

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1955)

Heft: 1259

Rubrik: Swiss Mercantile Society

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of 14th September was not crowded but quite satisfactory, bearing in mind the number of members still away on holidays, and excused for other reasons.

Mr. W. Meier, the President, again had the sad duty of reporting the deaths of yet two more of our members, Paul Möhr and Adolph Schaerer, to whose memory we paid the usual last silent tribute. He also mentioned the sudden passing of E. Berti who, though not one of our members, often played football for our College, and was well known and well loved in the Colony.

As to future activities it was hoped to get a film of the S.K.V. and another in colour and sound of Brown, Boveri & Co., Baden.

Messrs. Ernest M. Huber, W. Burren, and J. W. Bonjour were confirmed as delegates to the Swiss Sports Committee.

Our President then gave an outline of the essential features of the draft law on Swiss Military Tax, the only tax of the kind in the world. The draft provides for the following changes:

The personal tax, now frs.6.— to be raised to frs.15.—.

The 1½% tax on capital to be abolished, as well as the tax on anticipated inheritance (anwartschaftliches Vermoegen).

The 1½% tax on income to be raised to 3%.

The tax free income of frs.600.— to be varied as follows:

frs.1,000.— for bachelors.

„ 2,000.— for married men, widowers, and divorcees with households.

„ 500.— for one child.

„ 500.— for life insurance premiums.

Premiums to A.H.V. (A.V.S.) to be deducted.

Every 100 days of active service to qualify for a deduction of 1/10th of the tax.

Liability for full tax, now from 20 to 32 years, to be from 20 to 36 years.

Now 33 to 40 years, proposed 37 to 48 years, 1/8th less.

Now 41 to 48 years, proposed 49 to 60 years, 1/6th less.

In regard to Swiss abroad, anyone having lived abroad during five consecutive years at the age of 40 to be exempt from military tax.

Any Swiss with dual nationality not be liable for tax while doing military service in the country of his birth, and so long as he is on the active reserve.

A lively discussion ensued and a number of proposals were considered. In view of the doubts of the international legal aspects of the military tax, while yet desirous of maintaining a link with the homeland, it was decided to inform Mr. Schmid-Ruedin that, in our view, a nominal tax in the nature of a "Kopftaxe" was best suited to meet the ends contemplated by the new law.

We then had the pleasure, a real treat in fact, of seeing a goodly number of pictures shown by Messrs. W. Stettbacher (our snow giants), E. M. Huber (colour photos of holidays on the French and Italian Riviera and in the Valais), and J. Zimmermann (Fête des Vignerons). The fact that no one left Swiss House before the end is evidence of the delight we derived from the pictures, easily the best we have seen at our September meetings.

E.H.S.



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