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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.
(Monthly Meeting at Swiss House,
14th March, 1951.)

A fairly numerous gathering was present, attracted by the prospect of a lecture on the manufacture of wool by Mr. R. Richards, B.Sc., one of the official lecturers of the International Wool Secretariat. Unfortunately the lecturer had fallen ill the same day, and the two possible deputies were already engaged elsewhere.

Arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. W. Meier, our President, informed us that our Minister, M. Henry de Torrenté, has graciously accepted nomination as Honorary President of our Society, and Messrs. G. Jenne and F. G. Sommer had also expressed appreciation of our action in electing them honorary members.

By an oversight, Mr. H. Mock's name had appeared on the list of nominations for the Council and Committee distributed at the Annual General Meeting. In fact Mr. Mock had previously withdrawn from the election. Mr. Rolf Senn had since accepted nomination as Hon. Treasurer of the London Section of the S.M.S.. On the proposal of Mr. M. Heilinger, seconded by Mr. F. G. Sommer, he was unanimously elected to the office and expressed his thanks for the confidence shown him.

A letter was read from the Swiss Legation thanking for our contribution to the Fund for Avalanche Victims, to which the students of our College had contributed a further £5.11.8.

There were no admissions for membership. On the other hand the meeting accepted the resignations of Miss Hetty Brunner, who transferred her membership to Berne; Miss Irma Abate, whose greatly increased duties with the Unione Ticinese prevented her from taking an active part in the S.M.S.; Mr. M. A. Nacht.

Mr. W. Burren stated that on the occasion of the recent visit of Mr. Baumgartner, head of the Employment Department at Zurich, he had addressed the students of the College on the possibilities of employment in foreign and overseas countries. A full report of his talk is appearing in the Zentralblatt.

Mr. Meier then reported that the Swiss Sports Committee was meeting on the 19th inst. They had provisionally booked the Herne Hill ground for 2nd June, and, according to Mr. Raymond Chappuis, also had an option on the Polytechnic Ground at Chiswick for the 23rd of May. A short discussion showed little enthusiasm for the holding of the Swiss Sports this year, mainly because of its proximity to the Fête Suisse, but also for reasons of expense.

Our President then introduced for discussion the subject of the new draft of the law concerning Swiss citizenship, on which the opinions of the Swiss colonies abroad are again sought by the Federal Authorities. This matter was discussed at length, but as a fuller report on it appears elsewhere in this issue of the "Swiss Observer", it need not be reported here.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Burren brought up the question of who was to represent the London Section at the Annual Delegate Meeting in Lausanne in May. The view of the General Purposes Committee is, that it was important to send a delegate who was well versed in our affairs, as he would not only attend the meeting in Lausanne, but also call at the Head Office in Zurich and on the authorities in Berne. He therefore proposed, on behalf of the General Purposes Committee, that if he could spare the time, our President be sent to Lausanne at the Society's expense. Mr. A. C. Staehelin seconded the proposal, and the meeting expressed itself in full agreement.

E.H.S.

SWISS SPORTS.

On Monday, March 19th, 1951, a well-attended Delegates Meeting was held at "Swiss House" to discuss the matter regarding holding the "Swiss Sports" this year.

After an exhaustive discussion, it was decided not to proceed with the arrangements owing to the lack of competitors for the various events.

It was resolved, however, to review the position towards the end of this year, in order to make possible arrangements for 1952.

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