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## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The address by Dr. V. Umbrecht, Commercial Attaché of the Swiss Legation, who had just returned to London from the Anglo-Swiss negotiations in Berne, attracted a very large gathering of members and friends to Swiss House on 15th inst.

Mr. W. Meier, our President, expressed his pleasure at this response to our invitations. He heartily welcomed not only our speaker, but also Mr. René Keller, who has recently joined the Commercial Division of our Legation, but also our Honorary Member, Mr. Louis Chapuis, just returned from a business trip to U.S.A.; Mr. C. Kunzle, of chocolate fame, who had come from Birmingham specially to hear Dr. Umbrecht; and Mr. W. G. Gamper, one of our trustees.

The President then conveyed to us the greetings of the Swiss Club in Manchester, where he and his wife had attended their centenary banquet and ball. On this occasion many of our leading compatriots from all parts of the U.K. foregathered at Manchester, which helped to make the day a particularly memorable one.

Mr. Meier read to us his letter, written on our behalf, to Dr. J. Escher, congratulating him on his appointment as Federal Councillor, and Dr. Escher's appreciative reply.

In regard to the December monthly meeting a former chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. K.

E. Ammann, had offered to show us two films on the Rhine Port of Basle. As Mr. Ammann will be in London in the first week of December, it was agreed to accept his offer, and to advance the day of our meeting to Wednesday, 6th December.

There was nothing of outstanding importance to report from the House and Education Committee, but Mr. Meier drew attention to the booklet issued by the S.K.V. on conditions of commercial employment in Switzerland, of which we had received several copies from Zurich.

At this point Mr. Meier opened the Special General Meeting called to elect Mr. F. G. Sommer as a trustee of our Society, in place of the late G. E. Debrunner. Mr. Sommer had been nominated unanimously by the Council, and the meeting elected him forthwith with acclamation. Our new trustee acknowledged the honour conferred on him, and our confidence in him. He added that, while his membership was nearing 40 years, having had too many irons in the fire for a very long time, he had not been able to attend our meetings in the past as often as he would have liked. He hoped, however, to improve on past performance now that he had been assigned certain duties.

The Special General Meeting concluded with the members passing a resolution proposed by the Council, altering clause 56 of the Articles of Association so as to increase the amount of expenditure of any single transaction agreed upon by the Council from £100 to £300 without the previous sanction of a monthly meeting of members.

The business of the meeting having thus been disposed of expeditiously, our president was able to call on Dr. V. Umbrecht to give us his talk on Swiss Trade Relations with the Sterling Area Countries. He proceeded to do this with his customary thoroughness and clarity. His address was followed by  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours of questions and answers from all parts of the hall. The interest was intense throughout, largely because all questioners sought enlightenment affecting their own businesses or personal affairs, and not merely academic information of little practical importance. The thanks expressed by Mr. Meier to Dr. Umbrecht for his *exposé* and the additional information given in his many answers were warmly endorsed by prolonged applause.

Particulars concerning Dr. Umbrecht's address will be found under "Commercial News."

E.H.S.

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