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President, and the golden pin of the Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein. All honours which I greatly appreciated — and now comes this!

I somehow feel that I hardly deserve so much praise. I do not wish to make a long speech, but I would like to render grateful thanks.

First of all, I wish to thank His Excellency and Madame Daeniker for the kind hospitality they have always extended to my wife and myself at the Embassy. For well over forty years the diplomatic representatives of our country have kept me well lubricated with dinners and cocktail parties. Well do I remember, in particular, the cocktail party Monsieur and Madame Daeniker gave me, two years ago, on the occasion of my 70th birthday, presenting me with a wonderful birthday cake, complete with seventy candles.

Sincere thanks I owe to the many collaborators — alas, many of whom have left us, never to return! If I have been able to render some service to the Colony, during almost fifty years, it was due to their always willing help; without it I could have achieved very little. The various Swiss Societies and Institutions have always supported me well. If you will allow me to strike a personal note, I would also like to express thanks to my wife; without her help I could not have carried on.

During, and immediately after, the first World War the Colony lost cohesion, neutrals were then not very popular. It was then that I made up my mind to find some remedies, first in the Swiss Societies, and a few years later as editor of the "Swiss Observer". It was, so to speak, the "Sturm und Drang Periode" of the Colony. With the result that in the second World War, the Colony, in spite of the "Blitz", carried on its work almost as usual. We never lost touch with each other.

Now, on the eventide of a fairly busy life, I look back with sincere gratitude for the many kindnesses I have received, and all I can say is—

Thank you, thank you, very, very much! (*Applause.*)

And thank you, too, Alfred Stauffer, for a task well done and one of which you may justly feel proud. May continued good health and happiness be yours and good fortune attend all your endeavours.

O.F.B.

PERSONAL

Mr. A. Stauffer, of 48A Putney Hill, Putney, London, S.W.15, late editor of the Swiss Observer, wishes to thank most sincerely the many subscribers who so generously made donations to the "Alfred Stauffer Fund". He was greatly touched by this "beau geste".

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