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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE).

The S.M.S. London was founded 42 years ago as a section of the S.K.V. for the purpose of offering its members educational facilities similar to those obtainable in the Swiss sections. From a small beginning the membership gradually grew until it reached 500 odd during the latter years of the late war. For some years before the war already, Day Classes had been arranged on a small scale for young men who came over here to try and find jobs. While looking round for a suitable berth, they could thus usefully employ their spare time by studying English. Then came the difficult period of post-war settlements and readjustments, the inability to absorb the sudden flooding of the labour market by the demobilisation of the whole war machinery, and the impossibility of keeping even remotely the promises made to the sons of Great Britain when they were forced to sacrifice their civil life to the needs of their Country.

The sequel to that chaos was the Aliens' Restrictions Act—and to the unbiased mind a perfectly logical sequel! But while we are recognizing the need of that Act, we cannot prevent ourselves from regretting the hardships it necessarily imposes upon the young commercial employee who has to find his living in the export trade. We all know that in Swiss export firms the knowledge of German and French is taken for granted and a fair knowledge of English insisted upon, if one is desirous of advancement. When the restrictions deprived our young countrymen of the possibility of coming to England to acquire the knowledge so necessary to them, the S.M.S. was faced with the question "What now?" In 1922 the then President of the Society formed, with the ready help of our Legation and some experienced members, a special committee to examine that question. The result of their labours was the foundation of the S.M.S. Day School.

That innovation, the formation of classes for full-time pupils who could thus learn English in England without in any way infringing the restrictions, will always be a milestone in the history of the London Section of the S.K.V. It will also be a constant reminder of the gratitude we owe to those who solved the puzzle, who used foresight on behalf of our young people at home, and, last but not least, to those men and firms, here, in Switzerland, and in other parts of the world, whose unstinted financial support enabled ambitious dreams to become a reality.

From a lonely teacher waiting in a room on the fifth floor of a Henrietta Street (Covent Garden) building for the first pupils to arrive, the school has developed to an establishment filling the whole of Swiss House and employing 10 teachers. All of them are properly qualified and are British. Although the original plan was, and still is to-day, the teaching of the English language, the lessons offered by the school have been gradually widened in scope until to-day they include sound tuition of purely commercial subjects as well. The highest form has now been divided into a commercial and a literary section, so that the students of that class can follow their own bent.

All this has not been achieved without ever increasing expenditure and liability. And therein lies the reason for forming the London Section into a Limited Company. Up to now the Society had no legal standing—in fact no existence legally—and the members individually and collectively were entirely and absolutely responsible for any and all of the Society's liabilities. Any one of the members, regardless whether he was on the Committee or one of those very passive "active members," was personally liable with all he possesses.

Evidently such a state of affairs could not continue any longer. When a Society is committed to expenditure totalling more than £8,000 a year, it is neither fair nor prudent to allow each member to be responsible in full. Under the laws of England the form of a limited liability company was the only possible alternative, and this is the remedy applied. Now every member knows exactly what his liability is: The payment of his annual contribution and, if the Society should at any time be unable to meet its liabilities, the sum of £1 maximum or such a part of £1 as might be needed to pay all debts in full. Every member is liable for that £1 until the end of 12 months after the date on which he has resigned membership, provided the debt has been incurred while he was a member.

There is no reason why the registration of the Society should make any appreciable difference to the members in general. All they have to do is to take an active interest in all the Society's activities and to ensure that those activities are guided along the right lines by the right people.

A.C.S.

The Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, on Thursday, the 30th day of April, at 8.30 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



M. GOLAY

PRESIDENT

of the

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We have great pleasure in publishing the portrait of M. M. Golay the new President of the City Swiss Club, who was elected on the 14th inst.

M. Golay has on many occasions given proof of the great interest he is taking in the affairs of the Colony, especially only recently when an appeal for funds for the "Fonds des Vieillards Suisses (Fonds G. Dimier)" appeared under his signature, and which met with such a splendid success, thanks principally to his untiring efforts.

The new President is Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, London Office, and is a citizen of Geneva. The Colony can but congratulate itself on having secured the services of such an eminent personality.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

APRIL 14th, 1931.

Le Roi est mort! Vive le Roi! Encore une fois nous nous sommes réunis pour encenser le Président sortant et pour souhaiter la bienvenue à son successeur. Franchement, je ne sais pas trop si on doit féliciter celui qui s'en va et plaindre le nouvel élu, ou vice versa.

Heureusement peut-être pour moi, je suis dans une position qui me permet le luxe de plaisanter sur le sort de celui qui est appelé à diriger les débats et à subir l'assaut des flèches acérées des membres à l'affût. Pour parler sérieusement, tâchons de donner un compte rendu de la soirée. Il y avait 68 membres présents, presque un record. Une admission et trois démissions. Parmi les invités, nous avons été heureux de souhaiter la bienvenue à Monsieur T. de Sonnenberg et Monsieur de Bourg de la Légation.

The accounts for the past year were then presented by Mr. Jenne and Mr. Gamper, the auditors. Uncle Max, who, as usual, had to ask a question, wanted to know why more War loan had not been sold. To which the Treasurer replied that none was sold for the simple reason that there was not any more to sell. At which the President looked severe and for once Uncle Max subsided. After this little effort, the meeting decided to pass the accounts as correct and expressed its thanks to the Auditors for all the trouble they had taken. A vote of thanks was then passed to the Treasurer, Mr. R. de Cintra for all the work he had done and for the unremitting care with which he looks after the financial interests of the Club, and to Mr. Zimmermann for his splendid work as Secretary.

The President then read his report, in which he reviewed the events of the past Session. From his report it would appear that the membership of the Club is now 255. He then vacated the chair in favour of Mr. Schubach who said that, before proceeding with the election of the new Committee, he desired to express the thanks of the Club to Mr. Chapuis for all the trouble he had taken to make his year of office a success and their appreciation of his efforts.

After the votes had been counted the result was declared as follows:—

Session 1931-1932. President, Mr. M. Golay; Vice-President, Mr. G. Marchand; Treasurer, Mr. de Cintra; Assistant-Treasurer, Mr. A. Rueff; Secretary, Mr. J. Zimmermann; Assistant-Secretary, Mr. Pfirter; Librarian, Mr. J. Billeter; Auditors, Mr. G. Jenne and Mr. Gamper.

Fidei-Commissaires of the Club House Fund, Mr. Barbezat, Mr. Baume and Mr. Zogg.

Mr. Golay then took the chair.

Mr. G. Laemli a proposé un vote de remerciements à Mr. Schubach. Je suis très heureux d'annoncer que l'on a décidé de tenir les réunions des mois de juin et juillet au Brent Bridge Hotel comme on a fait les années précédentes et ces réunions auront lieu le 2 juin et le 7 juillet.

On a décidé de renouveler le mandat de ck comme reporter du Club. En quelques paroles Monsieur Golay a remercié les membres de l'avoir nommé Président et il a levé la séance à 10 heures 30. ok.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

In our last issue we had occasion to inform our readers of the Annual Concert of the Swiss Choral Society, which is taking place on Friday, May 1st, at Conway Hall, under the patronage of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister.

We are now in a position to give the names of the soloists, they are:—

Mlle, Olga Carmine A.R.A.M.	Pianiste
Mlle, Eva Cattaneo	Soprano
M. F. Conrad	Tenor.

It is hardly necessary to enlarge on the merits of these artists, who are wellknown in the Colony; all of them have on various occasions assisted at some Swiss functions. The two Ladies have an international reputation, having appeared frequently before continental audiences. M. F. Conrad is, of course, the popular President of the Swiss Choral Society, and no more need be said.

We once again recommend this concert to our readers as we feel sure, that it will be a most enjoyable evening.

The marching order to every true Swiss should therefore be on May the 1st, "Conway Hall."

SWISS RELIEF COMMITTEE LIVERPOOL.

The Swiss Relief Committee, Liverpool has just issued its report for 1930 and the following details might interest our readers:

Ten persons belonging to 8 different Cantons have been assisted during 1930 and in one case as much as £29 was granted to a compatriot disabled as a result of a serious accident. About half the amount has already been paid back to the Committee and the Balance of one of the large loans made in 1928 has also been refunded. Thus, donations and refunds received in 1930 amounted to £41 5s. 6d.

The income from invested funds amounted to £47 10s. 3d. Expenditure on Relief amounted to £84 14s. 0d.; expenses total £2 1s. 6d. A grant was made to the Fonds Dimier in London (the object of which is to build a Home for old Swiss in the U.K.) totalling £10.

As compared with last year the funds show a decrease of £7 19s. 9d., but it is hoped to recover further monies paid out in 1930, and therefore the committee does not propose to call for any subscriptions for the present year.

The Fund on December 31st, 1930 amounted to £1,010 14s. 7d.

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