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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The October and Extraordinary General Meeting held on 12th October, 1955, attracted a very gratifying attendance, so that our President could start the meeting well on time. Mr. A. C. Boller, Director of Cargo Superintendents Ltd., and Mr. J. J. Eusebio, Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.), one time president of the Unione Ticinese, were made members of the S.M.S.

Mr. J. J. Boos wondered whether we could not make a special effort to increase our membership by 10 or 20, being the largest foreign section of the S.K.V., the latter making an all out attempt to bring the membership up to 60,000 before the end of this year. Heartily in agreement with this suggestion, our President made a strong appeal to those present to do their best in this direction.

Saturday, 28th January, 1956, has been fixed for our Annual Dinner and Dance in the Orchid Room of the Dorchester Hotel. In view of the size of the room there was some discussion whether the attendance should be limited to 120 or 140, and whether bookings should be on the basis of 1) first come, first served, of 2) members and partners only. The decision was for 1).

The Secretary then read the notice convening the Extraordinary General Meeting. Mr. W. Meier briefly outlined the history of the negotiations carried on by Mr. L. W. Krucker, chairman of the House Committee, with the landlords of Swiss House over a period of 18 months. He explained that our present agreement providing for an annual rent of £1,000 was in force till 1959. The landlords, wishing to make fresh arrangements now, proposed a new basis:

- 1) £1,750 per year for 13 years from 24th March, 1954, or
- 2) £1,000 per year till 1959, then £2,250 per year for seven years.

The Council, after careful consideration, held that the first offer was reasonable in present conditions. The new basis, however, implied a much greater risk for our trustees, only one of whom was prepared to

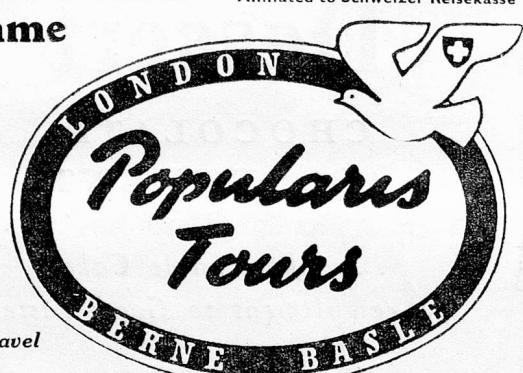
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accept it. Having regard to the fact that Swiss House had been in the occupation of Swiss interests since May, 1900, the landlords declared themselves agreeable to accept the signature of the Swiss Mercantile Society instead of those of the trustees. This called for an alteration, the wording of which was circulated among the members, of art. 76 of Articles of Association. Mr. A. C. Stahelin, one of the principal architects of our College, at some length voiced his doubts about the wisdom of the proposed alteration, which he called a half-way measure at best, since it is not intended to do away with the trustees. The discussion was thorough and searching, and ended by the members authorising the Council to conclude a new lease on the basis of £1,750 mentioned above. A special note of thanks was accorded to our able and indefatigable negotiator, Mr. L. W. Krucker.

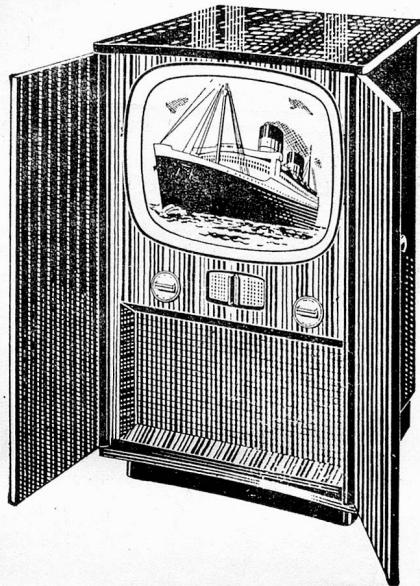
We were then treated to two colour films, showing the remarkable achievements in all fields of electrical engineering of Brown, Boveri & Co., Ltd., Baden, followed by the most recent and beautiful film of Swissair, about a flight to Athens, Istanbul, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and Sairo. These concluded a most satisfactory evening spent at Swiss House.

E.H.S.

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