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Very prolonged applause told M. Varin how much we all had enjoyed his exquisite *causerie* and the Chairman thanked him most sincerely on behalf of all of us.

He then introduced M. Weymuller who had come really to answer questions, reasonable questions, which members might like to put to him. He felt, however, that it would be best if our Guest said a few words first on the subjects he would possibly like to be interrogated.

Our second Guest of Honour stated that the younger generation of France was quite determined not to return to the old institutions which, rightly or wrongly, had been blamed for what had happened, hence the creation of the fourth Republic which had taken time to find its constitution but was now an established fact. The French Empire had now become "L'Union Française" which was opening its doors much wider to the people outside Metropolitan France and which was, he thought, a very good thing. He then spoke about the "Conseil Economique" which was a further creation of France and a happy survivor of the unity of all French people during the dark years. These, men of various political opinions would come together to discuss important problems.

He spoke also of the "Plan Monnet" which might be called to play a very important part in the recovery of France. It was not the plan of one man, of Civil Servants or of the Government but it was the result of studies of groups of men, not only from all parties but of all types of trade and industries, engineers and workers, who had worked as a team and with a team spirit. This was something new in France, something which gave fresh hopes to many.

Questions followed this interesting exposé. They were on all sorts of subjects, the most interesting one being that of Dr. Egli who said how much the people of our Western civilisation were rejoicing in the fact that the next day an Anglo-French Alliance was going to be signed in Dunkirk. He wanted to know what the people of France really thought about this Alliance, was it received with tremendous joy, in a sceptical way, or otherwise? He also wanted to know what was the French attitude to the proposal of Mr. Churchill in 1940 for a United France and England and to his later one advocating a European Union?

M. Weymuller was of course very guarded in his answers but made no secret of the fact that most French people would rejoice in that Alliance. He doubted if the proposal of 1940 could be workable today with a united House of Commons and Chambre des Deputés. For the present this Alliance would be largely on economical matters, it was clear that everybody wanted more freedom in trade and a possibility of exchanging goods without all the present restrictions; in this respect everybody should rejoice in this grand step forward which had just been achieved.

M. Varin expressed his own personal joy at the great event which was going to take place. He said if we could only forget the past, forget those things which had divided people and remembered a little bit more the happy links which had united individuals and nations, we should be very much nearer to the creation of that understanding amongst nations which the whole world desired so much. Yes, he believed this new Alliance would bear fruit and nothing would please him more than to be allowed to come again to the City

Swiss Club and tell us, in a not too distant time, of the fruit it had borne.

The clock said it was 10 o'clock. The Meeting had been one of the longest on record and yet no one had noticed how time had flown, so pleasant had the evening been. This is what the Chairman said in closing the Meeting.

A. R.

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