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efficiency with which he had carried out his duties. He also added the Embassy's thanks.

The meeting then elected Mr. Mario Schneebeli as the new President. He affirmed his intention to serve the Society to the best of his ability and in the interest of his countrymen in want.

(MM)

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 7th April, with Mr. A. Jaccard presiding.

Dealing with the accounts for the past year, as circulated, the Chairman stated that the results for the period under review could be considered satisfactory despite the rising overheads, which had necessitated a further increase in the school fees.

In the introductory remarks of his report on the Society's activities during 1970, Mr. Jaccard dwelt at some length on the economic problems besetting this country, with whom our members had such close ties, both business and private.

On the whole, the SMS had again fared well and the fall in the membership, for the time being, at least, was contained. The general arrangements for meetings, lectures, socials, etc., followed the usual pattern, and the main functions, in particular, were again well supported.

Reporting on the scholastic activities, the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. F. O. Hausermann, pointed to the shortage of accommodation at Swiss House due to the continuously growing number of applications for admission which made it advisable nowadays to enrol at least six months prior to entry in order to have a reasonable chance of securing a place.

A total of 670 students had started their studies at the College during 1970, the average attendance being 272, compared with 661 and 268 in the preceding year.

The high standard required for obtaining the diploma of the College, which was widely recognised by employers in Switzerland, had been fully maintained. Out of 413 candidates who sat for this examination last year, 385 or 93% were successful.

As in the past, the Society had continued to provide evening tuition for our young compatriots in temporary employment here. A total of 38 courses was held, with 716 enrolments and an average attendance of 19 students per class. The syllabus included English language, grammar, translation, commercial correspondence and shorthand, as well as preparatory courses for the examinations of Cambridge University for the Lower Certificate and the Certificate of Proficiency in English. The number of candidates entered for these examinations by the College for both

day and evening classes totalled 275 and 59 respectively. The results were on the whole very satisfactory, and it was noteworthy that in the CPE examinations, one candidate had obtained a first class pass, a rare distinction, and 14 candidates were awarded a second class, nine of them in Division I.

The language laboratory, installed at the end of 1968, was proving a valuable acquisition in raising the standard of the spoken language and giving the students a greater opportunity of individual, supervised work.

The traditional Thursday afternoon lectures by teachers of the College and outside lecturers, notably Swissair, British Transport and the British Steel Corporation, on a wide variety of subjects, again played a prominent part in the curriculum. Many of these were illustrated with sound films and slide shows, for which full use was made of the Society's projectors.

Full day excursions to places of cultural, historic and general interest under the guidance of teachers, as well as class visits to commercial undertakings, the Stock Exchange, the General Post Office, etc., proved as popular as ever. The customary Saturday outings to places in and around London, including rambles into the countryside, continued to be a regular feature of a varied programme.

A certain amount of relaxation was provided in each term at social evenings with musical items, film shows and play acting, in which both students and teachers had taken part. Students' dances and theatre parties to West End shows and plays were generally well supported.

The College football team had a very successful season during 1969/70 and finished third in the Intermediate League and as runners-up in the Intermediate Cup of the West End (London) AFA. In the annual Lints-Smith Cup match versus The Times, the College lost a hard-fought game by 2 goals to 3 after extra time (the Cup has since been regained by 3-0 in a recent match).

Regular bookings of tennis courts were again made at nearby Regent's Park, where a larger number of students made full use of the facilities offered there throughout the summer and winter seasons.

The College magazine, "The SMS Student", was again published twice every term and, apart from general College news, contained many interesting reports and articles contributed by students and teachers on a great variety of topics. The magazine was, as in the past, edited by Dr. G. Tier, whose personal contributions were as interesting as ever and to whom thanks were expressed for maintaining the high standard of this publication.

In conjunction with the Swiss Commercial Employment Service (S.K.S.), the Society continued to assist students in finding suitable employ-

ment here on completion of their course of studies. Due to the increase in the Selective Employment Tax and other economic factors, the number of vacancies notified by employers was considerably lower than in previous years. It was nevertheless gratifying to record that 37 applicants had obtained clerical employment with the help of the SMS in the course of last year. Mr. S. Baumgartner, Manager of the SKS, had visited the College during the summer and autumn terms and given students professional advice regarding their future careers. On his second visit, he was accompanied by Dr. F. Hess, President of the Advisory Committee of the SKS in Zurich.

Finally, Mr. Hausermann stated that the College were fortunate in having a staff of 16 well qualified and experienced teachers, both from a language and commercial point of view. The Committee had at all times endeavoured to attract and maintain a first-class staff in order to keep abreast of other similar schools.

Concluding the Council's report, the Chairman thanked the Swiss Ambassador and his staff for their support throughout the year. Likewise he expressed the Society's appreciation of the financial assistance received from B.I.G.A. in Berne, as well as from private firms and individual donors. He also gratefully acknowledged the ever-ready and invaluable help and co-operation of the officials at the Central Secretariat of the S.K.V. and the constant assistance of the Manager of the Swiss Commercial Employment Service in Zurich.

*Elections:* Mr. O. Grob, a former President and Hon. Member of the London Section, was appointed temporary Chairman to conduct the elections. He thanked all who had contributed to another successful year of activities, and complimented the Chairman and President, Mr. A. Jaccard, for the efficient manner in which he had again conducted the Society's affairs, and the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. F. O. Hausermann, on another successful year at the College.

The Chairman, having stated his willingness to serve for another term of office, was re-elected with acclamation. All the remaining members of the Council and the Committees having agreed to continue in office and there being no further nominations, they were fully declared duly elected as follows:—

*Council:* Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Trustees: Messrs. R. Chappuis, O. Grob, H. Knoll, F. G. Sommer; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, J. F. Carlen, F. O. Hausermann, E. M. Huber, J. E. Schneider, R. Senn, F. Streit.

*General Purposes & House Committee:* President: Mr. A. Jaccard; Vice-President: Mr. F. O. Hausermann; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. E. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R.

Senn; Members: Messrs. W. Schedler, F. Vatrlaus, J. Weibel, E. Zwicky.

**Education Committee:** Chairman: Mr. F. O. Hausermann; Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. F. Carlen; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, G. Hediger, O. Luterbacher, K. Schnee-beli, L. A. Simon.

**Press Reporter:** Mr. W. Burren.

**Delegate to the N.S.H.:** Mr. L. S. R. Asch.

(WB)

### A DEPARTURE

Once again, the Swiss community in London has to say farewell to dear friends. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Boller, of "Aberdare", Cross Road, Tadworth, Surrey, are leaving for Switzerland.

Mr. Boller was born at Agasul,

Zurich, on 8th May, 1899. He went to primary and secondary schools at Illnau in his home Canton and to the *Ecole Supérieure de Commerce* in Neuchâtel.

After his apprenticeship with Volkart Brothers, Winterthur, he was transferred to Bombay and spent 12 years in India. On his return to Switzerland in 1931, he worked with a firm of building contractors and later joined the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade (OSEC).

In 1940, the Swiss Federal War Transport Office called in Mr. Boller to help with the organisation of their Sea Transport Section, a most responsible task. He rendered invaluable services to Switzerland in provisioning the country during the war. At the end of the war, Alfred Boller was invited

by the International Red Cross to go to Greece as Vice-President of the *Commission Mixte pour les Secours en Grèce*. He returned to Switzerland in 1945 and joined the *Société Generale de Surveillance S.A.* Soon he was sent abroad again, this time as Director of their subsidiary in the United Kingdom, Cargo Superintendents (London). He became Chairman in 1966.

In 1927, he married Miss Elisabeth Escher, and the happy couple had two sons. She will be remembered with affection and respect by many, for she did a great deal of unselfish and devoted work in the Swiss community. Her death in 1957 was a great blow. But Mr. Boller's many friends were delighted when, in 1960, he married Miss Marguerite Frey from Lausanne. Together they have been taking part in

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