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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



R. PFENNINGER.

The heartiest congratulations of the Swiss Colony and of his many other friends in London go to Mr. Rudolf Pfenninger on his appointment to be a General Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle. Since joining the Management of the Bank in Gresham Street, in 1950, Mr. Pfenninger, has won for himself the affection and respect of a wide circle of friends in the United Kingdom and he will be missed, not only in the Swiss Colony where he has played a prominent and active part, but in a far wider circle in which his personal and professional qualities have been much appreciated.

Dr. Pfenninger, to give him his full title, for he is a Doctor of Economics of Zurich University, started his banking career with firms in Germany and Belgium and passed on in 1930 to the service of the Swiss National Bank in Zurich. During the years that followed he was a member of many Swiss delegations for financial and commercial negotiations and had occasion to visit this country many times. He was the Swiss National Bank's representative in the United States from 1943-1946. He left the National Bank as a Deputy-General Manager in 1950 to take up his position with the Swiss Bank Corporation in London.

The fact of being a banker of international repute does not by any means exhaust Mr. Pfenninger's qualifications. History relates that in his time he was a runner of distinction, while in the military sphere he holds the rank of Senior Lieutenant in the Swiss Army. As a raconteur he is well known far beyond the confines of the Swiss Colony though perhaps best of all in the circle of the City Swiss Club of which he was President from 1953 to 1955. He has been a member of the Advisory Council of the Swiss Observer since 1950.

He is a music lover as evidenced by his fine collection of records and a student of literature in a very wide sense. Moreover, some of his intimate friends whisper that he can also turn his hand to a most witty style of verse.

We trust that Mr. Pfenninger may still find many opportunities of visiting London and we wish him, Mrs. Pfenninger and their three daughters great happiness in their new surroundings.



H. KNOLL.

Mr. Herman Knoll, who is promoted to be a Manager and will take Mr. Pfenninger's place in joint control of the London Office of the Bank with Mr. Pierre Lorsignol, is well-known in the Swiss Colony. He started his banking career in his home town of St. Gall and came to London in 1924. In 1947 he became a sub-Manager and in 1953 a Deputy Manager. Mr. Knoll, who holds the rank of a senior Lieutenant in the Swiss Army, is still remembered by many as a gifted and enthusiastic gymnast and as the leader, at the time, of the Swiss gymnastic team in London. He has for many years been an active member of the Education Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society and the City Swiss Club.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Mr. Knoll on his appointment to this important and exacting post.



ADRIEN RUEFF.

The Bank has lost two well-known members of the Management through retirement at the end of the year. Mr. Adrien Rueff, sub-Manager, who is a native of La Chaux-de-Fonds, joined the Bank in 1908 and has since January, 1938, devoted his whole attention to dealing in stocks and shares in the London and foreign markets so that he is well known in international Stock Exchange circles. He has played a prominent part in the affairs of the Swiss Colony having been Secretary and, later, President of the

City Swiss Club and an active member on the Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Mr. G. N. Ross, who is also retiring, has been in the service of the Bank in London since 1910. He served with the R.A.M.C. during the 1914-1918 war and was on foreign service during a considerable part of the time. On his return he re-joined the Bank at the old Lothbury Office and in the last five years has been perhaps the best known of the managerial staff by virtue of his position as Staff Manager. Mr. Ross, who can claim to be a complete Englishman has had the somewhat unusual distinction of being a leading member of the Swiss choir in London and often a soloist for their organisation, qualities which have brought him into even closer sympathy with his Swiss friends and colleagues.

* * * *

Among the gentlemen whose retirement is also announced we would specially mention Mr. Elmer Baumann. Mr. Baumann has never figured publicly among the leaders of the Swiss Colony but is very well known to many and his unfailing friendliness, his wide professional knowledge and his thought for his staff have won him a position which cannot easily be filled. His interests have been with his home and his family, in so far as the exacting requirements of his post as the head of the Commercial Credit Department have allowed.

We offer these gentlemen our sincere good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

The Bank also announce the promotions of Mr. E. J. Howell to be a Deputy Manager. (We understand that Mr. Howell is taking over Mr. Ross's position as Staff Manager), and to be signature-holders, Messrs. Johnson, Honeybourne, Wren and Thomas.

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“HEIDI AND PETER.”
New Swiss Film at the Pavillion.

All our readers, especially those with youngish children to give a treat, will be delighted to hear that a sequence to Lazar Wechsler's Heidi film, shown here a year ago, is now running in one of the leading West End cinemas, the Pavilion in Piccadilly Circus. It is of course based on Johanna Spyri's second book, "Heidi makes use of what she has learned". There they are again — all the beloved characters: Heidi, again played by Elsbeth Sigismund, the Alpen-Oehi, movingly represented by Heinrich Gretler, Peter the goatherd by Thomas Klameth, etc., etc. There you have again the same wonderful scenery from, I believe, the Ober-Engadin, be it up on the Alp or be it down in the village, all in the delicate hues of Eastman Colour. The touching story is told with reverence and sentimentality, the acting is good, the treatment of most episodes adheres faithfully to the book.

But we are sorry to have to mention also some shortcomings, the same shortcomings as in the case of the first Heidi film. The illusion of the charming scene and Swiss characters is greatly spoilt by some blatant Americanisms and the poor dubbing of the dialogue in strident American voices. Most Swiss listeners will find this irritating, although in all other respects "Heidi and Peter" will not fail to evoke nostalgic memories and delights.

E.



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