

H. W. Comfort

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however, who came into immediate contact with him always knew that they could rely at all times on obtaining a fresh and individual view on any problem that might arise, and on powerful and friendly support in any task to which they might be assigned.

Though he has not figured as an official of any of the Swiss societies in London, Mr. de Wolff was well known to their members. His organising activity in connection with the visit of the Swiss Folklore Society in 1948 will be remembered, while the Swiss Bank staff recall his apt and humorous remarks at the celebrations of the bank's 75th Anniversary in 1947 and at the 50th "Birthday" of the London Office in 1948.

He has always maintained a close contact with his home in the Valais and his annual visit to Sierre has always been the focal point of the year's activity. In his early years in London, he was known to many of his friends as a keen yachtsman, but circumstances prevented him from having easy access to the sea in later years, and his sporting activities were mainly confined to the gun.

Mr. de Wolff, known to so many as "the Doctor", will be missed both by his colleagues and staff and by the Swiss Colony in London, as well as in much wider circles in the City. We wish him and Mme. de Wolff many years of happy retirement and the opportunity to do many of the things for which time has never been available in the past.

H. W. COMFORT.

The Swiss Bank Corporation is losing one of its oldest servants with the retirement at the end of the year of Mr. Harry William Comfort, who has been on the staff since the 1st October, 1903, that is to say since the London Office was in its infancy.

Before the 1914-1918 war, Mr. Comfort had been a member of a Yeomanry unit of the Territorial Army and at the outbreak of war served with the Artists Rifles. Subsequently, he was transferred to the Royal Artillery where he obtained his commission. After the Armistice, he remained in the Army of Occupation in Germany for a short time and was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant. When he came back to the bank in 1919, he joined the Foreign Exchange Department and for nearly twenty years he specialised in this section of the banking business and became a very well known figure in the London Foreign Exchange market. He has been a member of the Foreign Exchange Committee since it was formed in 1931 and has there represented a group comprising all the foreign banks in London, with the exception of the Americans, French and Belgians. He was made a Sub-Manager in January, 1932 and on leaving the departmental side of the Foreign Exchange business, he was appointed Deputy Manager in 1939. Upon him fell the additional task of managing the Byfleet estate during the time the bank was there in occupation. He became a full Manager of the bank in 1946 and has been particularly concerned with the Staff organization.

Though typically English — even to the extent of suggesting a replica of John Bull — Mr. Comfort has, in the course of his business career, developed a very close connection with Switzerland and has been a regular visitor there both for business purposes and on holiday, and he can claim numerous friends in all parts of that country.

His principal recreation at home has been golf, and he has for many years been a leading member of the Foreign Exchange Golf Society.

Mr. Comfort will be much missed in the City and we offer him our best wishes for a long and happy retirement.



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