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AT THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

There was again a capacity attendance at the Monthly Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 7th June.

The Chairman, Mr. R. Chappuis, extended a cordial welcome to the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, whose talk on Africa many had no doubt specially come to hear.

It was with deep regret that the Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. G. L. W. Brandt, who had been a member of the Society since 1947, had passed away on 11th May. The members rose to pay a last silent tribute to their departed colleague.

In connection with the family outing to Parham, the Elizabethan House in Sussex, on 11th June, the Chairman stated that luncheon had been arranged at the Angel, Midhurst, a picturesque 17th-century inn which overlooked Cowdray Park and was noted for its good food. He invited members and their families to join in what promised to be an interesting and enjoyable day in the country.

Reporting on the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Rheinfelden on 13th/14th May, which he had attended — together with Mr. A. Jaccard, Vice-President, as official delegate and at which Mr. J. J. Boos, Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier and Mr. H. Andrea were also present — the Chairman informed the meeting that one of the important decisions taken was the acceptance of the new rules of the old age and invalidity insurance scheme of the association which would come into force on 1st January 1962, after which date it would become a solidarity fund. Full details of the new scheme would be sent, in due course, to all interested.

Mr. Jaccard supplemented the Chairman's statement by commenting on some of the decisions reached in connection with the future status of commercial employees in Switzerland.

Conforming to the customary practice, it was decided that no meeting be held during the months of July and August.

In deference to the wishes expressed by many members, the Swiss Ambassador had kindly agreed to show our Society his fine collection of colour slides from photographs taken on his journey with Madame Daeniker across the African continent.

Referring to the full report on his previous talk which had appeared in the Swiss Observer, Dr. Daeniker said that he would confine himself to prefacing his show of slides. He gave us, nevertheless, a brief account of the purpose of his journey across the Dark Continent and enlarged on the itinerary by giving many interesting sidelights on what he saw and experienced. Of particular interest were his personal views of the changes which are taking place in the economic and political spheres as well as in the racial integration problems of the many countries he visited.

The Ambassador then went on to show his delightful and enlarged collection of colour slides and provided an interesting commentary on all we saw and admired.

NEWS FROM

Especially interesting were the many pictures dealing with aspects of commercial and cultural activities of our countrymen in Africa, many of whom have made notable contributions to the economy and welfare of countries which are grappling with multi-racial and other complex problems.

What most delighted the audience was the variegated scenery, from the arid savannahs to the snow-covered volcanic mountains, often shrouded in mist. Of greatest interest were the many views of wild animals and plants in their natural habitats. These were interspersed with numerous photographs of natives indulging in their quaint local customs and often awe-inspiring in their colourful garb.

No less interesting were the pictures of the vast engineering feats recently accomplished in the continent, such as the Kariba Dam, and also the photographs depicting local industries and trades.

It would not be possible to deal in detail with all we saw and heard. Suffice it to say that all present followed our Ambassador's talk with keen interest and obvious delight.

The Chairman expressed the grateful feelings of the audience in a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Daeniker for having given us a most instructive and enjoyable evening, and this was enthusiastically endorsed with prolonged acclamation.

WB.

MONSIEUR J. J. de TRIBOLET APPOINTED AMBASSADOR PENIPOTENTIARY IN ACCRA

The Federal Council has recently nominated Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet, First Counsellor of Embassy, to be Ambassador Plenipotentiary in Accra, and we tender him herewith our sincere congratulations on his promotion to Ambassadorial rank.

Ever since *en poste* in London, Monsieur de Tribolet has taken a great interest in the activities of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, attending many business and social meetings in London and the provinces. On the social side, he was very ably supported by his charming wife. The Colony owes them both their gratitude, and we wish Monsieur de Tribolet and Madame de Tribolet great success in their new sphere of activity.

The new Ambassador was born in 1911 at Neuchâtel, where he received his schooling. He left the University in 1934 with a *License en droit* after having been called to the Bar. Then followed four years of practical work in lawyers' offices and with the *Chambre de Commerce* in Paris. He entered the services of the Confederation in May 1940, when he was sent to London. In July 1942, Monsieur de Tribolet went to Rome, and returned to Berne in April 1944. Towards the end of that year he

THE COLONY

was appointed secretary of the Swiss delegation to the International Commission dealing with shipping on the Rhine, and in September 1946 he became attached to the then Swiss Legation in Vienna, first as Second Secretary and then as First Secretary. After a further three years at the *Division du Commerce* and the Political Department in Berne, he went, in 1953, to Sofia as *Charge d'Affaires*, having previously been promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In 1956, Monsieur de Tribolet was transferred again to London as first collaborator to the then Swiss Minister, replacing Dr. E. Bernath.

ST.

SWISS HOSTEL FOR GIRLS

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Company was held at 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3, on Tuesday, 20th June. Madame Daeniker, president, was in the chair.

The assembly approved and passed the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1960; they also heard reports from the Council of Management and the Warden about problems and activities of the Hostel.

With the exception of Mr. F. G. Sommer, who was replaced by Mr. M. A. Keller, all the members of the past Council of Management offered themselves for re-election and were confirmed in office for another year.

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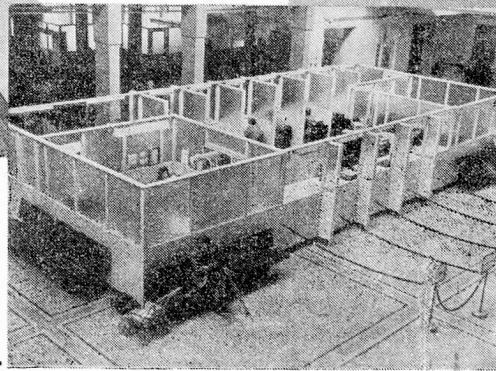
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