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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

After the customary summer recess, the Society resumed its activities on Wednesday, 13th September, with a Veterans' Evening.

The Chairman, Mr. A. Jaccard, welcomed Monsieur F. Adams, Swiss Consul, and the veterans present, viz. Messrs. R. Chappuis, O. Grob, G. Hediger, E. Kern, J. Oertli, O. Schoenholzer and F. G. Sommer, whose average membership amounted to over 53 years, a truly remarkable record of faithful adherence.

At this year's Veterans' assembly of the SKV at Rapperswil on 31st August, three members of the London Section, Messrs. J. H. Oltramare, O. Schoenholzer and C. E. Wietlisbach were awarded the "Wappenscheibe" to commemorate 50 years' membership of the association. Mr. Schoenholzer, who had been present at the ceremony in Switzerland, briefly reported on the proceedings and expressed appreciation of the cordial reception accorded to him at this memorable function.

Greetings were received from Mr. E. Zwicky, another veteran, to whom a telegram of good wishes had been sent on the occasion of his golden wedding, which he and Mrs. Zwicky had recently celebrated in Switzerland.

An interesting account of the Jubilee Assembly of Swiss Abroad, in Berne, which she had attended as one of the U.K. delegates, was given by Mrs. M. Meier, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. She stated that this five day gathering, the 50th of its kind, had been attended by over 800 Swiss from all over the globe. One of the main speakers on the subject of political rights for the Swiss abroad had been her co-delegate from the U.K., Dr. H. R. Bolliger. Those present were pleased to learn that the SMS College was represented among

the London exhibits displayed in show windows in the Kramgasse.

Following the meeting, the members and the ladies present adjourned to the Committee Room, where refreshments were served and where they had an opportunity of harking back to bygone days and experiences. Thus ended what, by general consensus, had proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

(WB)

THE TICINO GOVERNMENT IN LONDON

At the week-end, Mr. Harold Wilson had fulminated against the absence of the British P.M. in the Far East, while weighty national problems demanded his undivided attention in Whitehall or at least at Chequers. What would not the leader of H.M. Opposition have remarked if, in the unlikely case of being a "Ticinese" he had been apprised by a brief paragraph in the Ticino press on Saturday, 16th September last that *"the members of the Council of State will be going on a study journey to London, Stockholm and Berlin, from tomorrow to the 22nd September . . ."* Thus our southernmost Canton's loss, albeit temporary, provided a most welcome surprise for the London "ticinesi", who were able to meet all the members of their Cantonal government under one roof on the same evening.

Namely, they had been invited by our Ambassador, Dr. Weinauer, to join all our Embassy diplomatic and consular staff, and their ladies, in the reception which he gave on Monday evening, 18th September, in our sparkling new ambassadorial residence, to the government "in corpore" of the Canton and Republic of the Ticino, composed of the following councillors of state: *on. Argante Righetti*, head of the Construction and military departments, and President of the council; *on. Arturo Lafranchi*, home affairs and public economy, and Vice President; *on. ing. Ugo Sadis*, finance and education; *on. Alberto Lepori*, justice and police, and *on. Benito Bernasconi*, social security works.

The five gentlemen arrived late at the Embassy having worked through a closely knit tour of inspection. Since arriving at London airport, they had been on the Sunday evening still to the "cinque port" of Rye, whilst on the Monday they had looked over a nuclear power station, visited Crawley new town, and inspected a recently

completed, prefabricated London comprehensive school. They had been favourably impressed by all that they had seen, in particular how orderly life went on at the school despite classrooms of close on forty pupils. After a further inspection tour on the Tuesday morning, our busy ministers took 'plane again on the second stage to Sweden, well satisfied with their United Kingdom visit.

In their turn, members of the "ticinese" colony were pleased to have met again sig. Lafranchi who had been here some two years ago promoting tourism (then he had been the first member of the Ticino government to have come to London ever), but we were all grateful to our "signori consiglieri" for the friendly way in which they answered questions and brought us news from home. We wish them well in their endeavours.

J.E.

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