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JOURNÉE DES SUISSES DE L'ETRANGER 1958.

Over 200 delegates from 27 countries met on August 30th/31st at Baden. The following problems were discussed: REVISION OF THE LAW CONCERNING MILITARY DUTY (MILITARY TAX).

The Federal Council will shortly lay before Parliament new proposals which will adapt the law of 1878 to modern conditions. These contain important provisions for the Swiss abroad inasmuch as their liability to military service and/or military tax shall cease after a stay abroad of 8 years or 5 years for those of Landwehr age. The tax on anticipated fortune (Anwartschaft) will be abolished. Tax will be on total income only and the rate will be increased to 2.4% with a tax per head of frs. 15.— Taxfree income will be increased to frs. 1000.— for unmarried and frs. 2000.— for married men with an additional allowance of frs. 500.— per child and insurance allowance up to frs. 500.—

INVALIDITY INSURANCE.

Delegates were informed by Dr. Sixer, Head of the Federal Social Insurance Department, of the proposed establishment of a Swiss Invalidity Insurance Scheme to be attached to the existing AHV. Members of the London Group of the NSH were made aware by Dr. Sixer in his lecture of May 20th of the broad outline of this scheme which has not yet been laid before the Federal Council and is, therefore, of a tentative nature. Roughly speaking, the law would provide invalidity payments to invalids whose capacity for work is diminished by at least 50%. The additional premium is estimated at 10% of the premium already payable under AHV. The possibility of joining AHV Invalidity Insurance for those Swiss abroad who have up to now failed to join the voluntary AHV will be sympathetically studied by the experts.

SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE SWISS ABROAD.

The meeting witnessed the formal establishment of this Fund which is to be set up for the purpose of indemnifying Swiss abroad for financial loss suffered as a result of war. Details of this fund will be communicated in due course to the Swiss Colonies abroad whose massive support will be required in order to enlist the necessary financial backing by the Federal Parliament. Members of the fund will undertake to make annual payments which will become repayable (partly or wholly) at the age of 65. The contributions will range from frs. 25.— to frs. 100.— No interest will be added on repayment. Those members of the London Colony who contemplate joining this beneficial scheme may obtain provisional acceptance forms from the Council of the NSH, whose Vice-President, Dr. Egli, was nominated to the board of the Solidarity Fund.

REPRESENTATION IN SWITZERLAND OF SWISS COLONIES ABROAD.

The subject was already raised at last year's journée and delegates were informed of the progress made in the study of this difficult problem. It is envisaged to increase the membership of the Auslandschweizer Kommission of the NSH by the inclusion of members to be elected by the duly appointed representatives of the Swiss Colonies abroad.

CULTURAL PROPAGANDA FOR SWITZERLAND.

The President of Pro Helvetia outlined some of the work undertaken by his organisation and promised sympathetic consideration for any new proposals emanating from the colonies.

Delegates adjourned on Sunday to the SAFFA in Zurich where they were addressed by Federal Councillor Chaudet on problems of national defence and by States Counsellor Speiser on economic questions. Among the U.K. Delegates were representatives from the London Group of the NSH, The West Yorkshire Club, The Liverpool Relief Society and Swiss Ladies Club and the Manchester Swiss Club.

W.R.

F. EGGER †

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away — on September 16th — of Mr. F. Eggar, of 21, St. James Close, Regent Park, N.W.8, at the age of 61.

The departed was for some time in precarious health, but his untimely death came as a great shock to his large circle of friends.

Mr. Eggar was born in Rapperswil, and as a young man came to this country, where in 1916, he became associated with our compatriot, Mr. Chas. Strübin, in the firm of Continental Lines. In 1928, he founded the firm of Freight Express Limited, of 11-12, Fenchurch Street, E.C.2, of which concern he was chairman until the time of his death.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his firm (June 1953), he was created by the Queen of the Netherlands, an officer in the Order of Orange and Nassau in recognition of his work on behalf of Dutch Shipping, particularly during the 1939 to 1945 war, when his company was appointed by the Ministry of War Transport as managers for seventy-five Dutch coasters serving in the Allied cause.

Mr. Eggar enjoyed a notable reputation in Shipping and Brokers circles not only in this country but also abroad. He was a hard, conscientious and untiring worker who never spared himself.

Owing to his responsible position, which kept him fully occupied, he was unable — especially in latter years — to take an active part in the life of the Colony, but many of the older generation will remember him as Mr. Eggenberger, for the conspicuous services which he had rendered as Hon. Secretary of the Swiss Mercantile Society in the years after the first world war.

Our departed friend was a likeable man, steadfast in friendship, generous, and with a deep understanding of human nature.

We, who have known and loved him, will keep him in affectionate remembrance. He leaves a widow and daughter to whom we tender our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

ST.