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SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Swiss Economic Council was held on Tuesday, November 30th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Mr. H. Oswald was in the Chair, and there were 30 members present.

Dr. R. Faessler, Commercial Counsellor at the Legation, who for the first time attended in his official capacity a Meeting of the Council, expressed his willingness to receive any wishes and suggestions of the members which could be put before the Swiss Trade Commission, which is due to arrive in London early in the New Year for negotiating a new trade agreement.

Various members of the Council took this opportunity of making suggestions. For the Watch Trade, Messrs. de Cintra, Jobin and Rohn spoke, for the Pharmaceutical and Chemical Trade, Dr. Gauthier gave a *resumé* of the prevailing conditions, and Mr. Boos wished to know of the negotiations which are going on refixing an exchange rate. Mr. Ernst spoke about the Tourist Trade, and Mr. Renou of the Textile Trade. Mr. Bessire asked the Commercial Counsellor whether there was a chance of Switzerland entering GATT.

All the various questions were answered by Dr. Faessler, who promised that the suggestions made would be put before the Trade Delegation.

Dr. H. Miesch, Secretary of Legation, then gave a very interesting account of the agreement concerning Double Taxation which had recently been signed between this country and Switzerland, which gave rise to an animated discussion. The Chairman thanked both speakers for their varied and interesting contributions.

Before closing the Meeting, Mr. Oswald read the text of the farewell letter of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, addressed to the Council. It was decided to send a letter of acknowledgement to the Minister together with a resolution passed by the Meeting, thanking him for the interest he had always taken in the work of the Economic Council.

The Chairman then referred to the approaching 75th birthday anniversary of Mr. E. F. Sommer, a member of the Council, who was unfortunately prevented from attending the Meeting. It was decided that a congratulatory telegram should be sent to him.

The Meeting was followed by an excellent dinner; after the traditional Toasts, Mr. Oswald proposed the Toast to Sir Winston Churchill, whose 80th birthday fell on the day of the Meeting, this Toast was honoured by acclamation with the singing "For he is a jolly good fellow!"

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, January 14th, 1955. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: H. Frutiger, G. Godet, J. Guggenheim, A. J. Wymann, J. H. Speich, Ls. Chapuis, E. H. Schlatter, Anonymous, John Frei, O. Braga, C. F. Schumacher, V. Umbrecht.

Not sufficient space being available, various reports and articles will appear in our January issue only.

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