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A NEW SWISS AMBASSADOR



Dr. René Faessler

The Federal Council has nominated Dr. René Faessler, at present Economic Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy in London, to the post of Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, and Minister to the Republic of Bolivia, with residence at Lima, in succession to Dr. Hans Berger, who on reaching retiring age has recently vacated his post.

We tender Monsieur Faessler our heartiest congratulations on his well-deserved promotion to Ambassadorial rank.

Ambassador Faessler was born in 1913, and is a citizen of Appenzell, I.Rh. After his schooling, which he received at St. Gall, he studied Law at the Universities of Berne, Vienna and Geneva. From 1938 to 1939 he stayed in Paris as *stagiaire* at an Insurance Company and the Stock Exchange. Returning to Switzerland he established himself as a barrister in St. Gall (1939 to 1943).

In 1943 Monsieur Faessler entered the diplomatic service and was sent as Attaché to the Swiss Legation in Berlin (Safeguard of Foreign Interests), where he remained until 1945. For the subsequent four years he occupied posts at the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in Berne. In 1949 Monsieur Faessler was transferred to the then Swiss Legation in Cairo as Commercial Attaché and first collaborator to the Minister, and he remained there until 1953. A year later he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and sent to London, as successor to Dr. A. Weitnauer.

During the seven years Dr. Faessler has been *en poste* in London, both he and Madame Faessler have taken a keen interest in the activities of the Colony. Some of the talks given on financial and economic subjects, either at the Swiss Economic Council or the Swiss Mercantile Society, are well remembered by their mastery of the subjects and their outstanding delivery.

If the "Swiss Fortnight" held in 1959 was such an outstanding success, it was in no small measure due to the excellent preparatory work of Monsieur Faessler, and his services rendered to this undertaking will always be remembered with gratitude.

In the social sphere also, Dr. Faessler was ably supported by his charming wife; their parties at their home in Cromwell Road were greatly enjoyed.

We wish Monsieur Faessler and Madame Faessler every success in their new sphere of activity. We are the poorer for their leaving us, but the richer for having known this charming couple. *ST.*

HOLIDAY IN SWITZERLAND ORGANISED FOR CHILDREN

The Foundation "Pro Juventute" in Zürich is again organising a holiday in Switzerland for children of 7-14 years, of Swiss parentage who live in the United Kingdom. This holiday will start on 26th July, for some 4 or 8 weeks according to arrangements made by "Pro Juventute".

Different schemes are offered:

- (1) To children holding Swiss passports
 - (a) Board and lodging at reduced prices of about 12s. to 15s. per day in a children's home (8 weeks).
 - (b) A stay of about 4 weeks in a holiday camp for children 12-14 years of age.
 - (c) Free board and lodging with Swiss families for a limited number of children whose parents are unable to pay either the whole or a part of the cost (8 weeks).
- (2) To children whose either parent is Swiss, and who have written invitations from relatives or friends in Switzerland are welcome to join the party for the journey both ways (8 weeks).

Applications should be sent in writing by 1st April to:

- (a) In the London Consular District: Mrs. E. C. Ribi, 7 Exeter House, Putney Heath, London, S.W.15.
- (b) In the Manchester Consular District: Swiss Consulate, 53 Spring Gardens, Manchester 2.

FOLKLORE EVENING AT THE SWISS CLUB

The Swiss Club at Charlotte Street had the bright idea recently of organizing a folklorique evening. As our readers well know, the Club has considerably improved under the management of those charming Valaisans, Mr. and Mrs. Vuistiner, and their popularity could be felt by the enormous crowd, estimated at 120 people, that gathered at this "gemütlich" corner of Switzerland on Friday, 10th February.

The Club's devoted secretary, Mr. Baenniger, announced that it would be a folklorique evening, and folklorique it was indeed! Between hors d'oeuvre, veal and gâteau, main features of the promised "typically Swiss dinner", we were entertained by high-spirited yodellers and accordionists, then by the "clou" of that delightful evening, a flag-thrower and an alpenhorn blower. The Swiss Club was fortunate in being able to engage for the occasion a group of four Nidwalden folk-singers in national costume. They sang joyful table songs which were tremendously appreciated by one and all.

The Swiss accordionist club and the Ticinese singers also played their part in adding to the sparkle of the evening. While members and friends drank a superb wine, Vice-President Mr. Burgazzi (in the absence of Mr. Berti, the Club's President) said a few words of welcome.

I must report that the Club is obviously a success, not only among Swiss people but also amongst our numerous British friends. *P.H.*