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ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY. Dinner to National-Councillor Schmid-Ruedin.

Following the Annual General Meeting of the Anglo-Swiss Society, which took place on Thursday, May 29th, 1952, at Londonderry House, Park Lane, W.1, under the Presidency of the Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, M.P., a reception and exhibition of Posters and Photographs organised by the Swiss Federal Railways was held, and was concluded by a dinner in honour of National-Councillor Schmid-Ruedin.

The dinner was served in the Library of Londonderry House, and was attended by about seventy members and guests, amongst the latter were: The Swiss Minister and Madame H. de Torrenté, National-Councillor Schmid-Ruedin and Madame Schmid-Ruedin, the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Fulham, accompanied by his wife, Viscount Hailsham, Capt. L. D. Gammans, M.P., Assistant Postmaster General, Dr. H. W. Egli, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Miss A. Gretener, Hon Secretary, N.S.H., Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

After the customary toasts to H.M. the Queen and the President of the Swiss Confederation had been proposed by the Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, M.P., the latter extended a hearty welcome to the principal guest, National-Councillor Schmid-Ruedin, congratulating him on his fine record of being a member of the Swiss Parliament for over 26 years. In his very witty speech he drew some comparisons between the two Parliaments and the life in general of a parliamentarian.

He was followed by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté who referred to the close and friendly relations between Switzerland and the British Empire.

Viscount Hailsham, in a humorous speech underlined the qualities which the two countries have in common, concluding with the wish that the friendship between the two countries may endure for centuries to come.

The Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Fulham spoke of his many visits to our country where, he said, "are more English churches than in any other country." He paid a warm tribute to the hospitality, tolerance and friendliness of the Swiss people.

Captain L. D. Gammans, M.P., especially referred to tolerance being a great virtue of the Swiss, and embellished his speech with several witty tales.

Mr. Schmid-Ruedin, as the last speaker, expressed, both in German and French, his appreciation for having had the opportunity and the pleasure of listening to so many clever and excellent speeches thanking the Chairman for his kind invitation which will be highly treasured.

He spoke of the admiration our countrymen at home felt for the splendid and heroic efforts made by the British Empire during the last war, for safeguarding the liberties of its peoples and of mankind in general, and in conclusion voiced his gratitude for the hospitality extended to our young compatriots.

This most enjoyable evening then came to its close, and in summing up, I would like to refer to the fine oratory display by the various speakers, it was a pleasure to listen to them.

Great credit is due, to Colonel Stuart Townend, the Director of the Anglo-Swiss Society, who so ably and efficiently organised this function, especially the catering side of it; everything went without a hitch and I feel sure, that all who had the privilege of attending at Londonderry House will long remember this friendly and homely gathering. *ST.*

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY. 1951 Annual Report.

The year 1951 was mainly spent in consolidating the encouraging position which the Society had reached after the great expansion during 1949 and 1950. At the end of the year the membership was over 600.

During the summer the Headquarters of the Society moved from Westminster to Hill House, just off Sloane Street, where it is hoped some of the smaller functions will be held in the future.

The Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker continued as President of the Society and all the major functions were honoured by the presence of H.E. The Swiss Minister and supported by Patrons of the Society. During the year the following accepted invitations to become Patrons, The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Fulham and Professor G. R. de Beer, who had been one of the first to join the Society.

Functions during the year included the following: A concert in the Cowdray Hall by the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, and another by 83 musicians of the Stadtmusik Solothurn in the Central Hall. A lecture by Dr. Kirstein illustrated by excellent coloured lantern slides, and various film shows in the library of Londonderry House. A dinner, dance and concert by the Chansons de Lausanne during the summer, and the usual Christmas Banquet and Ball at the Dorchester Hotel, which was attended by 300 members and their guests.

A Society Christmas Card was on sale for the first time and the badge showing the two flags of the two countries flying together was approved on all sides. A metal Lapel Badge and Car Badges were designed and ordered for 1952.

The Society's Centre at La Tour de Peilz on the Lake of Geneva proved very popular with all those members who were able to stay there and Colonel Townend took a party of young members of the Society to the centre for a six weeks educational visit during the summer holidays.

The Society dealt with the usual daily correspondence, telephone calls and visits from members and others wishing to obtain information about Switzerland, advice where to stay, details of facilities for advertising in Swiss papers, accommodation for students in families, and many other matters.

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