

Swiss minister's welcome

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JUBILEE OF THE RHAETIAN RAILWAY.

(“*Railway Gazette*,” 2.2.40.)

The first section of the metre-gauge Rhaetian Railway, the most extensive of the independent lines in Switzerland, was opened between Landquart and Davos on October 9th, 1889, and to commemorate the jubilee the company recently issued a beautifully illustrated volume containing over 200 pages, dealing with the history, construction, working, and other features of its system, which covers the Canton of Grisons (Graubünden). It attains a height of over 5,900ft. in the Albula tunnel and is worked entirely by adhesion. The main line connects with the Swiss Federal system at Chur. The remarkable Albula section was opened in 1904. Electric traction on the 15,000-volt single-phase low frequency system was introduced in 1913 and finally extended to cover the entire line, 172 miles, nine years later. The various sections of the commemorative book are written by the Secretary, Dr. Clavuot; the Chief Engineer, Herr Conrad; Superintendent, Herr Lang; and the Commercial Manager, Herr Metzger, who has completed the text begun by his predecessor, the late Herr Wohler.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting took place on 27th January at Swiss House, with Mr. A. C. Nussbaumer, President, in the chair, and was honoured by the presence of Minister Thurnheer, who has accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Society.

The provisional accounts for 1939, amounting to a record figure of over £5,000, presented in a vivid and interesting way by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Rothlisberger, show a deficit of £715, due to the enormous increase in applications for help and the decline of subscriptions.

Messrs. Gamper and Boos reported on Swiss Home (for the Aged), where Miss M. Roth is now the Matron, and thanked Dr. Rast for his untiring service to our old people.

The Chairman thanked all the members who attend the weekly meeting or who work for the Society otherwise, and also Mesdames W. Meier-Gysin and H. Ruch for the voluntary help they have given to our Poor. Special thanks were also addressed to Messrs. Ritter and Rothlisberger for all the extra work they had to cope with since the war.

Mr. Nussbaumer then resigned as President, as he will be leaving for Switzerland. In his stead Mr. Anton Bon was unanimously elected President of the Society. Furthermore, the following Officers were appointed for 1940: as Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Baume, Gambazzi and Gamper; as Stewards: Messrs. de Cintra and A. Rueff; as Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Rothlisberger; as Hon. Asst. Treasurer: Mr. Favre; and as Hon. Asst. Secretary: Mr. Hilfiker. The members of the Finance Committee will be: Messrs. Dr. de Wolff, Gamper and Rothlisberger.

The Home for Aged Swiss will be managed by Messrs. Senn, President, Gamper, Vice-President, J. Zimmermann, Hon. Treasurer, Miss G. Muller, Hon. Secretary, Mesdames Bachofen, Schmid and Sigerist, and Messrs. Berti, Bon, Dupraz, Dr. Rast, Ritter and

Schmid. Messrs. Pernet and Max Weber were re-elected Hon. Auditors.

The Swiss Benevolent Society are most anxious to help all their compatriots in need, particularly in times like the present ones, and surely their appeal will not be unheard by those who are in a position to give support.

SWISS MINISTER'S WELCOME.

May I be permitted to remind our compatriots that on the occasion of M. Paravicini's farewell dinner, applications for tickets were left so late that it rendered the work of the committee most difficult in trying to accommodate everybody, and a number of applications had to be refused at the last moment owing to lack of room.

Will our compatriots, therefore, kindly apply for their tickets as soon as possible, as the accommodation at the Dorchester will also be limited, and judging by the requests already received a 'full house' is anticipated.

Please do not delay — send for your tickets right now.

Bec.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

WELL appointed house in N.W.2; 4 bed and 2 reception rooms, bath, nice garden and garage, would be let furnished, moderate terms to trustworthy family with best references taking good care of premises. Write to Box 540, The Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, February 14th, 1940, at 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Annual General Meeting — at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, February 17th, 1940 — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, at 2 o'clock sharp, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, March 2nd, 1940, at 3.30 p.m. — Swiss Minister's Reception, and Afternoon Tea — at Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Divine Services.

Dimanche 11 février 1940: à **Eglise Suisse**, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

11h. Culte M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du Dimanche.

5h. Culte en allemand au Foyer Suisse.

Mardi 13 février, à 2h.30, réunion mensuelle de couture au Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 11. Februar 1940: in der **Schweizerkirche**, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

11 Uhr. Gottesdienst.

5 Uhr. Gottesdienst im Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Für Amtshandlungen u. alle Anfragen wende man sich an Pfr. Stutz, 23, Womersley Road, N.8. (MOU. 4649).

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