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Autor: [s.n.]

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COMMEMORATION DINNER & DANCE

OF

FREIGHT EXPRESS LIMITED

at GROSVENOR HOUSE, PARK LANE, W.1

on FRIDAY, JUNE 19th, 1953.

The City shipping firm of Freight Express Ltd. of 11/12, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3. held on Friday, June 19th, a dinner and dance to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the company.

Whilst this function does perhaps not come strictly into the sphere of Swiss activities, we feel nevertheless justified in mentioning same for the following reasons:

This prosperous and well-known concern was founded twenty-five years ago by one of our compatriots, Mr. F. Eggar, who was known to many in the Swiss Colony as Mr. F. Eggenberger. For a great number of years he had rendered conspicuous service as a committee member of the Swiss Mercantile Society in London.

Although he was obliged, for business reasons, to acquire British nationality, he has, all the same kept a warm corner in his heart for his native land, which he and his family visit frequently.

Mr. Eggar's achievements show, that hard work, and the will to conquer all sorts of obstacles and difficulties, can still lead to success here even though one is a foreigner, and his career, which started in 1916 in the shipping line, should be an example to some of our younger generation.

Taking into due account, that present conditions of employment in this country for our young compatriots are beset with great difficulties, owing to stringent existing regulations, there seems to us, however, a certain lack of the spirit which induced so many of our countrymen to go abroad to try their luck. Time after time it happens, that young Swiss, who were able to obtain a permit to work for a restricted period, and were offered, and would have got the necessary permit for permanent employment, decided to return, because they were not willing to "rough it", like so many of us had to do in by-gone days.

Indifferent food, high taxation and small emuneration are usually given as a reason. They say, that life at home is more "comfortable" and less exacting; it may be so, but it is regrettable all the same, that the spirit of enterprise and adventure, which procured to our country an honoured name in foreign lands, seems to die out.

There is still plenty of scope and opportunity for young foreigners to get "to the top"; if they are willing to work hard, and put up with some privations, at

least at the beginning, the career of our friend can be quoted as a shining example.

* * *

Previous to the dinner, Mr. & Mrs. Eggar received the guests, who numbered nearly 300, amongst them an appreciable number of agents and business friends from Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Ireland, and the Provinces.

Dinner was served in the large ballroom, which was richly decorated with lovely flowers sent mostly from business friends in Holland, with which the firm is so closely connected.

The Menu was an excellent one, and was much enjoyed by the company.

Shortly before coffee was served the Toasts to H.M. The Queen, and H.M. The Queen of the Netherlands were proposed by Mr. F. Eggar, and honoured by the singing of the respective National Anthems.

The Toast to "THE COMPANY" was proposed by Monsieur H. Van Blankenstein, Commercial Counsellor to the Royal Netherland Embassy, who reiterated the great services rendered by the Freight Express Ltd. to the Dutch government during the last war.



RECEPTION.

left to right:

Mr. F. Eggar, Lady Calverley, Mrs. F. Eggar, Lord Calverley



GENERAL VIEW OF THE BALL ROOM.

Amidst great applause, Monsieur Van Blankenstein announced, that the Queen of the Netherlands had created Mr. Eggar an Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau, and handed him over the decoration, which was in recognition of his work on behalf of Dutch shipping, particularly during the 1939-1945 war when his company was appointed by the Ministry of War Transport as managers of 75 Dutch coasters serving in the Allied cause.

The red-coated Toast Master then announced that Mr. Eggar would respond to the previous Toast, and on rising from his chair he received a hearty ovation.

He thanked Monsieur Van Blankenstein, for the words of appreciation to his firm, and for the presentation to him, on behalf of H.M. the Queen of the Netherlands, saying: "I accept this high distinction with all humility, and beg you to thank H.M. very sincerely. You will allow me to accept it as a distinction not confined to myself but given as a mark of appreciation to my Company, and therefore to my colleagues as well."

The speaker then referred to the history of the Company since its foundation, and especially to the time during the last war. He said: "Many of us remember the tragic 10th of May, 1940, when Holland was invaded. Many Dutch ships were here, and scores of others followed their Government's call to make for British ports. The Netherland Government and the Queen were on the way to England. The Ambassador and his staff were concerned with many weighty matters, Captains of many a little ship wanted help — financial or otherwise —, and it was not in vain that over 100 came to Freight Express Ltd."

Mr. Eggar, too, mentioned the happy relationship which had always existed throughout many years

between scores of Dutch captains and captain owners and his Company.

In conclusion the speaker paid a warm tribute to his co-directors, the staff and the vast circle of brokers and business friends for their whole hearted support they had given him at all times.

When the long applause with which the speakers oration was acknowledged had subsided, the Toast to "The Guests" was proposed by Mr. J. H. Adams, a Director of the firm, and the response was made by the Rt. Hon. Lord Calverley, J.P. D.L.

The Toast to "The Staff and all those sailing for the Company" was proposed by Mr. W. Marsh, and was replied to by Mr. E. Mars and Captain J. H. Ike, and no better tribute could be paid to the Head of this concern, as the one by Captain Ike, who with great feeling testified to the happy relations which exist between the sailing staff and the firm.

This concluded the official part of the evening, and after various presentations had been made to Mr. & Mrs. Eggar, on behalf of the Masters in the Company and the Office Staff, and the Honorary membership of the Gröningen Shipowner's Association was conferred on Mr. Eggar, dancing started, which was only interrupted by a cabaret entertainment.

This memorable function came to a close at 1 a.m.

We tender to Mr. Eggar, and also to Mrs. Eggar, who made such a perfect hostess, as well as to the Directors and Staff of Freight Express Ltd., our best wishes for the future prosperity of their concern, and we are proud to have witnessed that the success of this important combine is largely due to the tenacity and hard work of one of our compatriots.

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