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NEWS OF THE COLONY.



R. Pfenninger,

PRESIDENT CITY SWISS CLUB.

We have much pleasure in introducing to our readers, Mr. R. Pfenninger, who has recently been elected President of the City Swiss Club for 1953/54, in succession to Mr. C. Seinet, who, after two years, has relinquished his post, which he so efficiently occupied.

Mr. Pfenninger was born in Zurich in 1902, and received all his schooling, as far as the University, in his native town. He studied economics at the Universities of Zurich, Hamburg, Freiburg i. Br. concluding at Zurich.

Chance rather than design brought him in contact with banking activities. Mr. Pfenninger worked with Banks in Zurich, Bremen and Brussels. In 1929, he came to England for the first time, and unable to obtain a working permit, attended courses at the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

The following year he entered the service of the Swiss National Bank, where he stayed for 20 years rising to the rank of Deputy General Manager. For many years Mr. Pfenninger was mostly concerned with relations with other Central Banks and with trade and financial negotiations with other countries. He was a permanent member of the Swiss Trade Delegation for negotiation with the Government of this country. In this capacity he spent a great deal of time between the outbreak of the war up to the end of 1942 in London, and it was during this time that Mr. Pfenninger was on various occasions the guest of the City Swiss Club.

In 1943 he went to the U.S.A. as representative of the Swiss National Bank, staying for three years in New York and Washington. Other assignments took him again to North and South America, as well as to many European countries.

Seven years later (1950), Mr. Pfenninger was asked by the Head Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation whether he would accept the position as Manager of their London Office. Being unable to resist the temptation he accepted and in the following year brought his family to London.

In earlier years, he did a lot of military service but owing to his official activities was exempt from service during the war. His hobbies are manifold,

and vary from football to book collecting but has, unfortunately time for none.

We congratulate the City Swiss Club on having been able to secure for the Post of President a man with such a distinguished career, and we extend to Mr. Pfenninger our very best wishes for a successful year of office.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.
Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, April 21st, 1953, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.

Mr. Ch. Seinet was in the Chair, and there were about 50 members present. The Swiss Minister, who was unavoidably prevented from attending, was represented by Dr. E. Bernath, 1st Counsellor of Legation.

The President read out his report concerning the activities of the Club during the last twelve months. He mentioned that the following events took place: June 11th, 1952, Reception of the Chanson du Rhône at the Dorchester Hotel; Sept. 2nd, 1952, Farewell Dinner to M. P. Clottu, Social Counsellor, at the Swiss Legation at Brown's Hotel, October 7th, 1952, Film Show attended by Ladies, at the Dorchester Hotel; November 21st, 1952, 87th Annual Banquet and Ball, at the Dorchester Hotel, under the Presidency of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté; December 18th, 1952, Xmas Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel; February 3rd, 1953, Dinner and Conference by Mr. W. Gysin, M.A. on "Films outside the Cinema" at the Dorchester Hotel.

Mr. Seinet mentioned, that in the past year, 7 new members were admitted against 16 members who resigned. He concluded his report by expressing thanks to the Swiss Minister for the great interest he is taking in the work of the Club, and to his colleagues in the committee for the faithful collaboration.

Mr. X. Speckert, the Hon. Treasurer, presented the accounts, which are showing a considerable surplus, and which were accepted unanimously. The accounts of the "Club House Fund" show a balance of £4,887.4.8., these too were accepted.

The committee proposed to elect Mr. M. E. Dubois, who became a member of the Club in 1897, as a Honorary Member, this was accepted with acclamation. The elections for the new committee then took place

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under the Presidency *pro tem* of Mr. Louis Chapuis, who, after thanking the outgoing committee, and especially the President, Mr. Ch. Seinet, for their services rendered to the Club, announced that the following members had been duly elected: *President*: Mr. R. Pfenninger, *Vice-President*: Robert J. Keller, *Hon. Secretary*: Chas. Gysin, *Hon. Treasurer*: X. Speckert, *Assistant Secretary*: Henry Oswald, *Assistant Treasurer*: G. A. Ronus, *Librarian*: H. Wustiner, *Auditors*: R. Weist and Mr. M. Gedet, *Trustees of the Club House Fund*: W. R. Gamper, (Treasurer), R. de Cintra and E. Luterbacher, *Press Reporter*: A. Stauffer.

Mr. L. Chapuis warmly congratulated the new members on their election, wishing them a successful year of office.

As the newly elected President, Mr. R. Pfenninger, was unable to be present, owing to his absence in Switzerland, Mr. R. J. Keller, Vice-President, thanked the members for the confidence they had shown, in re-electing the outgoing committee for a further term of office.

Before the close of the Meeting, Mr. L. Jobin, gave an interesting account of his recent journey to Egypt.

Close of the Meeting, 10.15 p.m.

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The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club was held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1., on Tuesday, May 5th, 1953.

Mr. R. Pfenninger was in the Chair, and there were about 60 members present. After a sumptuous and really excellent dinner, which did great credit to the *cuisine* of this famous establishment, the President extended a hearty welcome to the guest of honour of the Club, Lord John Jestyn Llewellyn, P.C., C.B.E., M.C., T.D., M.P. for Uxbridge Division from 1929-1945, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Postmaster General, September/October 1931, and to First Commissioner of Works 1931-1935, Assistant Government Whip 1935-37, Civil Lord of the Admiralty 1937-39, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Supply 1939-40, Ministry of Aircraft Production 1940-41, Ministry of War Transport 1941-42, President of the Board of Trade 1942, Minister of Aircraft Production 1942, Minister Resident in Washington for Supply, 1942-43, Minister of Food 1943-45.

The President also extended greetings to the follow-

ing members of the Swiss Legation: Dr. E. Bernath, First Counsellor of Legation, Dr. V. Umbrecht, Counsellor of Legation, and Dr. E. Bircher, 1st Secretary of Legation, to Dr. P. de Wolff, Messrs Spitzer, Gerber, and Corti.

On the conclusion of the business part of the Meeting, during which the President voiced his appreciation to the members for having been entrusted with the leadership of the Club, he gave the word to Lord Llewellyn, who addressed the company on "Parliamentary Procedure".

The speaker, who received a hearty ovation on rising from his seat, thanked the members for the cordial invitation to their Club, and shortly referred to the always friendly relations which have existed between the two countries.

Lord Llewellyn dealt very ably with certain aspects of the House of Commons, and the House of Lords, such as Question Time, Vote of Censure, Order in Council, the power of the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Chancellor of the House of Lords, the art of catching the Speakers eye, etc. etc.

His witty repartee, and comparisons between the Parliaments of the two countries were greatly enjoyed.

At the conclusion of his address the noble Lord was thanked by the President for his lucid and interesting *exposé*, and after a short discussion in which various questions were asked and answered, the Meeting closed shortly before 10 p.m.

Press Reporter.

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