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THE SWISS MINISTER AT THE CITY SWISS CLUB.

Nearly eighty members were present at the Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club, which was held at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, on Tuesday, June 15th, 1948.

The President, Mr. R de Cintra, in opening the Meeting, extended a hearty welcome to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, on his first visit to the Club, expressing the hope that the relations between the Club and the head of our diplomatic mission would be as cordial as they have been in the past.

Mr. de Cintra also expressed his pleasure at having the following Gentlemen as guests of the Club: Professor G. de Beer, Monsieur B. Gagnepin, Professor Giddey, Monsieur Vuilleminier and M. Bonvin.

It was proposed and greeted with acclamation, that the Swiss Minister, should be nominated "Président d'honneur" of the City Swiss Club, and Monsieur de Torrenté was duly elected to this office, which many of his predecessors had occupied with such distinction.

The Swiss Minister, who was heartily applauded on rising, expressed his pleasure at having been thus honoured, saying that he greatly appreciated the distinction bestowed on him, especially as, for many years he had been aware of the good name which the City Swiss Club enjoys amongst the Swiss Societies abroad. The Minister said, that in spite of the great age of the Club, which is entering on its 92nd year, it has remained young and has conserved its vitality.

He referred to the many distinguished personalities, in all walks of life, who have addressed the Club in the past, and thus created such a happy bond of friendship between the two countries. The Minister said that he was glad to see that the tradition of the City Swiss Club, which was so efficiently kept up by the late President, Mr. Anton Bon, was carried on in the same spirit by Monsieur de Cintra.

Monsieur de Torrenté, expressed the hope that the approaching centenary of the Club would once more justify its existence and importance in the life of the Swiss Colony in London.

Loud applause greeted the words of our new Honorary President.

Monsieur de Cintra then called on Professor de Beer, whom, he rightly termed as one of the best friends Switzerland ever had. The latter expressed, in perfect French, his pleasure at having been asked to be the guest of the City Swiss Club, an honour which he greatly appreciated. In a humorous vein, he entertained the members of the Club with some reminiscences during the last war in which he served as a Colonel on the Staff of Field-Marshall Montgomery.

Professor de Beer referred to the eminent services which were rendered by our former Minister, Dr. Paul Ruegger, in cementing the friendship between this country and ours, and alluded to the recent visit and reception held in honour of General Guisan, whom he termed as "a great and distinguished soldier."

The excellent address by Professor de Beer was enthusiastically acknowledged by the entire company.

Monsieur Gagnepin, who was the next speaker, referred to the relations between the city of Geneva and Great Britain throughout the ages in a competent and interesting manner, and Professor Giddey voiced his high appreciation for the hospitality extended by this country to all scholars and students.

A most instructive and interesting Meeting thus came to a close, a meeting which by its intimacy and friendliness was enjoyed by all those present, and I can but congratulate the President, M. de Cintra on having, by his witty and efficient conducting of the Meeting added greatly to the enjoyment of all those present.

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BERNESE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION IN LONDON.

On the occasion of the introduction of a new direct Air Service between Berne and London by Swissair, a delegation consisting of the following Gentlemen arrived in London on the 15th of this month:

Dr. Siegenthaler, President of the Cantonal Government;
S. Brawant, Member of the Cantonal Government;
Dr. F. Raafaub, Président de la Compagnie d'Aviation de Berne;
Dr. H. Aeschbacher, Directeur de la Société Alpar;
M. H. Giger, Vice-Président de l'Union du Commerce et de l'Industrie de Berne;
M. J. Gauer, Président de la Société des Hôteliers de la ville de Berne.

The members of the delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House on the 16th inst., where Dr. Siegenthaler, President of the Government of the canton of Berne, presented a "Sumiswaldner" clock to him, as a token of friendship and esteem from the Bernese authorities.

In his address, in English, Dr. Siegenthaler stressed the necessity for friendly relations between the two countries.

A cocktail party was held on Wednesday, June 16th, at the Dorchester Hotel, to which heads of the Travel and Tourist agencies, Railway companies, representatives of the English and Swiss Press were invited. The Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, also attended the party.

Mr. J. Gauer, Président de la Société des Hôteliers de la ville de Berne, in a very happy little speech, expressed to the guests his, and the Delegation's pleasure at seeing them turning up in such large numbers. He said, that the linking up by air between the two capitals was a joyful event, and expressed the hope that many of our English friends would travel by that route to one of the prettiest mediaeval cities in Europe right in the centre of Switzerland.

The Delegation again left by air on the 18th of this month.

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