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## NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



M. WIESENDANGER.

As reported in the next column Mr. N. Wiesendanger was elected Chairman of the Swiss Economic Council.

The new Chairman was born in 1897 in Zurich where he attended the primary and secondary schools. Then followed a three-year apprenticeship with the firm of Escher Wyss, Zurich. On its conclusion he entered the "Institute Minerva", Zurich, for a one-and-a-half-year course, which finished with matriculation. Mr. Wiesendanger then was admitted to the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, where on completion of his studies he obtained the degree of "Diplom Ingenieur" for his dissertation on Hydro-Electric Power Stations.

In the army he reached the rank of 1st Lieutenant, but his military career was cut short on account of his taking up residence abroad.

In 1923, Mr. Wiesendanger decided to go to the U.S.A. where he took up a position as research and design engineer with the firm Messrs. Baker Perkins Co., in Saginaw (Mich.); there he stayed for five years. In 1928 he was offered a position as special representative for technical rubber goods by the Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Co. On accepting, he was sent to Berlin to be in charge of the Central European section. Owing to the economic crisis prevailing at the end of 1929 the company closed down their offices in Germany, and he returned to Zurich joining the Escher Wyss concern.

Mr. Wiesendanger was sent in the early days of 1930 on a special mission to South Africa to study and analyse the market there. This trip, which was originally intended to last about 6 months, was extended to over two years' duration, after which he was recalled and put in charge of the firm's London Office, which position he holds today.

The new Chairman is married and has a daughter and two sons. The daughter, who is a London University graduate, is engaged in a special form of cancer research as a bio-chemist. She will shortly leave for Canada to get married. The elder son, who is also a "Diplom Ingenieur" (ETH), is with the firm of Escher Wyss, Zurich; the younger son qualified about three years ago as a medical doctor at Oxford University and has since held various

hospital posts; he recently obtained his diploma for Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

We wish Mr. Wiesendanger a successful future in the service of the Swiss Economic Council.

ST.

## SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

## Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Economic Council took place on Thursday, January 10th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Mr. G. E. Suter was in the Chair and there were 30 members present. The annual reports of the Chairman and the Hon. Treasurer were presented and adopted.

Mr. G. E. Suter, owing to business reasons, tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Council which was accepted with regret. The election of five committee members, Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and Hon. Treasurer took place under the Presidency *pro tem* of Mr. W. Deutsch. The following members of the committee were unanimously elected: H. Oswald, G. E. Suter, C. Voegeli, J. Zimmermann and M. Wiesendanger. The last named was proposed and elected Chairman of the Council. Messrs. Ch. Fer and C. Voegeli were elected as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. R. de Cintra as Hon. Treasurer.

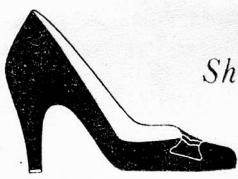
Mr. M. Wiesendanger, on taking the Chair, thanked the members for the confidence they had shown in him by electing him to the office as Chairman. The question of holding an exhibition in England of Swiss goods was then discussed, and Dr. R. Faessler, Commercial Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, informed the meeting of the steps which so far have been taken. He told the members that a new Anglo-Swiss Trade agreement would be discussed in Berne at the end of this month by a British and a Swiss delegation.

Dr. H. W. Egli briefly referred to the scheme of the "Fonds de Solidarité" introduced by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland. Several members took part in the discussion which followed.

The meeting terminated at 7 o'clock and was followed by a Dinner, the guest of Honour being H.E. the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, who was welcomed by the Chairman.

Dr. R. Faessler addressed the company on the subject of the "European Free Trade Area". This excellent and interesting *exposé* by our Commercial Counsellor was much appreciated, and duly acknowledged by the Chairman. (Dr. Faessler's address will be published in the next issue of the "Swiss Observer".)

ST.


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