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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. Monthly and Extraordinary General Meeting.

These meetings were held at Swiss House on 11th November and were fairly well attended.

Mr. W. Meier, our President, welcomed among those present, our trustee Mr. F. G. Sommer, and Messrs. G. Jenne and C. Voegeli, who were elected as trustees later in the evening.

Mr. Hans Brun, of Cargo Superintendents, was accepted as member of the London Section.

The President explained that Mr. Ansermot of the Swiss Legation, who is the successor of Mr. Clottu, was willing to address us on the reciprocity agreement between England and Switzerland, regarding the old age pension schemes of the two countries. He could, however, not do so until the agreement was signed in Berne. This should be done by the end of this year.

Mr. F. Streit was congratulated upon his election as Chairman of the President Assembly for 1953-1954.

Mr. Meier then called on the secretary to read the notice calling the Extraordinary General Meeting. The President explained that death had robbed us of several trustees in the last few years. Our Articles of Association lay down that we have to have no less than three, and not more than five trustees. In view of the added responsibility arising from our taking over 34, Fitzroy Square, the Council had decided we should have the maximum of trustees. The following gentlemen had been nominated as additional trustees, and had declared their willingness to serve, if elected:

Mr. G. Jenne, member of S.M.S. Council, Mr. R. Pfenniger, Manager of Swiss Bank Corporation, London, Mr. C. Voegeli, Manager of Volkart Bros., London, who were unanimously elected by a show of hands.

The meeting then authorised the trustees to transfer from the Trust Funds £1,697 (amount standing to the credit of the College Re-establishment Fund) to cover the cost of conversion and redecoration of 34, Fitzroy Square. It also approved an expenditure of £1,400 to be borne by the Society as part of the conversion and redecoration of the said building.

Mr. Krucker stated that the greater portion of the College Re-establishment Fund had already been spent. We can now accommodate 60 to 80 more students, whom we can house more comfortably. We also have an office for the Head Master, and two

offices for the teachers. Further we have much more room in the canteen. This gives more scope in the variety of cheap meals, and more room for the students to stay indoors. Two more rooms will be available for letting in due course. The question of the members room is being studied. Our lease terminates in 1959. The L.C.C. have authorised the landlord to extend the lease till 1960. We are persuing the matter, seeing that we have used the building for 50 years and that the students spend well over £100,000 annually in this country as invisible exports.

Mr. W. Burren rejoiced that overcrowding was ended and mentioned we had engaged two more teachers on a provisional basis.

Mr. Meier thanked Mr. Krucker and the House Committee for their valuable work and expressed the hope of the continuance of the subsidy from Berne in return for our efforts best illustrated by the fact that 12/13,000 students have passed through our College since its inception in 1922.

Having thus disposed of the official business, we were treated to a thorough and lively account given by Mr. Willy Deutsch on the holiday cruise which he and Mrs. Deutsch made in August and September on the "Chusan", a new boat of 24,500 tons. It started at Southampton, took them to Casablanca and Rabat, from there past the Balearic Islands to the holiday resorts on the Riviera, then through the Straits of Messina to Istanbul. On the way back they stopped at Piraeus, Athens, Barcelona, and finally returned via Tilbury to London. Mr. Deutsch not only conveyed a lively impression of the life on board, but also quoted in detail the close observations he made on the numerous trips while in the various ports. He was accorded a warm applause when he sat down.

E.H.S.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, December 18th, 1953 (one issue only, owing to Xmas holidays).

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: W. R. Gamper, G. Senn, Ch. Fer, J. Scheuermeier, W. Tschui, F. Bonjour, F. G. Sommer, E. Fankhauser, A. Wymann, N. Leuzinger, O. Frei, Mrs. M. Balmer, M. Wintsch, Louis Chapuis.

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