

City Swiss Club

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Commander Stephen King-Hall Guest of the Club.

Nearly a hundred members attended the last Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club, which took place at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, on Tuesday, June 10th, 1947, and which was preceded by dinner.

Mr. de Cintra, President of the Club extended a hearty welcome to the Guest of Honour, Commander Stephen King-Hall, expressing his pleasure of having amongst the visitors, Dr. A. Escher, Counsellor of Legation, and Messieurs Weber, Weibel and Clottu from the Swiss Legation.

Monsieur Paul Ruegger, the Swiss Minister was unavoidably prevented from attending the Meeting. He sent his best wishes for a successful evening.

Commander King-Hall, on rising, received a very hearty ovation from the numerous audience; he addressed the company on "What is Peace?" He spoke for over an hour, in his usual fluent manner on a very topical subject.

Unfortunately lack of space does not allow us to re-produce his very interesting *exposé in toto*, but we will endeavour to pick out, at random, some of the points which he made.

"What is Peace?" he asked, "Some people say, it is a state of no war." "Then what is war?" he continued, "Some people say that wars are military operations, and if this is true, then there is Peace in the world to-day, but is there Peace?" He answered the question by saying "Hardly."

On touching the practical problems of defence to-day and in the near future he gave a considered opinion from a theoretical point of view on the following questions:

What are we trying to defend?

Against whom are we trying to defend IT?

How should we defend IT and against WHAT?

Touching the subject of defence, he said, that defence means the whole complex of operations, policies and devices required in order to obtain security. "We are concerned to-day with the defence of democratic sovereign states in general and that of Britain in particular."

As to Defence, the speaker mentioned that when security is menaced in a conflict, the object is to make the enemy agree with your views, and that perfect security is obtained when there is universal harmony of views, because then there can be no conflict. What we are trying to defend to-day is a philosophy of life — we call it the free way of life.

Commander King-Hall struck a re-assuring note when he made the following statement: "Why do I feel safe to-day against attacks by atom bombs sent from the U.S.A.? It is not the R.A.F. that makes me feel safe. It is the thoughts, the ideas in American minds which give me security. I do not believe that public opinion in the U.S.A. would allow a bomb to be dropped on London."

He continued, "Do I feel as sure about public opinion in Russia, Yugoslavia or Poland? Yes and No. I do not believe Russians, Yugoslaves, Poles or Germans are any worse than other human beings, but I am quite sure that in the totalitarian states the public is misinformed on the facts and exercises on the actions of the government."

Dealing with the following practical questions which are facing us to-day, the lecturer answered them as follows:

"Can the British Commonwealth of Nations be an effective military force without Great-Britain?"

Answer: "No."

"Can the United Kingdom be an effective force in modern war without London?"

Answer: "No, there are too many eggs in that basket."

"Is there an *effective* and *practical* physical defence for London against long range atom bombs?"

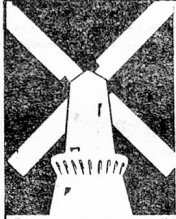
Answer: "I do not believe there is such a defence."

Touching on the subject of Russia, Commander King-Hall said: "There is the political enemy during the next twenty years. Russia is very shaky to-day, I believe she is very weak, but we cannot take any risks. Our strategy in a possible future conflict with Russia must be to democratize the Russian people."

As to the position of Switzerland in a possible future conflict, the lecturer said that our country must, sooner or later define its policy, as it could hardly be expected that our country could claim exceptional privileges for all times.

Commander King-Hall received loud applause on resuming his seat, and after a short discussion, the President, Mr. R. de Cintra closed the meeting.

ST.



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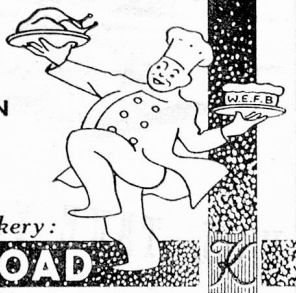
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SWISS CLUB, DUNFERMLINE.

At our monthly meeting on June 5th, 1947, we learned with deep regret of the departure of our President, Mr. Ernst Gurtner, and also Mrs. Gurtner, who has been a Passive member of our Club for many years.

Mr. Gurtner has been an Office Bearer since the Club was founded in 1937. First he served as President of the Committee for Social Affairs. Since 1941, he was our Vice-President until the Presidency was entrusted to him in April 1946.

Our new President Mr. Frick, recalled in due words, the manifold activities of Mr. Gurtner in our Swiss colony. Through his untiring work and readiness to help all members, he has won our appreciation. The Committee and indeed all members, of the Club, regret to lose such a good captain. In recognition of his services, our President announced that Mr. Gurtner will remain an Honorary Member and asked him to accept the prepared attestation.

In his reply, our departing President assured us that it always gave him great pleasure to work for the good of the Swiss Club. He thanked all members for their co-operation and assistance accorded to him in his various activities as Office-Bearer. Mr. Gurtner accepted with great pleasure, our offer to become an Honorary Member and offered special thanks for the beautiful attestation prepared for him. "I shall continue to serve your club," Mr. Gurtner said, "as far as may be possible from our Homeland." He expects to pay us a visit in Dunfermline in about two years time and we can assure him of a hearty welcome.

On behalf of all members, Mr. Frick delivered our very best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Gurtner, for a good journey to Switzerland, and also in their new sphere of work.

B.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Wednesday, June 11th. The members and friends present were welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. W. Meier.

It was with deep regret that the meeting learnt of the recent death of Mr. J. Truninger, who had been an Active Member of the Society since 1907. The Members rose to pay a last silent tribute to the departed.

In an interesting and detailed account, Mr. J. J. Boos reported on the deliberations at the Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V., held at Interlaken on May 10th and 11th. 274 Delegates, representing some 100 Sections of the Association, were present. A very cordial reception was accorded to the representatives of the London Section, Messrs. J. J. Boos and K. E. Ammann. The latter reported on the social part of the meeting, in the course of which Messrs. Boos and De Brunner were specially honoured, as already announced in a previous issue.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to both Delegates for the efficient manner in which they had represented the Society and reported on the proceedings.

Mr. Marfurt gave the latest news regarding the College, which is going from strength to strength. He

announced that an excursion to Cambridge had been arranged for Friday, June 27th, when the students will pay a visit to Cambridge University.

A Luncheon and Tea Dance has been arranged at the Dorchester Hotel for Saturday, November 8th. This annual function has been enjoying an ever increasing popularity and it was decided, for the time being, not to revert to the pre-war practice of holding a Banquet and Ball.

A circular received from the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, dealing with proposed legislation in Switzerland on the question of dual nationality, had been sent to every member. A brief discussion took place and the Chairman encouraged the members to attend an Open Meeting arranged by the N.S.H. for Tuesday, June 17th.

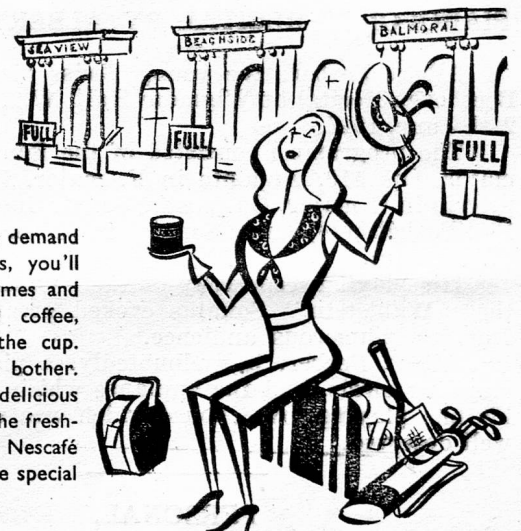
It was decided to revert to the pre-war practice of suspending meetings during the months of July and August, leaving it to the General Purposes Committee to deal with Society matters during the summer recess. The next Monthly Meeting will, therefore, be held on Wednesday, September 10th, when members will be afforded an opportunity of exchanging reminiscences of their experiences during holidays, both at home and abroad.

A most welcome tea and refreshments were served by the Ladies' Group following the meeting. As usual, the ladies had spared no efforts to provide all the dainty sweets and pastries imaginable and thanks are due to them for this further proof of their interest in the members' welfare.

The remainder of the evening was spent in keen games of Table Tennis and Cards, in which many of the members took part and thus came to a close a most enjoyable evening.

WB.

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