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JULES ZIMMERMANN

WELL-EARNED RETIREMENT

At the end of last year, the Swiss Benevolent Society lost its Secretary when Mr. Jules Zimmermann retired after 13 years of loyal service to the S.B.S. and a lifetime of work in the Swiss Colony.

Jules Zimmermann was born at Vevey in 1890, a citizen of Schwaendi (Glarus). He visited primary and secondary school at Vevey and the *Ecole Supérieure de Commerce* in Lausanne. He did an apprenticeship of three years with the Winterthur Bank, now the Union Bank of Switzerland, finishing with an S.K.V. Diploma. After his military service, he left for Milan in 1910. He worked as foreign correspondent with the Banca Commerciale Italiana. His employers transferred him to London in 1913, and he embarked on a banking career, eleven years as Secretary and sixteen years as Chief of Correspondence Department. In 1929, Mr. Zimmermann was appointed signature holder with additional power a few years later to sign as Manager of the West End and Soho Agencies.

Being on holiday in 1914, he was called up when the war broke out, and he served in the Swiss Army as Infantry corporal until he was able to return to London early in 1915 to resume his work with the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, the Bank went into Liquidation after having been taken over by the Custodian of Enemy Property, and the promising career of Jules Zimmermann came to an abrupt halt.

In 1941, he joined the London Delegation of the International Red Cross, serving as Assistant Delegate until 1945. For the following three years, until the London Office closed, he was Sole Delegate.

Once again, he had to look for new employment. He was appointed Assistant Manager of the Employment Department of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and succeeding Mr. J. Pfaendler as Manager when the latter died in 1951. Four years later, the S.K.V. decided to close down the Employment Department, and as Mr. Zimmermann had already assisted Mr. Th. Ritter in running the Swiss Benevolent Society, it was natural that he should be elected full-time Secretary in 1956, Mr. Ritter having retired.

On arrival in London, already Mr. Zimmermann took up various activities in the Swiss Colony. In the course of the years, he has held the following offices: 1914 to

1920: Hon. Assistant Secretary of the City Swiss Club; 1915 to 1918: member and then Hon. Secretary of the "Comité d'Etude pour la création d'une Chambre de Commerce Suisse à Londres", sponsored jointly by the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society; 1918 to 1943: Hon. Secretary of the "Swiss Commission in London for the study of Economic Questions". (When the Swiss authorities decided against a Swiss Chamber of Commerce, but created instead the new post of Commercial Attaché to the Swiss Legation, the Swiss Commission was transferred into an independent advisory body); 1928 to 1929: Hon. Assistant Treasurer of the City Swiss Club; 1929 to 1933: Hon. Secretary of the City Swiss Club; 1939 to 1952: Hon. Treasurer of the "Comité de la Fête Suisse"; 1940, up to a few years ago, Hon. Treasurer of the "Home for aged Swiss"; 1943 to 1950: member of the "Council for the Study of Swiss Problems"; 1945 to 1947: Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of "1st of August Committee"; 1949 to 1952: Hon. Assistant Secretary of the Swiss Benevolent Society; for many years (from 1950): Hon. Secretary of the "Swiss Economic Council"; Vice-President of the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain.

He is a member of the City Swiss Club, Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the Swiss Mercantile Society and formerly also of the Swiss Male Choir.

This is surely a splendid record of much work done in a voluntary capacity in the interests of the Colony, and we wish Mr. Zimmermann many years of happy retirement.

DISTINCTIONS FOR SWISS INDUSTRIALISTS

The Federal Institute of Technology has honoured four Swiss industrialists and technicians by conferring on them the honorary degree of Doctor of Technical Sciences. The four are Mr. Kurt Hess, B.Sc. (Eng.) EPF, president and managing director of Rieter Engineering Works Co., Ltd., at Winterthur, famous for the production of spinning machines; Henri Gicot, consultant engineer at Fribourg, specialising in the construction of vault dams in Switzerland and abroad; Erhard Mettler, inventor and maker of precision high-speed analysis balances manufactured by the firm that bears his name, and Theodor Laible, B.Sc. (Eng.) EPF, a member of the Oerlikon Engineering Works Co. Ltd., in Zurich, and author of a number of remarkable scientific works on the mathematical theory of electric machines.

[O.S.E.C.]

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