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LORD BALNIEL AT THE CITY SWISS CLUB

At the last City Swiss Club dinner, which took place on Friday, 1st June, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, Lord Balniel, Conservative Member of Parliament for the Hertford Division since 1955, Financial Secretary to the Treasury from 1955 to 1957, and since 1957 Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, was the guest of honour at the Club.

Mr. Th. von Speyr was in the Chair, and there were sixty members present. Shortly after coffee had been served, the president introduced Lord Balniel to the company, and also welcomed the following members of the Swiss Embassy: Monsieur J. de Stoutz, 1st Counsellor of Embassy, Monsieur W. Roch and Monsieur E. Ribi. He mentioned that Lord Balniel has many ties with Switzerland, the most important one being Lady Balniel, who is a daughter of Mr. Leo Meyer-Bechtler, the Chairman of Meyer & Stüdeli, A.G. (Roamer Watches) Solothurn.

The subject of Lord Balniel's address was, one may safely say, a party political one, with the background of the next General Election.

With his easy delivery, and humorous remarks, he kept his hearers spellbound, and only lack of space prevents the reporter from reviewing the noble Lord's interesting political survey. The address was followed by a lively discussion, in which a number of members took part.

Before closing the meeting, the president warmly thanked the speaker of the evening for having accepted the invitation of the Club to address its members on a topical subject, which was much enjoyed.

*Press Reporter,
City Swiss Club.*

SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Economic Council took place at the Dorchester Hotel on 22nd May 1962.

The meeting re-elected its four principal officers — Mr. J. P. Christen (*Chairman*), Mr. A. Renou (*Vice-Chairman*), Mr. O. Rohn (*Vice-Chairman*), and Mr. X. Speckert (*Hon. Treasurer*) — and its retiring Committee members, Mr. R. J. Keller, Mr. H. Knoll and Mr. O. Rohn. Mr. J. J. Boos, who remains on the Council but did not offer himself for re-election to the Committee, was thanked for his help in the past.

Among the subjects reviewed were re-activation generally, a proposal for a specified minimum of donation, an exploratory meeting with young Swiss likely to be interested in settling in the United Kingdom, and the Council's attitude to Draft Article 45bis, defining the status of Swiss abroad.

Mr. J. P. Christen, Chairman, and Mr. M. W. Züblin, Hon. Secretary, were specially complimented for the excellent work done during their first year of office.

After dinner, our guest of honour, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, addressed the meeting on the state of negotiations regarding the Common Market.

F.

COCKTAIL PARTY

The Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker gave a Cocktail Party, on Thursday, 31st May, at the Embassy, to bid farewell to Dr. Max Homberger and Mrs. Homberger.

NEWS FROM

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Monthly Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 16th May.

The Chairman, Mr. R. Chappuis, gave a brief report on the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at Interlaken on 5th/6th May, which he had attended with Mr. A. Jaccard, Chairman of the Education Committee, and at which Mr. J. J. Boos, Hon. Member of the Central Society, Mrs. M. Meier and Mr. F. Streit were also present. The resolutions adopted by the delegates' meeting, representing 61,000 active and 9,300 youth members called

- (1) for a revision of the section of the Federal Law dealing with contracts of employment to bring it into line with present conditions,
- (2) a regularisation of salaries and pensions, taking into account the increased cost of living and the abnormal conditions during the present boom period and asking for the admission of foreign labour to be kept at last year's maximum level, and
- (3) further financial assistance from the employers' federation, the Government and the Cantons to assist in the commercial education required to cope with the new tasks set by the technical and economic developments in progress.

Mr. Jaccard gave an interesting account of the proceedings and the discussions of some of the economic and labour problems facing our country in view of the proposed extension of European integration and the resultant international trading conditions. He praised the excellent organisation of the delegates' meeting and referred to the cordial welcome accorded to the London delegation both at Interlaken and later at headquarters in Zurich.

As the next Monthly Meeting would have clashed with the Concert of the "Stadtmusik Solothurn", it was decided to postpone it to Wednesday, 20th June. This meeting will be followed by a talk on "The World Oil Industry", by Mr. H. Haerry of Shell International Petroleum Co. Ltd., which will be illustrated with films.

Members wishing to take part in the family outing to Rye and Winchelsea on Sunday, 24th June, were asked to book early so that arrangements for luncheon at the Mermaid Hotel, Rye (10/6 per head excluding beverages), could be made in good time. Fuller details are being circulated and can also be obtained from the Secretary (Tel. MUS 2892 and 2894).

Following the meeting, a colour film, "Antarctic Crossing", was shown by courtesy of Petroleum Films Bureau.

This excellent film depicts the epic story of the crossing from the coast to coast of the white desolation, the freezing wilderness of Antarctica, in the prior attempt of which many brave men had perished. The main party, led by Sir Vivian Fuchs, set out from the Weddell Sea, and a second party, commanded by Sir Edmund Hillary, started from the Ross Sea, on the opposite coast of Antarctica. Despite the fact that the venture was undertaken with all modern methods, snow-cat tractors, scientific instruments, etc., this in no way detracted from its success. One had only to see the atrocious conditions encountered and the appalling obstacles surmounted by the parties to have a conception of the achievement of ultimate success. The audience admired in particular the

THE COLONY

fine colour photography of the majestic beauty of the antarctic mountains and glaciers.

"Antarctic Crossing" is a gripping true-life adventure story of dogged endurance and courage which appealed to all who had the pleasure of seeing it.

W.B.

NEW OFFICES FOR SWISS BANK CORPORATION, CITY OF LONDON — TOPPING OUT CEREMONY

At a short but impressive and very friendly ceremony during the afternoon of 28th May, the Union Jack and the White Cross of Switzerland were broken and the last skip of concrete was emptied to complete the roof of the new offices built by Holloways for the Swiss Bank Corporation.

The new building adjoins the existing bank premises on the corner of Gresham Street and Coleman Street, on the site of St. Stephen's Church, which was re-built by Wren in 1674/6 after the Great Fire of 1666, only to be destroyed during the 1940 'blitz'.

Speaking on behalf of the bank, Mr. M. Homberger stressed the hard work which he had witnessed during the process of construction and highly praised the workmen on the site. The ceremony was followed by suitable refreshments for all.

The new building, which necessitated over 6,000 cubic yards of excavation down to 45 feet below street level, is almost 120 feet by 100 feet and reaches to 95 feet above the street. Some 6,000 cubic yards (or 10,000 tons) of concrete and 500 tons of steel have been used in the construction of the new building, which is faced with coloured vitreous mosaics and armoured glass spandrel panels in anodized aluminium window surrounds. Internal finishings include patent acoustic-tile heated ceilings, panelled and plastered walls and various floorings including marble and terrazzo.

The oil-fired central heating and air-conditioning plant occupies two basement floors and shares the large penthouse with the machinery for five lifts and the air-compressors for the latest message carrying devices.

The whole project was conceived by David du R. Aberdeen and Partners, assisted on the structural design by Ove Arup and Partners and with mechanical services by Roger Preston and Partners. D. R. Rolans & Co., are the quantity surveyors and the main contractors are Holloway Brothers (London) Ltd.



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FROM THE NEW EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Nearly thirty years ago I wrote my first contribution for the Swiss Observer. Little did I think then that one day I should be asked to take over the editorship of this paper which plays such an important part in the life of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. It was with diffidence and hesitation that I accepted this task. I know it is not going to be easy to follow in the footsteps of Mr. Stauffer, who for several decades has carried out this difficult job to the satisfaction of a critical army of readers. The Advisory Council has kindly agreed to my request for a trial period of six months. I don't intend to make any sweeping changes for the time being. I should like to feel certain first that I am equal to the work before launching out in new directions. But it will help me considerably if you will let me know your comments, criticism and suggestions. I hope I shall be able to make a success of my job. To please everyone is an art which no individual can master. But I shall try my best and I hope I shall come up to the Council's expectations and, with your indulgence and support, produce the Swiss Observer to your satisfaction and for the benefit of the whole Colony.

Mariann Meier.

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TWO ANNIVERSARIES



JACK GALLO

Mr. Jack Gallo, of 68 Ebury Street, Westminster, S.W.1, *Chef Sommelier* at the Le Coq d'Or Restaurant, Stratton Street, W., is celebrating this year two anniversaries. He arrived in this country half a century ago, and is also celebrating his 70th birthday.

During his long London career he has worked in most of London's first class hotels and restaurants, and amongst the many clients whom he has served have been a score of crowned heads. He attended — apart from several royalties from countries such as Norway, Sweden, Italy, Yugoslavia, Egypt, etc. — most of the Indian Princes, and all four sons of King George V. During the last war General de Gaulle was a frequent visitor at Mr. Satori's Le Coq d'Or.

We understand that Mr. Gallo is busy writing a book, advising his readers as to the choice of wines, and therefore we have no intention of giving away any of his, no doubt, valuable hints and tips.

Mr. Gallo is regarded as one, if not *the*, doyen of the *Sommeliers* in London, with expert knowledge as how to serve, treat and consume the heaven-sent beverage. His activities in this country were mostly confined to the Savoy, Berkeley, Ritz and Carlton Hotels, and to the old Café Royal, but many of our readers will undoubtedly remember him working at Pagani's Restaurant, which — alas! — was "blitzed" during the last War.

Our friend's connection with the wine trade dates almost from his birth, when his parents kept an inn and wine establishment in the Grisons. One of the many honours bestowed on him was the election as Chairman of the Guild of Sommeliers.

Mr. Gallo has many hobbies. In the sphere of sport he excelled as a wrestler, gymnast and skier, being the holder of many trophies. He is also an ardent collector of wine labels, and odd shaped bottles (we presume full), and all sorts of gadgets connected with the wine trade.

In congratulating Mr. Gallo of having attained the venerable age of three score and ten, we hope that a kind Providence will allow him to remain amongst us for many more years to come.

ST.

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PERSONAL

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Baumann, of 22, St. Catherine's Court, Bedford Park, W.4, who are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary on June 22nd.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Messrs. J. B. Reynier Limited wish to announce the following new price for EXIR French Syrups:

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