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SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 29th, 1952
at the Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

This Council, which was founded shortly after the first world war, and reorganised in 1943, held its Annual General Meeting on April 29th, 1952, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Mr. H. Oswald, Vice-Chairman, occupied the Chair in the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Mr. E. Steiner, and there were thirty members present.

The Chairman's Report was read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Zimmermann, and unanimously accepted. Mr. de Cintra, Hon. Treasurer, reported about the financial position, and the accounts presented were approved.

Four members of the Committee, were, according to the rules, due for retirement but eligible for re-election, namely Messrs. A. Bon, W. Deutsch, H. Oswald and A. Renou.

With the exception of Mr. A. Bon, who has left the country and did not seek re-election, the remaining three were confirmed in their office. To replace Mr. Bon, the Council elected Mr. P. A. Moehr as a Committee member.

Mr. E. Steiner, who, owing to ill health wished to be relieved of his office, which he had held for the last nine years, was replaced by Mr. H. Oswald. Messrs. A. Gautier and O. Voegeli, were elected Vice-Chairmen respectively, and Mr. R. de Cintra was confirmed in his office as Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. Louis Chapuis, who acted as President *pro tem* during the elections paid a moving tribute to the late Chairman, Mr. E. Steiner, and thanked the Committee for the services they had rendered.

On the conclusion of the Meeting a dinner followed, at which the following were the guests of the Council: Dr. V. Umbricht, Counsellor of Legation, in charge of commercial affairs, Monsieur P. Clottu, Counsellor for Social Affairs, Dr. P. Waldvogel, Technical Director of Brown, Boverie & Co., Ltd., Baden, Dr. R. Schüpbach, Assistant to the Directorate of Brown, Boverie & Co., Ltd., Baden, and Mr. Weier, Design Engineer, of Brown, Boveri & Co., Ltd.

The Chairman, Mr. H. Oswald, after having expressed his appreciation for having been entrusted with the leadership of the Council, extended a hearty welcome to the guests.

Dr. V. Umbricht, gave a very interesting *exposé* dealing with various questions which will be discussed at the forthcoming conference for a new commercial treaty between Great Britain and Switzerland, and Dr. Schüpbach, spoke on the approaching introduction of television in Switzerland.

This most interesting Meeting ended at 10 p.m.
ST.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.
Lecture on "Domestic Architecture in the Grisons."

Reading the annual report of the New Helvetic Society in London one is immediately struck by the great variety of subjects on which lectures were arranged in the past year. It now looks as if the NSH were continuing in the same way in 1952. Already there have been several excellent lectures this year, by Dr. Roman Boos on "the Spiritual Significance of

Swiss Neutrality", by Dr. E. Moergeli of the "Aussandschweizer Sekretariat" in Berne on "Problems affecting the Swiss abroad", by Monsieur A. Masnata on "the History of Swiss Industries", and at the Annual General Meeting by Dr. M. Schuerch, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland on "the Swiss Army".

The promising start has been maintained by another very good lecture. This was given last Tuesday, 29th April, by Mr. Christof Bon on "Domestic Architecture in the Grisons". Mr. Bon is a graduate of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich and is at present teaching at one of the Schools of Architecture in this country. In good English he gave the audience a detailed account of the development of Grisons architecture and his lecture was most efficiently illustrated by first class lantern slides of countryside, buildings, interiors and plans. A most interesting discussion followed in which it became clear that Mr. Bon is a young architect who has valuable ideas of his own. At the same time he appreciates the old and beautiful which is of real value. We must express our own personality and keep away from bad imitation. It would be wrong to restore absolutely everything of the past because we should then soon be living in the unnatural atmosphere and surroundings of a museum. We must create our own style which should be a true and natural expression of the inclinations and needs of our generation. It is the young architects of our time who can help us to make our own contribution of 20th Century living to posterity.

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