

Swiss Mercantile Society

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Swiss Mercantile Society held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday evening, the 8th inst., at the Club House of the Union Helvetia.

In view of the fact that the members' roll of this thriving association is rapidly approaching the highly satisfactory figure of 700, it was somewhat surprising that the percentage of active members present was conspicuously below that proportion which one may reasonably expect to encounter on an occasion of this importance.

However, if the Committee's call to its members received rather slight attention, they had, on the other hand, the satisfaction that their invitations to supporters and friends of the society had been accorded a better response, quite a considerable number of prominent and influential members of our colony honouring the meeting with their presence.

Proceedings opened with a dinner, at the conclusion of which the President of the S.M.S., Mr. E. Werner, proposed the toast of "The King" and Mr. Ch. Chappuis that of "Our Native Country." Mr. E. Werner having welcomed the guests of the evening, the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme briefly addressed the gathering, eulogizing the universal importance of Commerce and appealing to its representatives as embodied in the S.M.S. steadfastly to pursue their course in good faith and with strong courage, qualities which were particularly needed in these times of stress.

The Secretary, Mr. J. L. Veil, read his comprehensive report covering every sphere of the society's activity during the past financial year, details of which we shall give in one of our next issues, after publication of the society's printed report.

The President then moved the adoption of the report, which was carried nem. con., and in the course of his observations on the very satisfactory results of the year under review pointed out that the rapid development and progress of the society are not only heavily overtaxing the capacity of the administrative committee, but have also fast outgrown the accommodation which the society has at its disposal for the purpose of holding educational classes and other assemblies. It had become an urgent necessity that additional accommodation should be provided, not for entertaining purposes, which functions usually take place under the hospitable roof of the Union Helvetia, where they felt perfectly comfortable on those occasions, the management catering for them with most admirable care and consideration, but for the classes of the educational section and possibly for one or two reading and writing rooms and particularly for office accommodation for a permanent secretary, the creation of which latter post could not be delayed much longer if the interests and further development of the society are not to suffer. The President therefore proposed that of the available funds a sum of £100 be set aside to provide the nucleus of a fund for securing in the near future such additional accommodation as would be adequate for their growing requirements. A warm tribute to the manager of the S.M.S. Employment Department,

Mr. J. Pfaendler, for his consistent and able conduct of his by no means easy office, and to Mr. F. Eggenberger for his unflinching and successful work in connection with the organisation of the educational classes concluded the presidential address.

Then rose Mr. H. Martin, First Secretary and Commercial Adviser of the Swiss Legation, who opened his spirited and interesting speech by expressing his pleasure to be present and to be able to congratulate the President and his Committee on the extremely gratifying results of the S.M.S., towards the attainment of which their undaunted zeal and devotion had been so instrumental. The speaker also paid a well-merited compliment to Mr. J. Pfaendler, with whom he often had occasion to come into direct contact and for whose qualities he had nothing but praise. Touching upon the serious industrial and commercial upheaval both here and in Switzerland, the speaker urged close and earnest co-operation as a contributory means for successfully weathering the present stormy period, and concluded by wishing the S.M.S. continued prosperity and progress. Vigorous applause followed Mr. Martin's speech, which had riveted the attention of the assembly.

After speeches by Messrs. Georges Dimier, A. F. Suter, J. Pfaendler, A. Stauffer, J. C. Rathgeb (the latter being not only one of the oldest members of the S.M.S. but also of the Swiss Colony) and Dr. P. Lang, Mr. Werner announced his retirement as President and that of his Committee, requesting Mr. M. Paschoud to act as President pro tem. during the election of the new Committee which for the new term of office is constituted as follows:

President, E. Werner; Vice-President, Ch. Strubin; Hon. Secretary, A. Baechler; Hon. Treasurer, O. Gasser; Assistant Secretaries, Ch. Kaser and Moser; Assistant Treasurers, W. A. Schaeztle and H. Salvisberg; Chef de Cours, O. Braga; Assistant Chefs de Cours, F. Eggenberger and W. Frey; Librarian, C. Meier. Entertainment Committee: President, J. Pfaendler; F. Eggenberger, C. Kiefer, J. L. Veil, R. Chappuis. Sports Committee: President, H. Senn; M. Paschoud, G. C. Traeris, C. A. Aeschmann, C. Strubin; Press Reporter: A. Stauffer. Representative on the Employment Board: Ch. Chappuis. Cash Auditors: R. Schweizer and R. Weist.

It is obviously a strong vote of confidence that the outgoing Committee was practically re-elected in its former entirety, and while this fact conveys to the Committee the members' sense of the Committee's devoted and successful services, it also carries with it an assurance that the conduct of the society's affairs continues to be vested in good hands.

R, GAILLARD'S CONCERT.

We wish to remind our readers that Mr. Rodolphe Gaillard's Concert takes place on Tuesday evening, June 28th, at 8.15, at Leighton House, 12, Holland Park Road, W. (See special advert.)

Mr. Gaillard will be assisted by Miss Marga Stella (Soprano). The programme will include songs and arias by Leoncavallo, Giordano, Respighi, Wolf-Ferrari,

Bachelet-Hüe, Rachmaninow, Schubert Aubert, Debussy, and a group of duets from the works of Mozart, Valérie White and Henschel.

Our compatriot has delighted the Swiss Colony on so many occasions that he needs no further introduction on our part, but it will doubtless interest his many friends to know that our artiste's talent has also found full appreciation in London's larger world of music, as witness the appended Press opinions:

"The Daily Telegraph": An inspiring singer, he created an extraordinarily good impression. He has a full, robust and resonant voice which is admirably controlled, and he sings in a warm, fullblooded style which exactly suits him. His temperament and dramatic power cannot be gainsaid, and his sense of rhythm is excellent. His rendering of a Bach Aria was genuinely artistic, and he carried his audience with him in his genial and stimulating performance of Salvador Rosa's "Vade ben spesso."

"The Globe": Mr. Rodolphe Gaillard triumphantly proved that his temperament was as ample as his voice. His singing of songs of Handel, Salvador Rosa and Schubert was excellent, for his diction was good, his rhythmic sense better, and his command of tone values best of all.

"The Referee": Mr. Gaillard's style of singing is artistic and refined. An air from Handel's "Scipio" was given with breadth of phrasing and dignity. The programme covered a wide field of sentiment, and whether singing in English or French, Mr. Gaillard's pronunciation was excellent.

EGLISE SUISSE.

79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

Dimanche, 19 Juin, 11h.—Mr. Junod.
6h. 30.—Deutscher Gottesdienst.—Herr Wildbolz. V.D.M., aus Bern.
Dimanche, 26 Juin, 11h.—"Hospital Sunday."—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
6h. 30.—M. Boissonnas.

MARRIAGE.

Charles Emile GERBER, d'Aarwangen (Berne) et Marguerite KENNEDY, de Manchester—le 2 Juin 1921.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, June 23rd, 7 p.m.—SOIREE ANNUELLE SUISSE at King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Rd., W.1.

Monday, June 27th, 8 p.m.—DINNER at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2, arranged by the Swiss Commission in London for the Study of Economic and Commercial Questions in honour of the Swiss representatives: Dr. Alfred Georg and Mr. John Syz, at the Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce.

For further details see Circular inserted with this issue.

Tuesday, June 28th, 8.15 p.m.—RODOLPHE GAILLARD'S CONCERT at Leighton House, 12, Holland Park Road, West Kensington, W.14.