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agronome diplômé de l'E.P.F. de Zurich. Dr. phil. de l'Université de Breslau; activité prolongée dans les sièges sociaux de compagnies d'assurances bâloises, vaudoises et genevoises; expert de l'Office de guerre à partir du printemps 1942; député au Grand Conseil de Genève dès novembre 1942. Conseiller d'Etat dès 1945. Membre du Conseil national dès l'automne 1943.

M. Gustave WENK, soc. (Bâle), President of the States Council, (Conseil des Etats).

Né le 31 mars 1884. Conseiller d'Etat, chef du Département de l'intérieur et de la direction de la navigation rhénane, Président de la Foire suisse d'échantillons. Député au Conseil des Etats dès 1935. (Président pour 1948/49).

M. Alphonse ITEN, cons. (Zoug), States Councillor.

Né le 17 février 1898, à Zoug. Originaire d'Unterägeri (Zoug). Etudie le droit et l'économie politique aux universités de Zurich et Fribourg. Licencié en droit en 1919, Dr. en droit de l'université de Fribourg en 1920. Pratique le barreau à Zoug dès 1920. Membre du Grand Conseil dès 1923. Juge d'instruction de 1922 à 1930. Procureur général dès 1930. Membre du Conseil des Etats dès 1935. Président du Conseil des Etats en 1947/48.

M. Ernest SPEISER, rad. (Argovie), States Councillor.

Né le 6 juin 1889, à Bâle. Bourgeois de Bâle. Gymnase littéraire. Apprentissage dans une maison d'expédition. De 1909 à 1931 travaille dans cette branche et dans le commerce des produits au Havre, à Londres, Singapore, New-York et Paris. Directeur commercial de la S.A. Brown, Boverie & Cie, à Baden, dès 1931. De 1941 à 1946 chef de l'Office de guerre pour l'industrie et le travail. Membre du Conseil national dès 1943. Député au Conseil des Etats dès 1948.

M. Frédéric WAHLEN, peasant party (Zurich), States Councillor.

Né le 10 avril 1899, à Mirchel (Berne). Originaire de Trimstein-Rubigen. De 1917 à 1920, études agronom. à l'E.P.F. à Zurich. De 1920 à 1922, assistant à l'E.P.F. pour la production des plantes. De 1923 à 1924, chef de la station de contrôle des semences de l'Etat à Québec (Canada). De 1924 à 1929, direction générale de toutes les stations canadiennes de contrôle agricole. De 1929 à 1943 directeur de l'Etablissement fédéral d'essais agricoles à Zurich-Oerlikon. Dès 1943 professeur à l'E.P.F. Chef de la production agricole durant la seconde guerre mondiale. Député au Conseil des Etats dès 1942.

## SWISS PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AS GUESTS OF THE CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Dinner Party of the City Swiss Club, on Friday, May 6th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, was a memorable one in more than one way.

Firstly, it was the *début* of the new President, Mr. P. A. Moehr, in the rôle as Chairman, and his "performance," devoid of any stage fright, met with the full approval of the audience.

Secondly, almost a glut of our Swiss legislators, eight in all, adorned the top table. (As the names of the delegation are given in another part of the paper, I need not mention them here.)

In the past the Club has had, on various occasions, either a National Councillor or States Councillor "on show," but never a team of eight.

The Swiss Minister, who is Honorary President, of the City Swiss Club, was present too. Amongst the participants — well over a hundred — were many prominent personalities, and the gathering reminded me, of some of the pre-war functions, when a galaxy of celebrated people gave themselves *rendez-vous* at the various functions of the Club.

Previous to the dinner, cocktails were served, and an opportunity offered to make the acquaintance of the Parliamentarians.

An excellent dinner was provided for by the Management of the Dorchester Hotel, in fact it was so good, that our Swiss guests will return to our country with doubts in their minds as to the tales of food shortage in this country; they do not know what our weekly joints look like in our homes, and how we have to chew mutton, mutton, and again mutton week after week, and month after month.

To remind the company of our homeland, vintages such as Neuchâtel, Dôle de Sion, Fendants, etc., were available, and this, no doubt, helped to create the atmosphere of *bonhomie* which prevailed.

After the loyal toasts to H.M. the King and "La Suisse" were proposed by the President and honoured by the company, Mr. Moehr, both in English and "Schwyzerdütsch" extended a hearty welcome to the official guests of the evening.

He related, that the Swiss in Great Britain, most of whom have spent the greater part of their lives away from their native land, have nevertheless remained deeply attached to their country, at the same time also

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harbouring a no less sincere attachment to the country which is giving them such generous hospitality.

Mr. Moehr, concluded his address by asking the guests to take home with them this message of loyalty and love to the mother land. (*Loud applause*).

Minorities in Switzerland, having always received preferential treatment, M. Pini, representative of the canton of Ticino, in the National Council was asked to address the gathering in his native tongue.

Sig. Pini is not only a "good-looking Gentleman" but also an efficient and prolific orator. He thanked the President for the honour extended to him to address the gathering, as representative of the canton of Ticino, in the first instance.

Regretting the absence of his compatriots from the "Sunny South," he hoped that they would be nevertheless in spirit in our midst, as the spirit of the Ticino cannot only be felt in all parts of the globe, but also in this country, where names like Pagani, Monico and Meschini, have become household words.

He expressed his pleasure at seeing the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté present, who, like the President of the National Council, hails from the canton of Valais. Amidst the laughter of the company, he suggested, that, in honour of the Minister and the President of the National Council, M. J. Escher, every effort should be made to import the products of the sun-kissed vineyards of the canton of Valais.

The speaker concluded his address by saying "We are living in momentous times, which remind me of



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Boticelli's picture of the meeting with the goddess Minerva (goddess of the spirit) and the Centaur (symbol of brutal force) in which the Centaur renders homage to the symbol of the spirit of reconciliation of the different element." (*Long applause*.)

The next speaker was National-Councillor A. de Senarclens (Geneva), he thanked the company in French, for the hearty reception extended to the Parliamentary delegation, "In your midst", he said, "we feel back home in our country." M. de Senarclens continued by saying, that we — in this country — might not always understand the attitude of Neutrality which Switzerland is pursuing, a policy which is based on the deep conviction, that it is the right one in view of experiences gained in the history of our country. "It is a policy," he said, "which has the support of an overwhelming majority in Switzerland."

In conclusion, the speaker said that the good name which the Swiss abroad enjoy, is due to their conscientious work, and their spirit of team work. (*Applause*.)

The last speaker of the Delegation was M. A. Iten, States Councillor (Zoug), who spoke in "Schwyzerdütsch." He delivered the greetings of the Swiss Government and Parliament, and mentioned that the Delegation received an overwhelming welcome from the authorities in this country, a welcome which was, undoubtedly due, to the good name which the Swiss in this country enjoy. He thanked the Swiss Minister and his colleagues for having worked out such an attractive programme, together with the members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. "This visit," he said, "will leave behind a lasting memory." (*Applause*.)

The last speaker on the list was our Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, Honorary President of the City Swiss Club, who delivered a remarkable and courageous speech.

He expressed his thanks to the President of the Club for his efficient arrangements made for this meeting and M. Ronus for the excellent fare provided.

He acquainted the Swiss Parliamentarians with the attitude the Colony has taken with regard to the Old Age Insurance scheme, which, whilst making generous provisions for our countrymen at home, has been less generous to our compatriots living abroad, especially to those of a younger generation.

The Minister warmly invited the Members of Parliament present, to give the matter a second thought and to be equally fair to those who are living abroad and who are labouring under great difficulties and disadvantages.

His address was, on different occasions, interrupted by long applause, and we are grateful to our Minister for having been the mouthpiece of our thoughts and wishes in such an efficient and courageous manner.

Thus ended a most successful function, which will take an honourable place in the history of the City Swiss Club. *ST.*

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