

# News from the Colony

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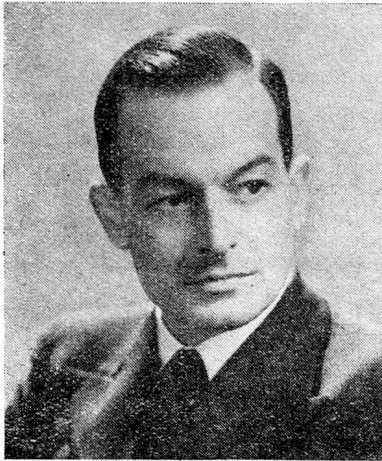
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## NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



**GOTTFRIED KELLER,**  
President,  
Foreign Press Association.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Gottfried Keller, on his election as President of the Foreign Press Association.

Mr. Keller was born in 1905, the son of States-Councillor, Dr. Gottfried Keller. In March 1934, he came to London to join the Swiss Mercantile Society college as a student. In the same year he was appointed London correspondent of the "Agence Télégraphique Suisse," and three years later (1937) he became, in addition, London correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten."

He soon made a name for himself in the Journalistic profession, and in 1941, was elected, for the first time, President of the Foreign Press Association, a professional organisation of foreign journalists accredited in London, comprising about 130 members. Through its public luncheons and as a much sought-after platform for speeches of well-known personalities, the Foreign Press Association can be said to play an important part in the political life of London.

In 1943 Gottfried Keller became Chairman of the International Committee of Journalists.

Mr. Keller is well-known in the London Swiss Colony through his regular talks on "Current Affairs" given at the monthly meetings of the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group)" during the war, thus enabling our compatriots to get acquainted with the happenings in our country, during a period, when unbiassed news were very difficult to obtain. Thanks to his being well informed with current affairs, both here and abroad, these interesting talks were greatly appreciated.

Mr. Keller is a member of the City Swiss Club, Swiss Mercantile Society and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

A considerable compliment has been paid by the Foreign Press Association in choosing Mr. Gottfried Keller as their President for the second time, in succession to our compatriot Dr. H. W. Egli, who had just completed his two years term of office. It is also a compliment to our country which we, as Swiss, appreciate very much.

His speeches at the many luncheons of the above institution during the war, when many of the war leaders were guests of honour were models, they were, as one of the big Daily papers, reported, "epigrammatic, discreetly anecdotal and brief."

We extend to Mr. Gottfried Keller, our best and sincere wishes for his second term of office.

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**W. MEIER,**  
President,  
Swiss Mercantile Society.



At the recently held Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. W. Meier has been elected President, in succession to Mr. J. J. Boos.

The new leader of this enterprising Society was born in 1908 and originates from Glattfelden (Canton Zurich). He received his schooling at the Primary and Secondary schools at Glattfelden, and afterwards spent four years at the "Kantonale Handelsschule" in Zurich where he took the final diploma.

After a short stay with an Import and Export firm in Zurich, and having attended the "Rekrutenschule," he came to London in 1928 not yet twenty years of age.

His intentions were to perfect his knowledge of the English language, and after accomplishing this, to go overseas; but like so many of his compatriots he "fell in love" with London and decided to stay on.

Soon after his arrival in this country he joined the Swiss Mercantile Society, and at once took a great interest in their work. In 1930 he was elected a member of the Education Department committee, and five years later (1935) became its Chairman.

At one of the dances of the City Swiss Club, of which he became a member in 1933, he met the then Miss Mariann Gysin from Liestal, whom he married in 1935. The result of this happy marriage is "so far" three children.

Mr. Meier is a keen sportsman, and especially interested in athletics, he was a regular competitor at the Swiss Sports and other sports meetings, where he won many prizes.

Like his predecessor, he took a great interest also in the work of the Colony in London, and was a member of many committees.

In September 1939, at the outbreak of the war, he was called up and returned to Switzerland where he saw service with the "Mitrailleur Bat. 66," and on having been granted an early leave, returned to London.

Mr. Meier has been employed for several years with a Metal Merchants firm in the City, of which firm he recently became Manager.

We wish him a successful term of Office in his responsible position for the benefit of the Swiss Mercantile Society in particular and for the London Swiss Colony in general.