

Swissair - annual report

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THE CITY SWISS CLUB IN SURREY.

The "Informal Dinner Dance" which was held on Friday, 3rd July, at "Great Fosters", Egham, Surrey, was a great success, and one of the most enjoyable social gatherings of the Club.

The choice of the committee to meet at one of Britain's finest country house hotels, reminiscent of such royal personages of the past as Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Queen Elizabeth I, was a most happy one. Over 120 members and friends were present.

The weather authorities were most helpful too, enabling the company to visit the vast and lovely grounds before dinner!

In the circular previously sent to the members, it was suggested — weather permitting — that the lady guests should enjoy a swim in the open-air pool "before meeting their escorts". This suggestion prompted me to make an early appearance at Great Fosters, in order to admire the "bathing belles" of the City Swiss Club, but much to my disappointment the attractive pool harboured not one single "Belle". Instead of diving, splashing and exhibiting the latest fashions in bathing costumes, the ladies joined "their escorts" at the open-air cocktail bar. In fact, although dancing was supposed to start at 7 p.m., nobody was anxious to start dancing before the dinner, though the orchestra was ready "to oblige".

It was past 8 o'clock when the company adjourned to the ancient baronial hall to take their seats at the tables, which were lit by candles. Before starting dinner, the President of the Club, Mr. X. Speckert, briefly and in a humorous vein, welcomed the members and guests, wishing them an enjoyable evening.

The *Menu* consisted of Grapefruit Cocktail, Fillet of Plaise Meunière, Roast Surrey Chicken Cressonnière, Pommes Allumette, Leaf Spinach, Casate Napolitaine, and Cafe, and was much enjoyed. Already before coffee was served several couples took to the dancing floor, and before long young and old joined in, encouraged by the excellent dance band. As time went on the atmosphere became what is called friendly and carefree. In years gone by it has often been remarked — quite wrongly, at least for the last twenty or thirty years — that the City Swiss Club was snobbish. I could perceive nothing of snobbishness on that evening; on the contrary, the company went almost "wild" and the gathering was far from "exclusive", in fact, much to my surprise, towards the end of the evening some of our brethren from the "Suisse romande" burst into song and took off their jackets — a thing I had never before witnessed at a social affair of the City Swiss Club; this surely goes to prove that those who call the Club too formal are quite wrong. This "easing up" was in no small degree due to the presence of a good many younger members, and is a good omen for future social gatherings.

It was past midnight when the last waltz was played and the company left this attractive place. The President and the committee of the City Swiss Club are to be congratulated on the arrangements they made; it was indeed a happy and enjoyable evening.

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The City Swiss Club held a short Meeting at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Tuesday, 16th June.

Mr. A. Stauffer, editor of the "Swiss Observer", was the guest of honour at the preceding dinner. Mr. X. Speckert, President, in welcoming Mr. Stauffer, extended to him heartiest con-

gratulations on his thirty years of editorship of the Colony's Official Organ, and his 70th birthday. He expressed, on behalf of the members, thanks to him for the many services he had rendered to the Club for over forty years, and to the Colony in general. As a token of appreciation he presented Mr. Stauffer with a cheque. The latter suitably replied thanking the Members for their generosity.

Press Reporter.

SWISSAIR — ANNUAL REPORT.

A year of consolidation.

The annual report of the Swissair Company for the year 1958 is an interesting and instructive document. It is an English translation (with a slight American flavour) of the German and French originals that were submitted to the shareholders. In substance it is a complete survey of the Company's activities during the twelve months ended 31st December 1958.

No major changes have taken place, but steady progress has been maintained and a substantial increase in traffic, especially on the long-distance routes, has been achieved. The number of passengers carried — over a million — shows an increase of about 7 per cent over the previous year. A similar trend appears in the figures for cargo and mail.

The financial result is most satisfactory. The net profit, Swiss francs 5,101,613.—, is nearly 2 million francs higher than that of the preceding year. The reserve funds and the employees welfare funds have been considerably strengthened and a 6 per cent dividend allocated to the shareholders. The share capital now stands at 63 million francs plus a bond issue of 60 millions.

The outstanding feature in the development of the Company is the introduction of jet-propelled aircraft. These machines, American-built and of the most advanced design, will be delivered early in 1960. They will enable Swissair to maintain and improve its position in the field of civil aviation. The transition from conventional aircraft to jet-powered equipment involves considerable changes — technical and administrative — and much preparatory work has been and is being done on this account. The Company's decision to adopt the new means of propulsion is undoubtedly a wise and far-seeing one. A similar decision may be required within the present decade if the latest reports from the U.S.A. are to be taken seriously. According to these reports the jet-age, though still young, will in a few years be superseded by a "supersonic" age when speeds of 2,000 miles per hour may be reached. Aeronautical developments of this kind would, of course, create new and difficult problems.

Meantime Swissair is facing the future with confidence. In order to minimise competition — where it is possible to do so — a pooling arrangement has been entered into with the B.E.A., as regards traffic between England and Switzerland, and a comprehensive working-agreement has been concluded with the S.A.S., the Scandinavian Airlines, providing for mutual technical and operational assistance and commercial co-operation.

If past performance is anything to go by, confidence in the future is fully justified. The results of the year 1958 certainly represent a remarkable achievement and Swissair — Directorate, management and staff — are to be congratulated on a fine showing.

We, Editor and Readers of the "Swiss Observer", offer them our best wishes for further progress and prosperity.

EDITOR.

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