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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of the Society took place at Swiss House on 9th June.

The President, Mr. W. Meier, reported that the redecoration of the members' room was nearly completed and that we should be able to use it for the first time after the Summer holidays when we meet again in September. It had been suggested that a house warming party should then be held at which the newly installed students' canteen would also be used. He further stated that the college team had been very successful at this year's Swiss Sports Meeting, having won the George Dimier challenge cup and the Pagani Relay cup. The next big event in the Swiss Colony would be the National Day Celebration on 1st August at the Battersea Pleasure Gardens where the open air pavilion had been booked for the occasion.

Mr. Meier then gave us a very interesting report on the S.K.V. Delegates Meeting held at Lugano early last month in which he and Mrs. Meier were able to take part whilst on holiday in Switzerland.

About 400 delegates representing over 62,000 members met at the Padiglione Conza on Saturday 1st May and were welcomed in the three national languages by the Central President, Mr. K. Strickler. It was quite evident that as a result of the prosperity in Swiss industry and commerce the Association had made further progress in reaching its aims. Nevertheless, the discussions were much concerned with such subjects as rising prices, the proposed increase of rents, the necessity of improving the lot of the older employee and the long pending Federal labour law. A full report was also made on the employment service with its branches in London, Paris and Milan.

National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, the General Secretary of the S.K.V. gave an address on the importance of Trade and other Associations in the life of the country. He stated that in Switzerland there are between 800 and 1,000 Associations comprising producers, consumers, employers, employees, trades, professions and many other groups and he strongly upheld the opinion that they play a valuable part in the political and economic life of the country.

The proceedings closed with a banquet on Sunday at which representatives of the Federal Authorities in Berne and the Cantonal Government of the Ticino were present. Unfortunately, the outing planned for Sunday afternoon on the lake of Lugano had to be abandoned owing to bad weather.

The President's report was followed by a brief account by Mrs. Meier dealing with the lighter side of the meeting and she also gave some impressions of their long journey through France and Switzerland.

Following established practice, no meetings of the Society will be held in July and August.

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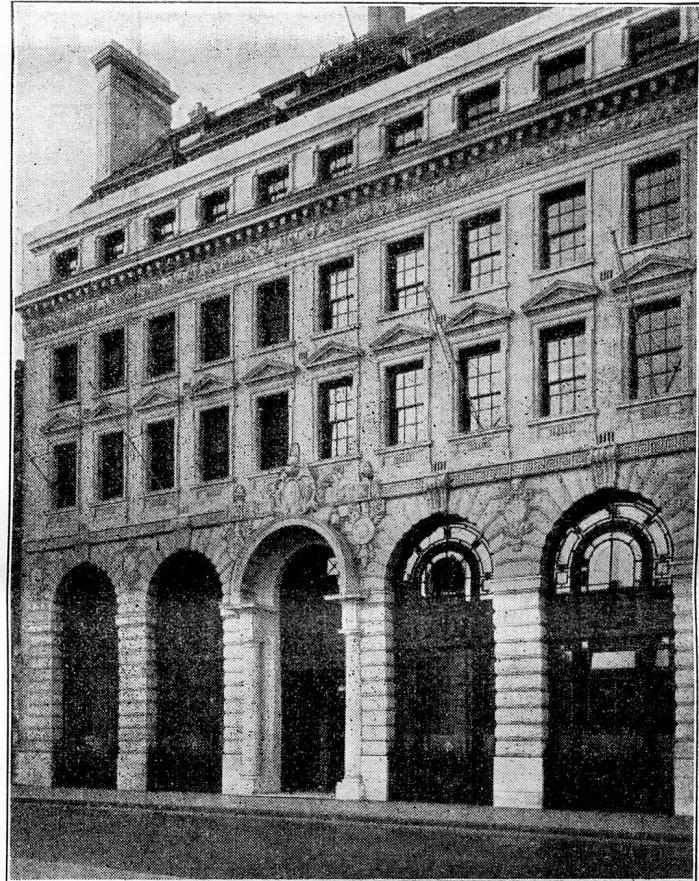


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