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Thanks to ample coal imports the domestic ration has been increased by 50%; so far only half of the previous year's consumption was allowed.

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A well-intentioned revolver shot brought a deplorable accident when the officer-son of a Solothurn factory owner unexpectedly returned home on short leave. He attended to business in the office while his brother was engaged unknown to him somewhere in the factory. In the evening the officer noticed his brother taking the car out to drive home; wishing to join him he called out and even ran after the car without arresting his attention. As a last resort he pulled out his army revolver and still running fired a couple of shots "in the air." The car still drove on but stopped after about 1,000 yards to pick up a milkman who had collapsed in pain at the side of the road; when examined at the Spitalhof a bullet was found in the abdomen with fatal consequences.

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A greengrocer in Zurich has been ordered to close his shop for two months and is being prosecuted for contravening the Federal decree regulating retail prices.

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The communist newspaper "Freiheit" appearing in Basle, has been confiscated on the strength of the existing press restrictions, for publishing two articles belittling the League of Nations.

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A grave accident is reported from Oerlikon where an extension of the Werkzeugmaschinenfabrik is under construction. For so far unexplained reasons a scaffolding suddenly gave way burying ten workmen; four of them were killed and the remainder badly injured.

* * *

The Farewell Banquet to our departing Minister filled the large hall at Monicos to the furthest corner. The prevailing uncertainties forced a large number of participants to delay their reservation to the last moment which increased the task and anxieties of the Committee but the proceedings moved with clock-like precision and "with a swing." The usual vote of thanks and appreciation was modestly omitted from the official business of the evening and we wish to pay

here a sincere tribute to Mr. Henry Bingguely, the organising secretary, who under exceptional and adverse circumstances succeeded to make this memorable manifestation a perfect success.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Irrespective of the very black outlook caused by the war which has been considerably darkened by the black-out, the City Swiss Club has fortunately once more taken the initiative in trying to create a fair amount of happiness and interest amongst its members.

The November meeting which was exceedingly well attended, was honoured by our esteemed Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, and members were delighted to have this opportunity of welcoming their Minister in their midst once more before his retirement. The guest of honour of the evening was Professor Denis Saurat, who gave a most interesting lecture on "The International Situation and Neutrality." His conference proved of absorbing interest to all those who were fortunate enough to be present, and one had to admire the feelings as well as the theories displayed by M. Saurat, as a worthy representative of our sister Republic, France.

The December monthly meeting, the last one of 1939, was again very well attended, and this must be due to the great popularity enjoyed by our famous friend, Mr. Maurice Thiéry. He kept his audience thoroughly entertained, interested and amused for well over an hour in giving not only historic, but also amusing facts connected with the life in Paris during the French Revolution, and comparing some of those episodes with present day life. The conference was unfortunately all too short, and members were eager to exact a promise from M. Thiéry that he would soon come among us once more. M. Thiéry will be pleased to do so, and we are grateful to him for that. We had the pleasure then of welcoming among us guests from Switzerland, members of the Swiss delegation now in London, namely Dr. A. Kock, Colonel Zürcher, and members of the Swiss Legation special division including Mr. Preiswerk. It was a great honour for the Club to have the opportunity of welcoming these distinguished guests, and we take this opportunity of extending our thanks to Mr. Girardet who accompanied them and represented the Legation who have supported the Club so faithfully of late.

It is hoped that the members of the special division will not fail to follow the lead of their colleagues of Montagu Place, and come as regularly as possible to the monthly meetings.

The end of the year has come, and nothing now remains for the committee but to wish a peaceful and happy Christmas, and as bright as possible a New Year, to every member.

May I suggest that amongst his 1st January resolutions every member faithfully decides to attend every monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club, thus enabling all our compatriots to get to know each other better, and to stand together during the difficult period we are unfortunately going through.

The next meeting is January 2nd, and let's hope we all start in full strength, and with new enthusiasm and confidence in the future.

Bec.

O. BARTHOLDI

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