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CITY SWISS CLUB. (Monthly Meeting)

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, June 1st, at Brown's Hotel, and Mr. A. Bon, was in the Chair and there were 112 members and guests present.

When the business of the Meeting had been concluded, the President announced that our member, Dr. G. G. Kullmann, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, League of Nations, had kindly consented to address the Meeting on *Post War Refugee Problems*.

Dr. Kullmann, on rising, received a hearty ovation.

Many eminent speakers have addressed our members on various occasions, but seldom has one received such a sincere and unanimous acknowledgment as Dr. Kullmann for dealing in such an exemplary manner with his subject.

From beginning to end the audience listened with keen interest to his *exposé*, which explained in a lucid manner both the difficulties and the importance of the Refugee Problem with which the various countries will be confronted after this war.

The President, Mr. A. Bon, thanked the speaker warmly for his address, expressing the hope that the members would have the privilege of hearing him again in the near future.

A short discussion followed the lecture, in which various members took part.

Before the Meeting closed, the President announced that the Committee had arranged for a social gathering with the Ladies to take place on Saturday, August 28th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

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Here is an abbreviated *resumé* of Dr. Kullmann's highly interesting address:

SURVEY OF THE POST-WAR REFUGEE PROBLEM.

The term "refugee" is used very loosely nowadays. Amongst those concerned with the problem it is now generally agreed to make a distinction between the genuine long-term refugees and the temporarily displaced persons. The war has uprooted millions of individuals, and for the European Continent alone, although no exact figures are available, the number of temporarily displaced persons is probably in the neighbourhood of 15 to 20 millions.

Amongst this category we place members of armed forces staying outside their home lands, the prisoners of war, foreign labour recruited by Axis Powers and working mostly inside the Greater German Reich, or in limitrophe areas. Moreover, evacuees from war zones having crossed their national frontiers also belong to that category. The same applies to the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the re-settlement policy carried out in the Eastern and South-Eastern regions of Europe. These people have been transferred to newly-acquired Axis territories, and their settlement at the time of the transfer was considered to be a final establishment, as the Axis Powers were at that time convinced of winning the war. As an example, attention may be drawn to the popula-

tion of German ethnic stock removed from the Baltic States to Danzig, and the so-called Warthegau, the former Polish Corridor, and the Province around Poznan incorporated into German territory. Similar transfers accompanied the various frontier readjustments which took place in Hungary and the Balkan countries. None of these new settlements can be assumed to have final character in the eventuality of an allied victory.

The problem of assistance and repatriation of temporarily dispersed persons has been assigned to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) whose draft charter has been made public recently. Prior to the setting up of the UNRRA two bodies were already at work: The Inter-Allied Committee for Post-War Relief, in which Sir Frederick Leith Ross played a leading rôle, and the United States Office for Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation headed by Governor Herbert Lehmann. The UNRRA is to be regarded as a merger of these two bodies. Its task is not confined to temporarily displaced persons, but will also comprise relief to destitute nationals of liberated countries. As regards displaced persons, the UNRRA will be in charge of repatriation operations, and it will also be responsible for assisting this huge mass of people during the pre-Armistice and post-Armistice period.

The genuine or long term refugee confronts the Governments with different problems. Such persons have been compelled to leave their home lands prior to the war or in the course of the war, as a result of racial, religious or political persecution and they are persons who neither in law nor in fact enjoy at present the protection of the Government of their home country. For reasons other than physical reasons they are either unwilling or unable to return home at the end of hostilities unless special measures are taken in respect of their settlement. Most of the temporarily displaced persons will be welcomed back home by their respective Governments, and these persons will no doubt wish to return at the earliest possible opportunity. In fact, the UNRRA will be up against spontaneous movements of return which may disorganise plans of orderly repatriation. As an illustration one may point to the large number of French, Belgian and Dutch workers employed to-day in the industrial regions of Western Germany. It is obvious that many of these workers, unless means of transportation are made available for them, will simply walk back home as soon as the present German Government system breaks down.

It is assumed that the UNRRA, or voluntary relief bodies working under the UNRRA's auspices, will give first aid, food, medical assistance, etc., indiscriminately to destitute temporarily displaced persons and to long term refugees, but the long term categories present problems of settlement beyond the scope of the UNRRA.

To ascertain already to-day the scope of the long term refugee problem is not possible, and purely a matter of conjecture.

However, there are certain groups who became already long term refugees before the war, and who were long term refugees before the war, and who were placed under the mandate of intergovernmental agencies set up with the special task to deal with them.

(To be concluded in our next issue.)