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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The latest news from Headquarters of the S.K.V. in Switzerland give interesting facts of the alterations in the Central Committee necessitated through the resignation, after nine years successful leadership, of Mr. A. Gubser as Central President.

The new Central President, Mr. Carl Strickler of Zürich, the youngest S.K.V. member to hold this exalted position, has with him as Vice-Presidents Messrs. Carl Weigl and E. Flueckiger and the Central Committee now has two lady members. The Central Secretariat remains as before in the hands of the ever energetic Nat. Councillor Mr. Schmid-Ruedin, supported by Messrs. Fritschi, Galliker, Losey, Baumgartner and Meier, all well known to our London Members.

The year 1941, so memorable as 650 years of Switzerland is equally a year of importance to the S.K.V. Exactly 80 years ago, in 1861, the S.K.V. was born in Zürich and from modest beginning has now grown to an organisation with a membership (including young associates) of nearly 50,000.

Just like our forefathers of the Swiss Federation, so the pioneers of the S.K.V. started in a small way, proceeding always stéadfast and true to their ideal not only to safeguard and improve the status of the commercial community but also to work in harmony with the existing constitution and authorities for the welfare of the community as a whole.

The S.K.V. is justly proud of the successes attained, the institutions it has established and which it maintains; the S.K.V. is to-day acknowledged a usefully appreciated and honoured part of our national, economic and cultural community.

The London Section justly claims some share in these honours for it also had successes since the section was founded some 53 years ago. Although the war has curtailed its activities, has closed its day school and evening classes, it is maintaining close relations with its friends at home. In London the S.M.S. is carrying on in the spirit of the founders and only awaits the day when peace will reign again, international commerce be restored and a flow of young Swiss compatriots will again be able to come to this hospitable country to learn English and to enrich their commercial experience.

The help of our Swiss Authorities and our Central Society is assured and the London Section will not be lacking in effort and enthusiasm. With this in mind I appeal to all London Members, our Contributing Members and friends to support the Committee in their endeavour to keep faithful to the Society and true to our ideals.

Opportunity is given to our members and their guests to meet old and new friends at our next meeting. An interesting talk by Dr. Bircher of the Swiss Legation, Special Division, is arranged for Saturday, September 13th, at 2 p.m. at Swiss House. All Members and friends of the S.M.S. are welcome.

J. J. BOOS, President.

DONATIONS.

We are again indebted to the following subscribers who have kindly added to the fixed subscription rate various amounts towards increased cost of production:— H. Bally, M. A. Albrecht, Paul Lambert, Mlle M. Meyer, J. Manzoni, A. Koerber, M. Hurlimann, A. Steiner, J. Muller, W. Lehmann, S. Jeker.

CORRESPONDENCE.

28th July, 1941.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Will you kindly use the enclosed Cheque £2. 2s. as my small Donation to keep the Swiss Observer alive, we simply must have this link with home.

Yours faithfully,

E. SCHEFER.

* * *

August 1st, 1941.

Dear Boehringer,

Soon after my arrival in this country in 1922, I learned that a Compatriot of mine, a man with a long beard, who hailed from my home-town Basle, was publishing a paper called "The Swiss Observer," and I became a grateful subscriber. All these years I have always been very pleased to open this miniature newspaper with its home news and other topics, which were always interesting and most refreshing.

I understand that now the financial resources are not quite as good as they might be and in order to ensure the continuity of receiving your paper during the near future, I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £10., as my war contribution towards the "Swiss Observer."

I have been a naturalised British Subject since 1930 and I serve my new adopted country to the best of my ability, but nevertheless I can still see and remember the Bonfires, which as a Boy I used to help to make on the 1st August on the top of the mountains in the Bernese Oberland, where I usually spent my Summer Holidays and I feel that this Flame of Freedom and of true Democracy must be kept burning and I wish to thank you herewith for your personal, long and valued contribution in this direction.

Yours sincerely,

W. BACHMANN.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

SWISS Confectioner and Pastrycook with sound experience, 31 years, married, would like to get into touch with Swiss Firm of Confectioners with view of purchasing business. Must be in reception area and of small or medium size. Please send particulars in strict confidence to Box No. 15, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, London.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, September 6th, at 1 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W. (see advert.)

Saturday, September 13th, at 2 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, to be followed by a lecture by Dr. Bircher.

Saturday, September 20th, at 1.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, followed by Mr. G. Keller's Comments on current events.

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