

Assembly of presidents of the swiss societies

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less than scheduled time, owing to favourable weather conditions.

This first flight by "Convair" liner was an experience I would not have liked to miss for anything, maximum safety, perfect comfort and courteous service makes travelling by Swissair a delightful event.

ST.

ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS OF THE SWISS SOCIETIES.

The tenth Meeting of the Assembly was held in the evening of Thursday, March 15th under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. Dupraz (City Swiss Club). The Minister was represented by Dr. E. M. Bircher, Secretary of Legation, who reported that the Fund for Avalanche Victims in Switzerland, launched under the auspices of the Presidents' Assembly, had so far reached £3,041. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Meier (Swiss Mercantile Society), read several letters received from Swiss Societies in the Provinces reporting on the measures they had taken to help the Fund.

The main concern of the meeting was the Official Draft for a New Federal Law regarding the granting and the loss of Swiss Citizenship. It was evident throughout the discussion that the meeting wished to see more favourable treatment than that provided for in the Draft Law, both as regards the retention of Swiss citizenship and the re-acquisition of it by former Swiss nationals under certain circumstances. With this aim in view the meeting decided upon the following recommendations:

- (a) that a Swiss lady should not automatically lose her Swiss citizenship on marrying a foreigner whose nationality she acquired through marriage;
- (b) that the granting of Swiss citizenship should be made easier in the case of ladies who had previously lost it through marriage to a foreigner, and in particular, that where there are strong humane reasons the period of one year's residence in Switzerland prior to the application being made, could be shortened or waived entirely by the competent authorities;
- (c) that any decisions by the authorities (except in cases of granting Swiss citizenship to foreigners) could be submitted in the appellant's choice either to the Federal Council (as provided for in the Draft Law) or the Federal Court of Justice;
- (d) that the facility of registering as a Swiss citizen with a Swiss Consulate or other Swiss Authority in the second generation born abroad should be granted beyond the age of 20, possibly up to the age of 25.

These recommendations will be communicated to the "Auslandschweizerwerk der N.H.G." in Berne.

Mr. A. Renou (Confrérie Vaudoise), who had just returned from Switzerland, reported on the progress of English children suffering from asthma and sent to Malix for treatment under a scheme launched by the Swiss Economic Council. Several of the children had recently returned to England completely cured.

The next meeting of the Assembly was fixed for Friday, June 1st, when the main subject for discussion will be the programme of the "Journée des Suisses de l'Etranger" to be held at the end of August in Basle.

W.M.

"SCHWEIZERBUND" (SWISS CLUB). (74, Charlotte Street, W.1.)

At the recently held General Meeting of the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club), it was decided to make a reduction in the subscription fees for *Country Members*, so as to enable them to meet their friends on occasional visits to London and to make use of the comfortable Club premises.

The reduced fee will be £1.1.0 for Gentlemen and 10/6 for Ladies.

For London membership the fee remains as hitherto, namely £2.2.0 for Gentlemen and £1.1.0 for Ladies.

The Committee hopes, that many of our compatriots, who are living outside London, will make use of this favourable offer.

SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB).

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a dance, which will take place on Friday, April 20th, 1951, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, in aid of the Avalanche Fund. Both the Swiss Male Choir and the Swiss Accordion Club will appear on that evening and it is hoped that many of our readers will be present to support this good cause. (Tickets 5/-.)



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