W. Meier, President; Mr. L. W. Krucker, Vice-President; Mr. W. Burren, Hon. Secretary; Mr. M. Heiling, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. J. J. Boos, Hon. Member of the Central Society; Messrs. O. Grob and F. Streit, Members of the Council; and Mr. J. J. Pfaendler, on behalf of the Employment Department.

A specially cordial reception was accorded to the delegations from abroad, which, apart from London, included Milan and Paris.

In an all-day meeting held on Saturday at the Kunsthalle, 480 Delegates, representing over 100 Sections with some 50,000 members, dealt with a heavy agenda in a very business-like manner. The opening address was given by Mr. K. Strickler, Central President, who reviewed the activities of the S.K.V. during the past year. In a spirited address, National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, General Secretary of the S.K.V., referred to the problems arising from the boom period in Swiss industry and its effect on commercial education. Several important resolutions bearing on salary adjustments, collective contracts of employment, finance reform, etc., were passed after lively discussion.

The Jubilee Meeting, at which 1,500 members were present, took place on Sunday morning, when Federal Councillor Rubattel delivered the principal address. As the jubilee coincided with the centenary of the Federal State, the high magistrate fittingly chose as his subject.

1848—1948. A fruitful Epoch in our National Life.

It was at this function that 33 members were honoured for 50 years' membership of the association, 19 of whom were present at this very impressive ceremony. Amongst the names figured two members of the London Section, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, who, alas, is no longer with us, and Mr. Louis Chapuis, who was unable to attend for business reasons. Both were mentioned specially by Mr. Strickler in his address.

At a dinner of welcome in honour of the Delegates, which preceded the main function, the Lucerne Section, to whom the organisation of the Jubilee Meeting had been entrusted, as it was there that the association was founded seventy-five years ago, presented the S.M.S. and its Delegates with attractive fruit bowls in art ceramic, the centre depicting the famous water tower and bridge in Lucerne, and suitably inscribed. These mementos were much appreciated and acknowledged by the President in a short address. The one presented to the Society will find a place of honour in the Members Room at Swiss House. The S.M.S., on the other hand, presented two volumes "London Triumphant" and "Photographs of England" by The Times, to the Lucerne Section and the Central Committee respectively. These tokens of appreciation were

warmly acknowledged by the recipients and will find a suitable place in their libraries.

Mr. W. Burren, Hon. Secretary, also gave his impressions of the meetings, reporting in particular on the very successful social evening on Saturday at the Kunsthalle. The entertainment was provided by the Male Choir, the Orchestra and the Gymnastic Sections of the K.V. Lucerne. Other items of special attraction added to an excellent and most enjoyable programme. Equally fine and impressive was the performance of the combined Male Choirs of the Aarau, Baden, Winterthur, Zurich and Lucerne Sections, together with the Orchestra of the latter, on Sunday morning.

At a Banquet held on Sunday at the "Schweizerhof," the Town President of Lucerne, National Councillor Wey, in a witty speech conveyed the greetings of the Town of Lucerne. Greetings and congratulations were also conveyed by the following: Mr. A. Schwander, Chief of the Department for professional education of the "Bundesamt für Industrie, Gewerbe und Arbeit," Mr. H. Wachter on behalf of the "Vorort des Handels- und Industrievereins," and finally Mr. B. Marty on behalf of the V.S.A. and Schweiz. Gewerkschaftsbund. Grossrat H. Troendle, the genial and efficient Secretary of the Lucerne Section, who, incidentally is a former student of the S.M.S., acted as M.C.

At the conclusion of his Report, the Chairman handed the Plaque awarded for fifty years' membership to our late Hon. Member, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, to his son, Mr. O. F. Boehringer, who is himself a member of the S.M.S., and to Mr. Louis Chapuis, who was able to receive it in person. This simple ceremony was warmly applauded by all present and Mr. Louis Chapuis, in expressing thanks for the honour bestowed on him, regretted that his one-time colleague was no longer with us. He recalled some of his experiences in the early days of the Society's existence and was proud to have seen the S.M.S. growing from a modest beginning to its present importance. He concluded by saying that he had made his début and received his crowning success at the S.M.S.

Finally, the Chairman handed a fruit-bowl to Mr. A. C. Stahelin, Hon. Member of the Central Society, who had been unable to attend the Delegates' Meeting owing to business reasons, and to Mr. J. J. Schneider, Secretary, for long and faithful service. This was suitably acknowledged by both recipients.

The next Monthly Meeting of the Society will be held at Swiss House on Wednesday, June 9th, at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a Social Evening.

W.B.

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