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ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES.

The twelfth Meeting of the Presidents took place on Friday, October 5th. The Swiss Minister, who is Honorary President, has not yet returned from his vacation and he was represented by Monsieur E. Bernath, Chargé d'Affaires, and Dr. E. M. Bircher, Secretary of Legation.

Mr. R. Dupraz was in the Chair and he called in turn on Prof. J. P. Inebnit (Yorkshire — West Riding — Swiss Club, Leeds), Dr. H. W. Egli (Nouvelle Société Helvétique) and Mr. A. Renou (Confrérie Vaudoise) to give their personal impressions of the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger recently held at Basle.

Prof. Inebnit spoke of the sense of privilege which he had experienced when taking part again in this Annual Parliament of the Swiss abroad. The discussion of the various problems, which had received wide publicity in the Swiss press, had been of a high order and could not fail to leave a mark on all those attending.

Dr. Egli (whose detailed report of the proceedings at Basle appeared in the S.O. of the 28th September) thought the outstanding achievement of the Journée was the part it played in shaping the new Citizenship Bill which was shortly to be debated by the Federal Parliament in Berne.

Mr. Renou strongly urged that the Editor of the *Swiss Observer* (who was present at the Presidents' Meeting) should in future attend the Journée and that instead of a few Swiss from Great Britain a large number should endeavour so to arrange their holiday in Switzerland that they could visit the Journée. They would be well rewarded because this annual event had now become the chief platform of exchange between the Swiss living abroad and the Federal Authorities as well as the leaders of political, social and economic thought of Switzerland.

Several of the presidents spoke of the publicity which the two declarations issued by the Assembly in June had received in Switzerland. These two declarations had also been considered at the Journée in connection with the problem of revitalizing the Swiss Colonies abroad. (The full text of the declarations was given in the S.O. in July).

The Meeting then dealt with a number of suggestions of how to make the various institutions of the Swiss Colony in London better known to compatriots who had taken up residence here. The Rev. H. Blum (Schweizerkirche) thought that this need applied in particular to the Churches and the manifold services they were always willing to render.

According to the rules of the Assembly the officers retire after serving for twelve months and they cannot be re-elected in the same capacity. In the elections which concluded the Meeting the following were appointed for the next twelve-monthly period : *Chairman* — J. P. Inebnit (Yorkshire — West Riding — Swiss Club, Leeds); *Vice-Chairman* — Mr. W. Meier (Swiss Mercantile Society); *Honorary Secretary* — Mr. A. Renou (Confrérie Vaudoise). The next Meeting was provisionally fixed for Friday, 1st February, 1952.

W.M.

COCKTAIL PARTY GIVEN BY THE "KURVEREIN" GRINDELWALD.

Well over 100 guests attended a cocktail party given at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, on Friday, September 28th.

The purpose of this party, which was attended mostly by members of Travel Agencies, British Railways officials, the Press and members of Alpine Clubs, was to unite for one evening the friends of this well-known mountain resort, enabling them to exchange the many happy memories of times spent at the foot of the Wetterhorn.

Mr. H. O. Ernst, Manager of the Swiss National Tourist Office in London, introduced the President of the "Kuryverein" Grindelwald, Mr. H. E. von Bidder, who was accompanied by a number of his colleagues, to the guests.

The latter, in turn welcomed the assembly mentioning that the summer season of this popular holiday place had been a very satisfactory one in every respect; which had prompted him and his colleagues to come over in person and thank the British public, who had so generously supported the efforts of his organisation.

A very interesting coloured film, depicting Grindelwald in Winter was then shown which was very much enjoyed, and will, no doubt, induce many of those present to renew their acquaintance with this lovely mountain village.



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