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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

Tuesday, May 17th, 1949, at the Dorchester, W.1.

Six years ago, almost to the day, the Council had its first Meeting and, as the Chairman says in his Report, much has happened between the two dates and we can look back on six years of fruitful activity.

After the Minutes had been passed, a welcome had been extended to our new Members Messieurs Dormann and Ernst, various elections took place. To the four seats which became vacant on the Committee every year the following Members were elected: Messieurs de Wolff, de Cintra, W. Deutsch and A. Boller. Mr. E. Sommer, one of the original Members of the Council, was elected Chairman *pro tem* and expressed everybody's gratitude to our Chairman, Mr. E. Steiner, for the effective way in which he has presided over the destiny of the Council since its foundation; he is respected and loved by everyone and all hope that he would accept to serve for another year. The applause which followed left no doubt about this and so the Council will have, for the coming year, the same Captain to lead the team. MM. de Wolff and Oswald were re-elected Vice-Chairmen and M. de Cintra as Hon. Treasurer. The latter lost no time and proved his efficiency by making an Appeal for Funds which no doubt will be forthcoming.

The Members had truly answered the request of the Committee for suggestions about our activities and several important problems — on which more will no doubt be heard — were brought to the attention of the Members who expressed their views and made recommendations; the Committee have now a good deal of useful work on their plate. MM. de Graffenried and Dr. Umbricht who were present were able to clarify various points and we are all grateful for their constant interest and their fruitful contributions. At the close, Mr. E. Sommer had some very kind words for M. A. Renou, the Hon. Secretary, whose activities are much appreciated.

A very pleasant *Dinner* followed and once again the Management of the Dorchester made us feel very honoured guests! A large number of bottles of Swiss wine soon appeared on the table, we felt indeed perfectly at home. After the Toasts to The King and La Suisse we were indeed privileged to hear an extremely witty and interesting address by Monsieur Cyril CHESSEX, the Manager of the Omega Watch Co., on

"Advertising in the U.S.A." The readers of this paper will, we gather, have the pleasure of reading at least part of it in this paper. The very long applause, almost an ovation, which our Friend received must have told him how very much it was appreciated by everyone.

M. Clottu, our Social Counsellor, who was our Guest, addressed us next on the two important questions of "stagiaires" in this country and the now famous Old Age Insurance in Switzerland. It is best at times not to publish figures but those quoted by M. Clottu were a revelation and showed how very active — and successful — our Authorities have been. Thousands of young Swiss are now here for short stays and it is a problem which requires much attention. Members were glad to hear that M. le Conseiller Fédéral Rubattel was taking up himself the question of the position of the Swiss abroad who wish to participate in the Swiss Pension Scheme; we are grateful for the intervention of our Minister and the Legation in this matter.

It was well past 10 p.m. when, with regrets, Members started to leave the hospitable surroundings where, once again, we had spent a useful and enjoyable evening.
H.S.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY.

Annual Luncheon at the Dorchester Hotel
Park Lane, W.1.

The Annual Luncheon of the above Society took place on Wednesday, May 11th, under the Chairmanship of the Right Honourable Philip Noel-Baker, P.C., M.P.

Amongst the participants numbering well over two hundred persons, were many well-known personalities both English and Swiss.

The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to the official guests, amongst them the Swiss Minister and Madame Henry de Torrenté, and the Swiss Parliamentary Delegation, numbering four National and four States Councillors. In a very brilliant speech Mr. Noel-Baker paid a high tribute to our country.

States Councillor Professor Frédéric Wahlen replied on behalf of the guests, in an efficient and humorous manner.

The arrangements were left in the capable hands of Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Townend, O.B.E., B.A., and we are glad to report, that this first Annual Luncheon was a great success.

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(To be continued.)

PIANO RECITAL BY ALBERT FERBER AT WIGMORE HALL ON 13th MAY, 1949.

This well-known Swiss pianist played to a well-filled hall a very varied and interesting programme.

Albert Ferber's poise and maturity as well as brilliant technique were evident throughout the evening and we especially admired his rendering of Passacaglia in C Minor by Bach, followed in complete contrast by the delicate Rondo in D Major by Mozart. Prior to the interval the E Minor Sonata by Beethoven and four Brahms pieces were played and later on the more modern "Cinderella" Ballet pieces by Prokofiev preceded the Polonaise-Fantaisie in A Flat Major, Study in E Major, Waltz in A Flat and Study in C Minor by Chopin.

The audience greatly enjoyed his playing and their enthusiastic applause did not end until Albert Ferber had given two encores, one of which was the Revolutionary Studies by Chopin which showed his wonderful technique to advantage.

We wish our compatriot every success in his future work and are looking forward to hearing him again soon.

P.A.M.

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

20th May, 1949.

The Editor,
"Swiss Observer,"
23, Leonard Street,
London, E.C.2.

Sir,

I have just read your excellent report on the City Swiss Club dinner to the Swiss Parliamentary Delegation recently in London.

National Councillor Avv. A. Pini quite rightly drew attention to the absence of "Ticinesi." As a "Ticinese" myself I was greatly disappointed at not being afforded an opportunity of meeting not only Sig. Pini, but also his honourable colleagues.

Whilst the news item handed out to the Press at home speaks of the Delegation being entertained by the aforesaid Club "and the other Swiss Societies of London," the advertisement that appeared in your esteemed paper described the function as a Monthly Meeting. It is true that the advert. indicated that the function had the co-operation of the other Societies, but when I enquired of my own I was informed that no invitation had been received.

Surely on such an occasion as this, which is not likely to reoccur for a long time, the whole Colony should have been invited. What was the Conference of Swiss Presidents doing?

Yours sincerely,
J. EUSEBIO.



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