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Age Pension 1973 offer. The total number of Swiss abroad who sacrificed 7.4 per cent of their gross income for a safe retirement was about 40,000, or about an eighth of the Swiss population abroad. The second meeting also dealt with renewing contact with the 2,000 Swiss living in Russia and in eastern Europe.

Mrs. Meier then briefly reported on the meetings of the Council of Solidarity Fund and of the Commission for information of the Swiss abroad.

The re-election of the officers of the Federation was the next item. Dr. Egli said that, at just 75, the time had come for him to step down. He invited the meeting to elect Mr. Bernhard Simon, Vice-President, as his successor. The meeting did so without hesitation and passed a vote of thanks for the services rendered by the outgoing President during his tenure of office. Mr. Ernst Tangemann was elected Vice-President. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. Virgil Berti, offered to stand down was "persuaded to carry on".

Mr. Simon having taken the chair and praised the activities of his predecessor, the meeting proceeded to elect the auditors and then dwelt at some length on the four-party agreement regarding the special quarterly issues of the *Swiss Observer*. In an apparent gesture to concern the Swiss community with efforts done on its behalf in the field of information, the authorities in Berne had thought fit to include the Federation in an agreement providing for the regular publication of a Special Issue of the *Swiss Observer*. The agreement, which has not yet been finalised, it mainly concerned with the cost-sharing of this new venture between the Publishers of the *Swiss Observer* and the Political Department. The Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad and the Federation were invited to be parties to this agreement. Some participants at the meeting expressed doubt at the justification of having the Federation sign an agreement with which it was not directly concerned. The situation was made more confusing by the fact that no one knew exactly what the agreement was. Mr. Marcel Ney, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, who had come from Berne to attend the meeting,

impressed on the attendance that Berne was making a great effort, spending a fair amount of money at a time of official austerity, to produce four special issues of the *Swiss Observer* for the benefit of all the Swiss people of Great Britain and similar issues in the remainder of the English-speaking world. Mr. Ney added, in effect, that this should get some recognition in the planned agreement. After some discussion the meeting decided to voice its gratitude and appreciation for the efforts done by Berne in supplying us in Britain with official information, to have the officers of the Federation (Committee) sign the agreement on behalf of the Federation and send a copy of the text to all its members. The first step of this process was duly carried out with an unanimous vote of gratitude.

Mr. Ney then told us of the Agenda of the forthcoming Congress of the Swiss Abroad, which is to take place in Neuchatel on the weekend from 22nd to 25th August and have as its central theme "Social Insurance and the Swiss Abroad". Mr. Ney called on the Swiss of Britain to come in force to these annual gatherings whose success relied to a great extent on the number of compatriots who joined in.

As "other business" an item was raised by Mr. Virgil Berti, President of the 1st August Committee, who called on Swiss residents in London to be more numerous at the 1st August Celebration, which will again be held this year at the Wimbledon Town Hall. He said that the function had become almost an exclusively young gathering. This had meant a rejuvenation of the programme and a curtailing of the official and ceremonial aspects of this patriotic event. Mr. F. A. De Maria, President of the Unione Ticinese, took the opportunity to draw the attendance's attention on the pink brochures he had brought with him on the history of his association. The Unione Ticinese is celebrating its Centenary this year, and this will doubtless constitute the highlight of the Colony year.

The meeting, having been officially closed, the Ambassador invited us all for drinks in the adjoining reception area. Later we were offered a delicious supper consisting of rice and émincé and a crusty

red wine from the Valais which we enjoyed seated in various groups in the Embassy's cosy armchairs. This appendage to the A.G.M. of the Federation of Swiss Societies was at least as important in view of its enjoyable character and the opportunity for renewed contact.

THE SWISS OBSERVER THIRTY YEARS AGO

The 1944 Volume of the *Swiss Observer* is one of the thinnest in its history. The publication came out in reduced form once a month owing to war-time circumstances. But the pace of colony life was still lively. As an example, the January numbers advertised the City Swiss Club, "The Dansant", an event which has belonged to the past for a long time. It was to take place on Saturday, 19th February, from 3.30 to 6 p.m. at the Dorchester Hotel. The Chapman and Dorchester Hotel Band were to provide an entertainment which cost only five shillings.

Also reported in that issue was the previous Christmas celebration uniting the two protestant parishes. A packed church heard Pastor Marcel Pradervand deliver a vibrant sermon on Luke, Chapter 2 and the verses: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people". This message was eagerly received by an alien Swiss parish living in a country plunged in war. Handel's Sonata was played on the organ accompanied by two violins. A male voice choir sang *O nuit calme et sereine*. These and the presence of a large congregation were things which the Swiss church has not enjoyed so often since those days. The Reverend Paul Rad spoke on behalf of the German-speaking congregation on the "peace that surpasseth all understanding" before this heart-warming service was completed by a welcome cup of tea.

Four days before the service at Endell Street, some 60 to 70 persons attended the Christmas celebration of the *Schwyzerchraengli* at Kingsway Hall. The event was aptly reported by "Mariann".

The first event of the new year was the A.G.M. of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. A hundred members heard Mr. A. Girardet, Chargé d'Affaires, give a talk on the war-time role of the Swiss in Britain and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. His patriotic call, printed in extenso by the *Swiss Observer* was followed by a piano and violin duet whose performers were Mr. Revilliod and Mr. John Suter. This musical programme was completed with items contributed by the Swiss Choral Society.

The next A.G.M. was that of the Swiss Mercantile Society. Meeting at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, on 12th February, it was chaired by Mr. J. J. Boos. The Legation was represented by its Commercial Attaché, Mr. E. de Graffenreid. The meeting was told that it had 249 active members, 23 Honorary Members and 56 Contributing Members. The Employment Department, which was



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1st August Celebration at Wimbledon Town Hall

incorporating "Fête Suisse"
THURSDAY, 1st AUGUST, at 19.30 sharp
(Doors open at 19.00)

Next door to Wimbledon Station

PROGRAMME

The programme, as usual, includes items of a patriotic nature.

The main address will be given by

H. E. The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Albert Weitnauer

The famous Swiss Dixieland Band "The Old Time Jungle Cats" will provide entertainment and play for dancing

DANCING

REFRESHMENTS

LICENSED BAR

TICKETS at 50p available at the door or in advance at 40p from the Swiss Mercantile College. Children free.

CITY SWISS CLUB

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"SUMMER DINNER DANCE"

FRIDAY, 21st JUNE, 1974

at The Compleat Angler Hotel
Marlow Bridge,
Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RG.

COCKTAILS AT 7.45 p.m.

DINNER AT 8.15 p.m.

DANCING UNTIL 12.30 a.m.

DRESS

INFORMAL

TICKETS £5.00

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the main active section of the S.M.S. owing to the war-time closure of the school, had been able to place 200 applicants during the past year.

In Manchester, the Swiss Club and the Swiss Relief Society held their A.G.M. on 12th February, at the Midland Hotel when Mr. E. Kuebler entered upon his 10th year as President of the Club. The meeting was followed by tea in the Lancaster Room and by an exposé by Mr. Cottet on the fate of our compatriots in Germany.

The next day, the Unione Ticinese held its A.G.M. in London at 74 Charlotte Street, with Mr. C. Ferrari in the chair. The Unione Ticinese *Sezione Femminile* had met in the same premises (former Swiss Club) a fortnight before under the chairmanship of Mrs. T. Lungi-Rezzonico. The distinguished ladies present were told of the varied activities of the past year with monthly meetings held at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square.

Finally, the Swiss Philatelic Society held its first A.G.M. at the Glendower Hotel, Kensington, in the presence of forty members. In the absence of the President and principal founder, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, the Chair was occupied by Mr. F. Streit, Vice-President. The official proceedings over, the afternoon was spent in admiring some fine collections including some treasured Swiss classics. A few special lots were put up for auction, the proceeds of which were handed to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

This flurry of A.G.M.'s over, the end of February saw the "Bierabig" of the City Swiss Club at the Dorchester Hotel. A hundred and thirty members and guests were welcomed by the President, Mr. Anton Bon, for an evening of entertainment beginning with a yodel performance by Mr. Luterbacher followed by works by Chopin, Smetana and Liszt interpreted by Mr. A. Ferber, a well-known Swiss concert pianist living in London.

The March issue of the *Swiss Observer* contained a letter by the Legation announcing that the curfew restrictions applicable to Swiss residents and nationals from some other countries would be removed. Readers were told that restrictions on the possession of bicycles and other vehicles would be removed and that visitors to aliens protected areas would be exempted from curfew and vehicles restrictions.

The *Dansant* referred to above attracted well over 200 members and guests who danced for a solid four hours.

The April issue brought readers news from the far north. The Swiss Club Dumferline had held its yearly social at the end of March, the highlight of which was a three-hour play written by the "well-known native bard" Alfred Huggenberger, called *Dem Bollm si bös Wuche*. These festivities took place in the canteen of the Winterthur Silks factory.

In May, the Swiss Catholics played host at the Dorchester Hotel to the Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Rev. Bernard Griffen. Colonel Bon,

President of the Swiss Catholics, and Father Lafranchi, the then Chaplain, were naturally present at this luncheon during which "His Grace was acquainted with the efforts of the Swiss Chaplain and the Committee and gave his full approval, promise of support and blessing to the work and to all members of the Swiss Colony".

We end with one last A.G.M., that of the City Swiss Club, held by 75 members at Brown's Hotel. The Committee that emerged from this 87th annual meeting was as follows: President, A. Bon; Vice-President, H. Binggueli; Treasurer, R. de Cintra; Secretary, P. Moehr; Assistant Treasurer, P. Oboussier; Assistant Secretary, A. Stauffer; Librarian, G. Marchand. Members of the House Committee were F. Zogg (Treasurer), A. Baume, W. E. Gattiker. Auditors were: H. Pfirter and G. Jenne.

The *Swiss Observer* under Mr. Alfred Stauffer's editorship, was an essential link with Switzerland to a news-starved colony. The issues briefly reviewed had several reprints of interesting articles by our leading editorialists at home. We shall give an account of these writings in a future issue.

P.M.B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

22nd to 25th August — ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD — Neuchâtel.

Saturday, 2nd November — SWISS CHURCHES BAZAAR.

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL: Card Evening on the first Friday of the month at Hotel Dresden, New Chester Road, Bromborough.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Wednesday, 26th June, 6.30 for 7 p.m. at Swiss House: "The Letter C".

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Forthcoming shooting sessions at the Siberia Range at Bisley: Sunday, 30th June, 1st and 8th September.

NATIONAL DAY celebrated in London at the Wimbledon Town Hall and in Manchester at the Cottons Hotels on Thursday, 1st August.

SCHWEIZERBUND: Friday, 6th September, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Dinner at the Old Palace, Hatfield Park, Hatfield, Herts.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Friday, 21st June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. Andrej Lütschg is the soloist in the first British performance (by the Orchestra of St. John's, Smith Square) of the Violin Concerto by Vladimir Vogel.

Saturday, 22nd June, Assembly Rooms, Bath, 8 p.m. Bath Festival: The Lucerne Piano Trio (Albor Rosenfeld, Markus Nvikos, Grazia Wendling) play works by Beethoven, Frank Martin and Schubert.

Sunday, 23rd June, Bath University, 6 p.m. Bath Festival: The pianist Margaret Kitchin is a soloist in a programme of works by R. Holloway, Boulez and Britten, played by the Vesuvius Ensemble under Elgar Howarth.

Thursday, 20th June, 7 p.m., Swiss Embassy, *Nouvelle Société Helvétique* — talk (illustrated by a film) on Experiences of Swiss research teams in the Ivory Coast by Professor Alexander von Muralt (see editorial).

Wednesday, 3rd July, 7.45 p.m., Eglise suisse 79 Endell St., harpsichord recital by Gloria Vanoli (organised by *International Liszt Centre for 19th Century Music* and under the patronage of the NSH) (Collection).

OBITUARY

ERNEST LUTERBACHER

It is with great regret that we report the death, at the age of 87 of *Mr. Ernest Luterbacher*, a former deputy-manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London.

Mr. Luterbacher had been an active member of the Swiss Colony, taking part in the activities of the Swiss Mercantile Society, the City Swiss Club and, until it failed for want of new members, of the Swiss Male Choir. The presence of many compatriots from the Swiss societies and the Swiss Bank Corporation at his funeral, which took place on Friday, 17th May at Christchurch, Southgate, reflected his deep ties to the life of the Swiss community in London and the esteem in which he was held by his numerous friends. Among those who attended at the ceremony was his brother Oscar, who lives in London and is a member of the Education Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society and a sister from Switzerland.

Mr. Luterbacher died after a 5-week illness. A widower since 1942, he had spent a happy retirement counting bowls as one of his main hobbies. He visited his homeland regularly. He lived with his elder daughter, Felice, 46, and a cousin, and leaves a second daughter, Audrey.

Mr. Luterbacher had enjoyed an exciting and distinguished business career. Having joined the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle in 1903 and gone to the London branch three years later, Mr. Luterbacher was invited by the Bank to become their representative on the staff of a company supplying oil drilling equipment to Rumania and helped financially by the Swiss Bank Corporation. Mr. Luterbacher worked in Rumania for several years and worked for the Lucey Manufacturing Company. In 1919 he became Europe Vickers Commercial Sales Manager in Eastern and Central Europe and had extensive dealings with the Russians. He returned to the service of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London in 1929 and was appointed Deputy Manager in 1947, retiring in 1952.