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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

Partly because of the postponed railway strike, and very likely on account of the competition of other meetings in the Colony during the same week, the attendance at the monthly meeting held on 12th January was one of the smallest on record. As frequently happens, it was none the less an interesting evening.

Messrs. W. Deutsch and A. Jaccard sent in apologies, and Messrs. Krucker and Burri were in Switzerland on business. So was Mr. G. Jenne, one of our trustees, who was reported to be in the Buergerspital in Basle. A letter of good wishes for his speedy recovery was being sent to him.

Mr. G. O. Genton who transferred from Wattwil and Mr. Paul A. Iten, transferred from Zurich, were accepted as members and the transfer of Mr. A. M. Bessire, formerly of the Swiss Bank Corporation, to La Chaux-de-Fonds Section was approved.

In regard to Mr. Henri de Torrenté's election as honorary member of our Society, our President and Secretary called at the Swiss Legation on 11th December and handed the former Swiss Minister a document of nomination. The Minister's letter of thanks was read out, as well as an interesting document which the Swiss Colony in Paris sent to him in 1946, recording the many and great services rendered to the Swiss Colony in France during many years.

Mr. Meier stated that the receptions at Londonderry House and the Dorchester Hotel (City Swiss Club), at which the Swiss Colony took leave of Monsieur and Madame de Torrenté had been very successful.

We learnt that Mr. Schwander, who paid our College an official visit in September last, had reported favourably to Federal Councillor Rubattel, then his chief, on the work done at the College. We have now been informed of the official ruling that the Swiss Government subsidy will in future be 37½% of the teachers' salaries, and that we have just received through Barclays Bank £3,139 in respect of the year 1953 and as part-payment for 1954.

The Central Secretariat is posting to all members abroad its pocket diary in recognition of their loyalty to the S.K.V.

Mr. Meier read a letter from Mr. H. Miesch, of the Economic Division of the Swiss Legation to Mr.

A. Jaccard, our Council member, regarding the Anglo-Swiss Double Taxation Agreement. According to this letter any pension, other than state pension, and any annuity, derived from English sources by a Swiss resident in Switzerland, is only subject to Swiss tax, and vice versa. As regards British State Retirement Pensions corresponding to the Swiss Old Age Pension, no case has arisen so far to decide the issue. But the Board of Inland Revenue think that they will be treated in a similar way as the private pensions mentioned above.

The bookmarks which we received for the Zwissig collection have all been sold, and 55/- will be transferred to Switzerland in favour of the Organising Committee.

Mr. Meier conveyed to us the greeting of Mr. O. Roethlisberger, now manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, Nyon, and of Mr. H. Marfurt, who is English teacher at the Cantonal School in Lucerne.

Mr. Slade, Head Master of our College, reported that we had five fewer students than a year ago, but that the enrolments for spring and summer were double of last year's figure.

E.H.S.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next
MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, February 8th, 1955**,
at **6.30 p.m.** for **7 p.m.** at the **Dorchester Hotel**,
Park Lane, W.1.

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. to reach him not later than Monday, February 7th, 1955.

Ch. GYSIN
Hon. Secretary.

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