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MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CITY SWISS CLUB.

Alternating with the business meeting and "Jass-Abend" at Brown's Hotel — when, incidentally, our time-honoured national card game generally comes second to bridge! — the last monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club, held at the Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday, the 8th February, was in the excellent tradition which the colony's "Bürgermeister" established there years ago with topical talks and lectures given by eminent men of Swiss and other nationalities.

Mr. R. de Cintra, the Club President, was in the Chair and with him was the Club's Honorary President, the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté.

Guest of honour at this well-attended gathering was Mr. Edward Ellul, Commissioner General for Malta. In a pleasantly informal "causerie," he took his audience to the early history of that small island, whose trials and endurance throughout the last war will long be remembered. Interesting outstanding events of succeeding centuries were touched upon by Mr. Ellul, who stressed little known characteristics of the Maltese people, among which their religious fervour and faith, and the part, so often overlooked, which they played in the heroic defence of their island. His captivating form of address held his listeners' attention to his closing appeal to the Swiss in England and at home to have a change next time they go on holiday and to visit Malta.

The many and varied illustrated pamphlets which Mr. Ellul had brought along for distribution found eager hands and keen eyes.

As usual, an excellent dinner was served by the Dorchester.

J.Z.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The Swiss Bank Corporation announce that the accounts for the year 1948 show net profits of S.frs.20,585,487 including the carry forward, against S.frs.16,223,851 for 1947, total assets amounting to S.frs.2,516,080,657 against S.frs.2,306,046,947.

At the General Meeting to be held in Basle on the 4th March, 1949, it is proposed to make a special contribution of S.frs.500,000 to the Pension Fund, to allocate S.frs.1,000,000 to reserve for new buildings and to place S.frs.8,000,000 to a Special Reserve fund. It is further proposed to pay a dividend of 6% as last year and to carry forward S.frs.1,181,565 against S.frs.5,007,042 in 1948.


NEW MOTORSHIP FOR SWISS SHIPPING COMPANY.

On Tuesday, February 15th, 1949, Wm. Gray & Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool, launched the single-screw motorship *Cristallina*. She is the second of two vessels building for the Swiss Shipping Company, Ltd., of Basle, and will be used in conjunction with their existing river and canal services to Switzerland. The launching ceremony was performed by Mrs. B. Sarasin, wife of the President of the owners.

Like her sister ship, the *Carona*, the *Cristallina* is of shelter-deck type and will carry about 3,000 tons on a draught of 18ft. 9in. Refrigerated cargo space is provided in the 'tween decks, and there is electric hydraulic steering gear with telemotor control. The main engine will be supplied by Sulzer Bros., Ltd., Winterthur, and this and the generators will be installed by the Central Marine Engine Works of the builders. The speed in service will be 12½ knots.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

The new premises of the Swiss National Tourist Office and Official Agency of the Swiss Federal Railways, are now at: 458/9, Strand, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Tel.: WHIttehall 9851/5).



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