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have been largely made good. As a good economist, he warned that when making comparisons with past result the diminished purchasing power of money should be taken into account, and that when looking into the future, the change of conditions from a sellers' to a buyers' market is not to be overlooked. A large anonymous donation had also played a part. The Society, through its Committee and Members had loyally collaborated in the various functions in the Swiss Colony, notably on the occasion of the 1st August celebration, while in its turn the Unione acknowledges the co-operation received from sister societies, particularly the Swiss Mercantile whose tenants we are. Representatives had been sent to two important events at home. Mr. De Maria further paid a tribute to Dr. Felice Gianini, the honorary central President of the "Pro Ticino" for 25 broken years of editorship of the association's bulletin, "Ticino."

But this year is Jubilee Year for the Society and when opening the meeting the President, Mr. Carlo Berti, in moving words commemorated our departed founding members who had met on the 8th February, 1874, to establish what had proved itself through 75 eventful years a leader in the social life of the Ticinese community.

In such circumstances it was fitting that for the election of the new Committee (operation Kingmaking) the chair should be taken by our Socio Benemerito Oscar Gambazzi, in spite of some reluctance on his part owing to poor health. Not all offices could be filled automatically and some polling had to be resorted to. These were the chosen few:—President, C. Berti—Vice-President, P. De Maria—Secretary, E. Berti—Vice-Secretary, P. Jacomelli—Treasurer, V. Berti—Collector, L. Biucchi—Members: F. Bassi, L. Bruni, G. Diviani, G. Eusebio and L. Jacomelli.

General regret was evoked by Mr. P. De Maria's intention to give up the Secretaryship which he had discharged for eighteen consecutive years in a most distinguished and efficient manner. There was, therefore, enthusiastic response to Mr. V. Berti's proposal that Mr. De Maria be nominated a "socio benemerito" of the Unione Ticinese.

Before this deserved recognition of loyal service, the meeting had approved unchanged the sickness benefits, the admission of one contributory member and the usual donations to the Fonds de Secours and various hospitals. Finally the President read a letter received from our Minister, M. Henry de Torrenté, in which he acknowledged receipt of the Resolution passed by the joint meeting of December last concerning the Swiss Old Age and Survivors Insurance and stated that it had been transmitted to the competent authority in Switzerland.

After the President had given assurance that plans will soon be made for a suitable celebration of the 75th Anniversary, the Meeting was declared closed.

To end we would like to extend hearty congratulations to Mr. Carlo Berti, not only on his confirmation in the Chair but also for the fact that including the Sezione Femminile, five members of his family now fill the major offices which the Ticinese community can bestow and this is no doubt a tangible token of appreciation for the Berti's willing efforts when there is something to be done for the Canton Ticino. Bravo.

J.E.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society (Limited by Guarantee) was held at the Swiss Club, Charlotte Street, on Wednesday, February 16th.

The meeting, which was preceded by a supper, was attended by about seventy members, including several past Presidents and Veteran Members, to whom the Chairman, Mr. W. Meier, extended a cordial welcome.

The Secretary, Mr. J. J. Schneider, read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report.

In presenting the accounts for the period under review, the auditor, Mr. Robert P. Huxley, A.C.A., stated that these were modelled on statutory lines to comply with the Companies Act 1948. The increased educational activities were reflected in both income and expenditure, which showed a marked upward trend. It is anticipated that the deficit, as in previous years, will be covered by a subsidy receivable from the Swiss Government. Turning to the Balance Sheet, the auditor stated that the assets had remained practically unchanged and that the Society's financial position could be considered very sound and liquid, the investments being readily convertible.

Surveying the activities of the past year, the Chairman gave a comprehensive review of the outstanding events, the 60th anniversary of the S.M.S., the 75th Jubilee of the S.K.V. and the 25th anniversary of the College, as well as the Monthly Meetings, which have already been fully reported in the Swiss Observer.

At the close of the year, the Society was composed of 23 Honorary Members, 286 Active Members, 60 Contributing Members and Donors, and 20 Corresponding Members. There were 21 admissions during the year and 8 resignations, 5 of which were transfers to Swiss Sections.

Reviewing the activities of the College, the Chairman stated that with the completion of bomb damage repairs, which had made additional class rooms available, the maximum number of students which could be accommodated at Swiss House had been admitted last summer. As in the previous year, three courses of 15–16 weeks' duration were held, for which about 400 students in all were enrolled.

The curriculum was varied and the teaching staff had been increased to seven fully qualified lecturers.

Of the 169 students who sat for the diploma examination, which is open to advanced students only and a severe test in the whole range of subjects taught, 124 of 73% were successful.

Mr. E. Steiner, a Trustee of the Society, attended the examinations regularly and thanks are due to him for his continued interest in the work and progress of the students.

There was a further increase in the demand for evening classes, mostly from Swiss girls in domestic employment. It was possible to make the necessary arrangements for them at Swiss House, the majority of the classes having been in the care of teachers at the College. The subjects taught included English in the various stages, commercial correspondence and shorthand. In all 25 classes were held with a total of 345 students in attendance.

The Employment Department continued to render valuable services to Swiss men and women seeking employment in this country and overseas. The importance

of the work carried on by the Manager, Mr. J. J. Pfaendler, who last year completed 40 years' service, could be gauged by the fact that during this time he had placed no fewer than 6,000 compatriots in commercial offices.

His vitality and industry seemed inexhaustible and it was to be hoped that he would be able to carry on his valuable work for many years to come.

Finally the Chairman expressed thanks to all who had actively and financially supported the Society in the past year and thus helped to further its cause.

Mr. L. W. Krucker, Chairman of the House Committee, briefly reported on the activities of his Committee. Chief of these was the signing of the leases for Nos. 34 & 35, Fitzroy Square. The Society is at present housed at No. 35, whilst possession of the adjoining building, No. 34, part of the original Swiss House, will be taken by the S.M.S. in May 1953. This finally secured accommodation for the Society and its College until May 1953, when the two leases will expire.

Mr. Krucker expressed appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. G. E. De Brunner, as well as his co-Trustees, Messrs. W. Eichenberger and E. Steiner, in the protracted negotiations with the Landlord and the Solicitors.

Considerable sums had been spent in restoring and furnishing Swiss House and the substantial balance of the College Re-establishment Fund was being kept in reserve for the time when No. 34 would be taken over.

This concluded the Council's report for 1948 and a motion that the report and the accounts be adopted, printed and circulated was passed with acclamation, thanks being expressed to the President for the masterly manner in which he had drawn up the report.

The auditor, Mr. Robert Huxley, A.C.A., who had been congratulated on the lucid manner in which he had presented the accounts, was re-appointed for the financial year 1949.

The meeting then proceeded with the election of the Council and the Committees, with Mr. Louis Chapuis, Veteran Member of the S.K.V., acting as Chairman *pro tem.*

He paid a tribute to Mr. De Brunner, who, like himself, had been honoured with the bronze plaque of

the S.K.V. for 50 years' membership, and related some amusing incidents in the early life of the Society.

Following is the composition of the Council and the Committees for the year 1949 :—

*Council* :—Chairman : Mr. W. Meier; Vice-Chairman : Mr. L. W. Krucker; Trustees : Messrs. G. E. De Brunner, W. Eichenberger, E. Steiner; Members : J. J. Boos, W. Burren, R. Chappuis, O. Grob, M. Heilinger, E. A. Hueni, G. Jenne, J. J. Pfaendler, A. C. Stahelin, A. Steinman and F. Streit.

*General Purposes Committee* :—President : M. W. Meier; Vice-Presidents : Messrs. E. A. Hueni and L. W. Krucker; Hon. Secretary : Mr. W. Burren; Hon. Treasurer : Mr. M. Heilinger; Members : Mrs. R. Foot, Messrs. F. A. Rufener, E. H. Schlatter, J. E. Schneider, R. Senn.

*Education Committee* :—Chairman : Mr. E. A. Hueni; Vice-Chairman : Mr. H. Marfurt; Members : Messrs. W. Burren, F. Burri, E. M. Huber, A. A. Jaccard, H. Knoll.

*House Committee* :—Chairman : Mr. L. W. Krucker; Vice-Chairman : Mr. O. Grob; Members : Mrs. G. Jenne and Mr. W. Fuchs.

*Auditor* :—Mr. Robert P. Huxley, A.C.A.

*Secretary* : Mr. J. J. Schneider, F.I.A.C.

*Press Reporter* : Mr. W. Burren.

*Delegate on the Advisory Board of the Employment Department* : Mr. Ch. Chapuis.

*Delegate to the N.S.H.* : Mr. R. Weist.

The only important change resulting, was the election to the Chairmanship of the Education Committee and the Vice-Presidency of the Society of Mr. E. A. Hueni, formerly a member of that Committee, in succession to Mr. O. Roethlisberger, who had returned to Switzerland towards the end of last year.

It was with deep regret that the Chairman announced the death in Berne on February 14th of Mr. Henry Senn, who had been a member of the S.M.S. since 1917. The members rose to pay a last silent tribute to the departed.

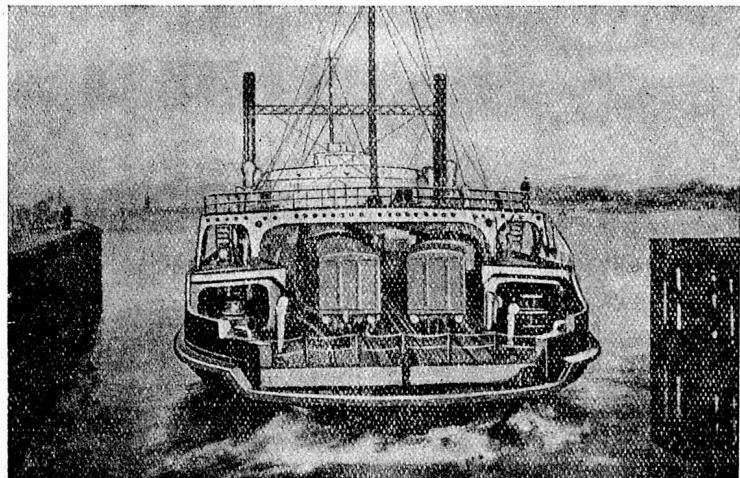
The proceedings then terminated.

WB.

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