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**ERNEST LUTERBACHER.**

The first reaction to the news that Mr. Ernest Luterbacher is retiring from the Swiss Bank Corporation's service is one of undiluted surprise that he can have achieved such seniority and retained the youthful vigour with which all his friends have so long associated him.

Ernest Luterbacher joined the bank in Basle in 1903 and was appointed to the London Office in 1906, where he served for some years as a bookkeeper and in the Stock Department. In 1913 the circumstances of commerce brought an interesting change in his life and he was invited by the Bank to take up a position as their representative on the staff of a company which had been supplying oil drilling machinery to Roumania and was, — owing to the incidence of the Balkan wars — placed in an embarrassing financial situation. The Bank, who were involved in the financing of the shipments of oil drilling equipment, required a local representative to watch their interests and it was thus that for several years, Ernest Luterbacher worked with the Lucey Manufacturing Company in Roumania, became fully acquainted with the commercial side of an engineering and exporting company and laid the foundation of a wide commercial connection which has stood him in good stead in later years. The period in Roumania was not devoid of interest, for the oil wells were first put out of action by the British forces when they had to be evacuated, and subsequently destroyed or immobilised by German troops on their ultimate departure. By virtue of associations developed during this period, Ernest Luterbacher was in 1919 appointed to the staff of Vickers and for a number of years acted as European Commercial Sales Manager for them in Eastern and Central Europe. His knowledge of the Russia of those days and of Russian life and customs is extensive.

In 1929 he returned to the service of the Swiss Bank Corporation in London and in 1931 he was created a signature-holder of the Bank. In 1939 he became a Sub-Manager and in 1947 a Deputy Manager.

Throughout his London experience, Ernest Luterbacher has been an active well-known and highly respected figure in the life of the Swiss Colony. The Swiss Male Choir, the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Mercantile Society and others have all come within the scope of his interests. He has also been a vigorous and well-known member of the Selbourne Bowling Club at the Cherry Tree, Southgate. The facilities afforded through his wide acquaintance in commercial circles have been an asset always readily available to his business colleagues and friends and these associa-

tions spread over a very wide area embracing not only the United Kingdom, but Belgium, Holland, France and large parts of Germany, besides Switzerland.

His prowess as a caterer — when he was in fact "Mine Host of West Hall" — will long be remembered by those who, onwards from the outbreak of war in 1939, lunched or supped regularly in the Bank's evacuation premises in Byfleet.

Our cordial good wishes accompany Ernest Luterbacher in his retirement and in any subsequent activities with which he may be associated.

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