Assembly of the Swiss abroad

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

A RED LETTER DAY AT THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

On Monday, 6th April, the flags were out at Swiss House in Fitzroy Square for an official visit to the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society by the new Swiss Ambassador and the Mayor of St. Pancras. The sun was out, and a special air of expectancy reigned in the Square, with Police smartly on duty and a reception committee at the ready. The President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. A. Jaccard, the Principal of the College, Mr. C. Slade, M.A., as well as members of the council and committees and the teaching staff, welcomed the distinguished visitors on their arrival.

The President, the Ambassador, the Mayor, Madame de Fischer, Mrs. Jaccard, the Principal; Council and Committee Members in the background.

The Swiss Ambassador, accompanied by Madame de Fischer and Monsieur J. Revilliod, and the Worshipful the Mayor of St. Pancras, Mrs. Hilda Chandler, first made a tour of the College, during which they inspected classrooms where lessons were in progress. After signing the visitors' book in the Principal's room, the visitors adjourned to the main hall on the first floor where the students and the teaching staff in their impressive academic gowns were assembled.

Mr. Slade introduced the distinguished visitors, and the President then extended an official welcome. He was happy to receive the new Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer at the College and wished them success during their stay in England. He next welcomed the first citizen of the Borough, the Mayor, and thanked her for the continued hospitality the College had enjoyed ever since 1926.

Monsieur de Fischer spoke to the students and masters in German and French. He reminded them how lucky they were to be able not only to learn an important language so excellently, but also to live in London, the important world centre. It was of great benefit to them to learn about English fair play which seemed like witchcraft and opened the hearts of men. If they could combine the great English virtues of fairness, politeness and tolerance with the Swiss virtues, they would indeed be well equipped. Excessive prosperity and material affluence were not enough, our future rested on human values. The Ambassador thanked the S.M.S. and the College for the excellent work they were doing.

His Worship, the Mayor, referred to the happy relationship which existed between the College and the Borough authorities, and which was further cementing the friendship between the two countries. The Mayor had some kind words for the young Swiss and expressed thanks for the courtesy always received from the S.M.S. whom she wished every success for the future.

This terminated the official part of the Reception, and the party moved to the Members' Room where refreshments were served. Formality was dropped, and a friendly atmosphere filled the pleasant panelled room where visitors, Council and Committee members and Teaching Staff mixed informally. When the party broke up, the visitors left assuring their hosts of an excellent impression received of the sterling work carried out steadily at the S.M.S. College. *Mariann.*

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD

We should also like to recall the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, which will be held in Lausanne from 28th to 30th August. The Commission of the Swiss Abroad will meet on Friday, 28th August. The first Plenary Session and Group Discussions will take place in the evening. The whole day on Saturday will be given over to the main theme of the Assembly (Théâtre Municipal) " Switzerland and the Developing Countries — the Part Played by the Swiss Abroad ". Ambassador A. Lindt, Chief of Swiss Technical Co-operation, will address the meeting, and a member of the Federal Council will, as usual, attend the gathering.

On Saturday evening there will be a Banquet at the Grand Restaurant des Palais de Beaulieu, preceded by a reception offered by the authorities of the Canton of Vaud, the Municipality of Lausanne and the Management of the EXPO. There will be dancing afterwards, and the " Chanson de Lausanne " will entertain the party.

On Sunday the participants of the Assembly are offered facilities to watch the picturesque procession of the Costume Festival held at the EXPO that same week-end. Special seats on the official grand stand will be reserved for the Swiss Abroad. The Federal Council will be present *in corpore,* and over a thousand people will take part in the procession.

In order to be able to benefit of the special facilities (reduced admission to the EXPO and the Picture Exhibition, costume procession, banquet, etc.), it is necessary to have a special card which must be ordered from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, Berne, not later than the end of April. It is therefore advisable to ask for an application form immediately. The Secretariat will *not* deal with hotel reservations which should be made as soon as possible through the Accommodation Office of the EXPO.

A valid consular registration card is not only essential for the free telephone call (see special announcement), but also for admission at half price before and after the actual Assembly of the Swiss Abroad.

We should also like to remind our compatriots that there will be a special meeting place for Swiss from Abroad at the Restaurant " Aux Trois Suisses " at the EXPO.