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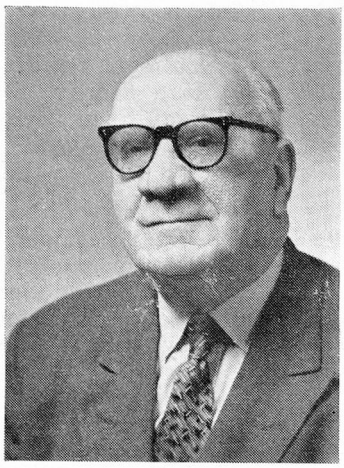

LEON JOBIN

Some time ago Mr. Léon Jobin, a partner in the firm of Marchand & Jobin Ltd., of 100 Hatton Garden, E.C.1, retired from business, and decided, after having been in this country for over half a century, to return to the country of his birth, together with his wife and two daughters.

Léon, as he was known among his friends, saw the light of day in Tramelan (Ct. Berne) in the year 1890, in which village he received his schooling. At the age of fifteen he entered the firm of A. Reymond, S.A., watch manufacturers in Tramelan. After a three-year apprenticeship, he remained a further two years with the same concern, and, although he was then only just twenty years of age, he was put in charge of about 250 work-hands, which was a splendid testimony of the confidence which his superiors had in this young man. But like so many of our compatriots in those days, the " Wanderlust " got hold of him, and one fine day he packed his bag leaving his parental home and his country for Berlin, where he found employment with a firm of watch importers. After a stay of nearly two years, he left the German capital in 1911 to accept a post with the watch concern Abel & Katz in London, becoming eventually manager of this firm. In 1914 he entered into partnership with Mr. René Marchand, whom he had met at the same boarding house, and it was there that a friendship started which has produced such splendid results. The two young enthusiasts soon understood each other, working in perfect harmony. (*Mr. René Marchand has also recently retired, but for the time being will remain in this country. We hope to refer to him in one of our future issues.*)

In January 1914, Mr. René Marchand and Léon Jobin commenced business at Gamage's building, 118 High Holborn, E.C.1, but the tenancy was short, and in 1917 the business was moved to 100 Hatton Garden. During the first world war the firm was busily engaged in the production of munitions of war.

The first agencies held were for Marchand-Monnier & Co. (Elem Watch Company) and the Minerva Watch Company. Today, sales are concentrated mainly on Majex, the company's own trade-mark, Waltham, for which they are distributors in the United Kingdom, and Minerva stop watches, retained since the company's inception.

Marchand & Jobin Ltd. have been responsible for popularising a number of watch lines. Also, they have always been interested in watch-case manufacturing, and are still associated with British Watch Cases Ltd.

Although a very happy and prosperous partnership has, with the retirement of Mr. René Marchand and Léon Jobin, now come to an end, the firm is carrying on under the management of Mr. Jobin's son, Lucien, and Mr. Frank Killingbeck. Both have been with the company for many years and are well known and respected throughout the horological trade.

In spite of Mr. Léon Jobin's responsible position, involving much work, he found time during the many years of his *séjour* in London to take an active part in the life of the Swiss Colony. In 1927, he was elected president of the City Swiss Club, where during his year of office he made many friends. For a considerable span of time he has been an active and untiring worker in the committees of the " Fête Suisse ", Swiss Sports, 1st of August, and the Swiss Economic Council. He was an enthusiastic member of the Swiss Male Choir, and belonged to the Swiss Mercantile Society, the " Foyer Suisse ", etc. On the social side he was ably supported by his charming wife. No function in the Colony was really complete without the family Jobin. We miss them. In recent years Léon has travelled widely, and we often listened with pleasure to his travelling experiences.

All those who come in contact with Léon Jobin were struck by his ardent love for his native country, by his integrity and fair play. He has rendered many services to the Colony, which will not soon be forgotten and for which we owe him our deep gratitude, and we wish him a carefree and happy retirement on the shores of Lac Léman, blessed with good health.

ST.

EIDGENOESSISCHES SCHUETZENFEST 1963 ZUERICH

The Federal Shooting Festival will take place in Zurich between 24th July and 12th August 1963.

1st August has been fixed as the special day for the meeting of the Swiss living abroad.

The programme will be as follows:

11 a.m.: Reception and lunch in the " Festhalle " on the Albisgüetli. After lunch transport by bus to the Utoquai. 2 p.m.: Trip on the lake with reception " auf der Au ". 5 p.m.: Participation in the Official celebration of the 1st of August Fête on the Bürkliplatz.

The Reception Committee wish it to be known that not only members of Societies taking part in the shooting competitions, but that every Swiss, lady or gentleman, residing abroad will be cordially welcomed.

The journey by bus and by boat, as well as a collation which will be taken " auf der Au ", are offered free by the Reception Committee, but not the lunch.

Anyone who wishes to participate should inform Mr. A. Müller, Schulamt, Parkring 4, in Zürich 4.

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