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JOHN A. REIBER.

Recent congratulations were extended by the "Swiss Observer" to Mr. John August Reiber of 129 Bede-Burn Road, Jarrow, Co. Durham, on the occasion of his eighth re-election to the presidency of the Northumberland and Durham Women's Athletic Association and, further, his 21 years as chairman of the Jarrow Cycling and Athletics Club.

Born in Berne on 10th May 1888, he served an apprenticeship as "Patissier" in Bex-les-Bains, Canton Valais, and continued his employment in the same capacity in Montreux and Neuchâtel. Early in 1908 Mr. Reiber served in the "Rekrutenschule" in Berne, subsequently in the Unteroffizierschule in Liestal and then continued service in the "Rekrutenschule" in Berne.

In November 1908 the spirit of adventure and enterprise induced Mr. Reiber to travel to Manchester in England in the service of the Swiss firm of confectioners, 'Meng & Ecker'. In the years between 1908 and 1912 the towns of Southport, Leeds, Brighton and Margate saw a little of our Mr. Reiber. In 1912 Mr. Reiber travelled to Buenos Aires but returned to the British Isles in 1913 to work in Oban and Edinburgh.

At the outbreak of the First World-War he was recalled to the Swiss Army as an Infantry Corporal until November 1914, when he returned to Edinburgh. With the special permission of Lord Kitchener he was able to join the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. Serving until the end of the war he attained the rank of Sergeant and distinguished his services with the award of the Military Medal. It is perhaps a coincidence that his son, in the Second World-War, attained a similar rank and achieved the identical distinction.

On release from H.M. Forces Mr. Reiber came to Jarrow in the County of Durham, met a lady of Swiss descent and married her early in 1919.

Mr. Reiber entered the employment of the Jarrow Co-operative Bakery, served for thirty-five years and retired in 1954 in the capacity of catering manager.

Having attained the aged of seventy, it is also of note to observe that Mr. Reiber will attain fifty years' membership with the Union Helvetia in January 1959.

He served fifteen years on Management Committee and nine years as Sports Secretary to Jarrow Conservative Club.

J.G.P.

## NEWS OF THE COLONY.

M. WIESENDANGER  
Chairman Swiss Economic Council

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Economic Council took place on Thursday, 12th June, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Mr. M. Wiesendanger was in the Chair and there were twenty-five members present.

After the reading of the minutes by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Jules Zimmermann, the Chairman submitted his report concerning the activities of the Council for the last twelve months, and Mr. R. de Cintra, Hon. Treasurer, presented the accounts, which were accepted.

According to the rules four committee members were retiring, namely, Messrs. R. de Cintra, W. Deutsch, Ch. Fer and A. Renou; all were re-elected with the exception of Mr. Deutsch, who has resigned from the committee owing to his retirement from business.

Mr. J. J. Boos acted during the election for the committee as Chairman *pro tem*. He thanked the Chairman, Mr. M. Wiesendanger, and the members of the committee for the services they had rendered.

The following members of the Committee were unanimously re-elected:— Chairman, Mr. M. Wiesendanger; Vice-Chairmen, Ch. Fer and Mr. C. Vogeli; Hon. Secretary, Jules Zimmermann; Hon. Treasurer, R. de Cintra.

Mr. Wiesendanger, on resuming the Chair, thanked the members for the confidence they had shown in him by electing him again to office as Chairman. He welcomed two new members of the Council, Mr. Claus Nuescheler (Anglo-Swiss Food Products Ltd), and Mr. W. E. Bion (Bally's Aarau Shoe Co. Ltd.).

The Chairman made a full report concerning the "Swiss Fortnight", which is to be held from 6th to 17th October 1959, in London, Manchester and Glasgow, under the patronage of O.S.E.C. and the Swiss Economic Council, which was followed by animated discussion.

The meeting terminated at 7 p.m., and was followed by a Dinner, the guest of honour being Dr. Eric Mettler, chief correspondent of the "Neuer Zürcher Zeitung" and President of the Foreign Press Association; other guests were Dr. René Faessler,