

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1961)

Heft: 1383

Rubrik: At the Nouvelle société helvétique

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AT THE NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

The Annual General Meeting of the London Section of Nouvelle Société Helvétique was held on 21st March at the "Schweizerbund", in Charlotte Street, with Mr. W. Renz, the outgoing President, in the Chair.

The Council could again report a fair amount of activity over the past year. Eight meetings were held and all were well attended. The lecturers covered a variety of subjects—from "Monsieur Jaques en pantoufles" and "The position of Women in Switzerland" to "A Journey through Africa". Our thanks are due to the lecturers.

The "Solidarity Fund"

Dr. Egli added some remarks about the development of the "Solidarity Fund", which has now a membership of just below three thousand. While it could be expected that our compatriots in Germany and Italy showed greater interest in this new institution, it was none the less regrettable that less than a hundred members of the Swiss Colony of Great Britain had so far joined. A number of members of the fund had already benefited by it, and he hoped that increased support for the venture would come forth from our people in this country. Dr. Egli also referred to the work of the "Ausland Sekretariat" of the N.S.H. Mr. Suter, Honorary Vice-President, mentioned the "Echo" and the fact that this excellent monthly publication, the subscription price of which was only 15 shillings a year, was published at a loss to the Society in Switzerland. He pleaded for more members to take out subscriptions.

It was further mentioned that the Council of the Society also had joined some other Auslands-Schweizer organisation in bringing our point of view to the knowledge of the Federal Government of the implications for Swiss abroad of the new proposed Law about purchase of real estate by persons not resident in Switzerland. If the law is passed persons not *domiciled* in Switzerland, will have to obtain special permission to purchase land there. One should, of course, expect that, even so, the Swiss abroad who wish, immediately or at some time in the future, to return "home", would not be discouraged to buy a piece of land whereon to build, or with a house already built thereon, for a residence — when the times comes.

The meeting then passed on to deal with the Treasurer's account. He was able to show a small increase in the Society's fortune—to be exact, of £4 0s. 2d. He did not propose any increase in taxation, i.e., subscription fee, and the council agreed with him.

Both the Annual Report and the Treasurer's Account were accepted and agreed to.

The President then explained that he would not be able to accept nomination to the Chair again for the coming year but that, if allowed, he would be glad to remain a member of the Council. However, the only election of officers was reserved for the Council. He mentioned this to inform the meeting, since the then asked Mr. Suter to take the chair for conducting the elections to the Council. Mr. Suter did so and in due course could announce that the whole list of nomi-

nated candidates was elected. The Council now consists of the following:—

Messrs. L. S. R. Ash, R. Baumann, P. Bessire, Mrs. Bessire, Messrs. A. C. Boller, J. H. Büchi, A. L. Chapuis, W. H. Egli, J. Furger, Miss A. Gretener, Messrs. H. Homberger, A. Kunz, Mrs. M. Meier, Miss Preiswerk, and Messrs. H. Mock, W. Renz, J. Revilliod, and M. Wiesendanger.

Messrs. M. A. Röthlisberger and D. E. Bonnet were re-elected Honorary Auditors.

The President thanked all those concerned and adjourned the meeting to enable members to strengthen themselves at the Bar for the exertions ahead of them, i.e., the demolition of, let us say it right here, an excellent dinner.

Seventy members and guests

Nearly seventy members and guests sat down to dinner at 8 o'clock sharp. The management of the Schweizerbund can be congratulated on their efforts. Both fare and service were up to high standard. But, oh, those table legs! Why don't the makers of catering furniture go to Hammersmith and study the construction of the new fly-over; then go home and produce dining tables with centre legs only? However, ---!

After the toasts "Her Majesty the Queen" and "La Suisse" had been drunk, the President welcomed members and guests. He had the pleasure to welcome in particular H.E. our Ambassador, Dr. Daeniker. Madame Daeniker was unfortunately prevented from being present. The President, therefore, asked the Ambassador to act as messenger and handed him a large bunch of flowers for Madame Daeniker. He further bade welcome to, among others, the three "Seelsorgers" of the Swiss Colony in London—the Rev. J. Scherer; The Rev. P. Wipf and Mrs. Wipf; and the Rev. Ph. Nicole and Mrs. Nicole. He also informed the diners that the next day would be the birthday of our highly respected and loved honorary Vice-President, Mr. Suter, whom he wished many happy returns of the day—which brought the whole gathering on its feet offering a rather tuneful "happy birthday to you".

The Ambassador, Honorary President of the Society, was greeted with loud clapping when he rose to respond to the President's words. First he thanked Mr. Renz for his work as President of N.S.H. in the name of the members. Then he reminded us of the fact that just two hundred years ago the Société Helvétique was founded. Dr. Daeniker also expressed pleasure at having been able to accept the Honorary Presidency of the Society.

J.H.B.

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