Oswald Ibbotson †

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LIMITED.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Ordinary General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. was held on Wednesday, February 22nd at the registered offices, Swiss House, 34 & 35, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presided. The proceedings opened at 8 p.m. sharp and 42 members were present. The Secretary (Mr. J. J. Schneider) read the notice convening the meeting. The Chairman, before dealing with the accounts and reports referred to the reason which prevented Mr. W. Lehmann, President of the Society, from being present.

Accounts.

The Society's auditor, Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., read his report. In view of the economic and industrial crisis in Switzerland and elsewhere the company's financial working during the year under review must be considered satisfactory. The accounts as circularised to the members were adopted without dissension and Mr. Green was re-elected auditor for the ensuing year.

Reports.

The Chairman reported on the Society's activities during the past year. The membership, it is gratifying to record, suffered only a slight decrease and thanks were expressed to the Swiss Government, the Central Secretariat and the donors and contributing firms to the Educational Fund, whose substantial support enabled the Society to keep the fees of the College on the same low level as in previous years. The social functions were reduced to a minimum and the Committee's endeavour to enliven the Monthly Meetings had met with at least some success, and it is intended further to extend the amenities during the coming year.

Mr. E. Hardmeier, Chairman of the Education Committee, read a detailed account of the working of his department. The figures showed a remarkable steadiness during the past two years, and the meeting was acquainted with the outstanding successes the students achieved at the external examinations in Commerce held under the auspices of the Royal Society of Arts and the Institute of Commerce.

Mr. W. Meier, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, reported on the Evening Classes. The innovation of such subjects as Banking, Advertising and Salesmanship and Commerce proved a great success. It is noteworthy that, despite the most rigourous restrictions on immigration, the Evening Classes showed a continued upward tendency during the last three years.

Mr. L. W. Krucker, Chairman of the House Committee, reported on the work carried out during the last year. No structural alterations were made at Swiss House and the accommodation was adequate during the whole of the year. A new reading room was installed at Swiss House, and also electric heating in all the class rooms, which amenities are greatly appreciated by the students.

The reports were received with great interest, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to their authors as well as the respective Committees for the efficient and wholehearted manner in which the work was carried on. The reports were adopted in their entirety and a credit was voted to have the report published, as customary, in booklet form.

Election:

The Chairman announced that Mr. A. C. Schupbach, who had not enjoyed good health of late, reluctantly relinquished his trusteeship of the Society and membership of the Council. The chairman expressed great regret at the loss of such an active and sincere member as Mr. Schupbach had been. Mr. Schupbach for many years regularly attended all the meetings of the Society, and the chairman urged the younger members to take an example from Mr. Schupbach. A further resignation was to hand from the Chairman of the House Committee. Mr. L. W. Krucker, who for business reasons could not see his way to be nominated for re-election. Mr. Stahelin then vacated the chair and Mr. G. E. De Brunner kindly consented to act as chairman during the elections. The Council and Committees for the year 1933/34 were constituted as follows:

COUNCIL: Chairman: Mr. W. Lehmann; Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. C. Stahelin; Members: J. J. Boos, Ch. Chapuis, G. E. De Brunner (Trustee), W. Deutsch, O. Grob, E. Hardmeier, G. Jenne, L. W. Krucker, J. J. Pfaendler, A. Steinmann.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: President: Mr. W. Lehmann; Vice-President: Mr. E. Hardmeier (Chairman Education Committee), Mr. J. J Boos (Chairman House Committee). Hon. Treasurer: Mr. O. Grob; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Steinmann; Members: Messrs. R. Chappuis, M. O. Henchoz, M. Schneider.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Chairman: Mr. E. Hardmeier; Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. Meier; Members: Messrs. J. H. Attinger, H. H. Baumann, F. Streit, R. Weist. (no change).

HOUSE COMMITTEE: Chairman: Mr. J. J. Boos; Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Trachsel; Members: Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico, Mr. P. Mathys.

AUDITOR: Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A.

PRESS REPORTER: Mr. W. Burren.

DELEGATE on the ADVISORY BOARD of the EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT: Mr. C. Chapuis.

DELEGATES to the SWISS SPORTS COMMITTEE: Messrs. W. Burren, M. O. Henchoz,, L. W. Krucker.

DELEGATE to the NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Mr. F. Streit.

The acting chairman, Mr. De Brunner, expressed hearty thanks to the retiring officers for the services they had rendered to the Society and bade welcome to the newly elected Committees, wishing them every success in their work. This terminated the proceedings.

The Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8th 1933, at 8 p.m., at Swiss House. A supper will be served at 7 p.m. The next Students' Dance of the College will be held on Wednesday, March 15th, at the Prince's Galleries, Piccadilly, London, W.1. Dancing from 7.30 till 12 p.m. Entrance 2/6. Members are heartily welcome. *WB.*

SWISS SPORTS.

A meeting of the delegates was held on the 23rd of February, and the date of this year's Sports Meeting at Herne Hill was fixed to the 27th of May.

Owing to the difficult time we are going through, the receipts for the Year 1932 were considerably smaller than in former years, and unfortunately, the accounts close with a loss. It was decided to sell a small amount of War-Loan, so as to make good for this and also in order to provide a small working capital for this year's activities.

Discharge was given to the Old Committee and a New Committee under the presidency of Mr. C. A. Barbezat was elected.

The work in connection with the Sports Meeting of the 27th of May will have to be started soon — Our first Committee meeting will take place on the 16th of March — and there remains only one thing to hope for, namely a day of brilliant sunshine on the 27th May and a record attendance both as regards competitors and onlookers.

OSWALD IBBOTSON †.

Der am 22. Februar verstorbene Apotheker Oswald Ibbotson, Gatte der vor 2 Jahren verstorbenen Frau Rosa Ibbotson, geb. Sterchi war ein grosser Freund unserer Heimat. Er kannte unser Land besser als die meisten Schweizer. Schon als junger Mann hatte er für einige Zeit sich in Burgdorf aufgehalten. Dann aber war er während 5 Wintersaisons Apotheker in St. Moritz, zu einer Zeit, da die Rhätische Bahn noch nicht gebaut war. Herr Ibbotson hatte das bündnerische Apothekerpatent. Vierzehnmal hat er den Weg von Chur nach St. Moritz zu Fuss zurückgelegt. Viele unserer Berge hat er bestiegen und beinahe jeden Pass unserer Alpenwelt begangen. Späterhin war er während des Winters in seinem Beruf an der Riviera tätig, in den Sommermonaten aber wirkte et in Interlaken. Auch diesen Weg von der Riviera in das Berner Oberland hat er zu Fuss zurückgelegt. Er war ein fanatischer Fussgänger, weil er ganz richtig sagte, dass man allein auf diese Art Länder, Völker und deren Sitten kennen lerne. Der liebe Verstorbene hat auch nach seiner Niederlassung in seiner Heimat England die Schweiz, das Land seiner liebevollen Gattin öfters besucht und dort viele Freunde gehabt. Er hatte ein weites Wissen und durften wir von ihm manche Belehrung erfahren. Herr und Frau Ibbotsons gemütvolles Haus hat manchem unserer Landsleute seine Tore geöffnet. Jeder wusste, dass er in ihnen wahre Freunde besass. Als vor beinahe 2 Jahren die Gefährtin seines Lebens ihm nach langem Leiden genommen wurde, schien sein Mut gebrochen. Aber noch andere Schicksalsschläge warteten seiner. Er freute sich seine Tochter dem Sohn eines Jugendfreundes in die Ehe zu geben. Und als im November letzten Jahres dem jungen Paar ein Töchterlein beschert wurde, war es dem Grossvater ein Grund reinster Freunde. Er hatte lange Jahre zurück ein Kind hergeben müssen und diesen Verlust nie ganz überwunden. In dem Kindlein seiner Tochter schien ihm wieder eine Tochter geschenkt worden zu sein. Doch bald nach der Geburt stellte sich eine lebensgefährliche Krankheit bei der jungen Mutter ein und verdunkelte von neuem das Leben dieses selten treuen Mannes. Noch ist seine einzige Tochter nicht genesen, sie weiss nichts vom Unfall ihres Vaters und nichts von seinem Tod. Vierzehn Tage etwa nach einem Unfall auf der Strasse gegenüber seiner Apotheke, am 9. Februar ist er, dessen Herz voll Trauer war, nach einer schweren Operation, deren Schock er nicht gewachsen war, am 22. verschieden. Auf seinem Totenbett hat er noch in der Sprache seiner Frau einige Worte geäussert. Sein Ziel, das er sich vorgenommen hatte, nämlich Jerusalem zu Fuss zu erreichen, hat er nicht mehr erreicht, aber dafür ist er in das himmlische Jerusalem eingegangen. Wir ehren das Andenken dieses ächten Heimwehmenschen und Freundes und möchten seiner Tochter und ihrem Mann unser herzlichstes Mitleid aussprechen. *C.Th.H.*

MARTIN WULLSCHLEGER †.

Death, the pitiless reaper, has once again mowed down a man in the prime of life.

On last Sunday evening, Martin Wullschleger peacefully passed away, leaving behind him a mourning wife and child, and a great number of friends.

The departed was born in 1881 at Zofingen, where he received his education. He then entered the Hotel profession; his assiduousness and tenacity soon brought him success, and at an early age, he held the position of Chef at various important Hotels in Switzerland.

Then the "Wanderlust" got hold of him, and in 1901 he arrived in this country, he got in touch with the Union Helvetia, of which he had previously become a member of the Davos section.

His connection with this institution has been through all these years a happy and fruitful one; and his work, and the interest which he showed to this Society was soon rewarded, when he was elected head of the London Branch. For several years he successfully presided over the Society, and that he enjoyed the full confidence of the members was strikingly demonstrated, when he was elected President of the Territorial Administration of the Union Helvetia, a post which he held with distinction for a number of years. He was also at one time President of the Choral Society.

The success in his profession was not less great, he held the position of Chef in various large establishments in Scotland and in England. For the last 10 years he was Chef at the Cannon Street Hotel. For some long time illness pursued our friend, and thus he was obliged to give up the various posts he held in Swiss Societies.

Martin Wullschleger was a worker, and on whatever task he was called upon to fulfil he spent his whole energy, but with a weakened constitution, it proved too much for him, and on Sunday last he was called to the Elysian "Shades."

We are tendering Mrs. Wullschleger, who is an English-born lady, our sincere sympathy; may the appreciation and the esteem in which her husband was held, be of some consolation to her in her grief.

The many friends, to whom the departed was known affectionately as "Martin," will keep him in good remembrance, he was a lovable man and a good Swiss, and many will miss him.

Many were the friends who accompanied him to his last rest at the Hendon Park Cemetery.

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