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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting took place at Swiss House on 13th May. It started with a little delay as the President came from a celebration in his honour arranged by his firm on his completion of 25 years service with them.

After a warm welcome to Mr. J. J. Schneider — who looked quite his former self — and mentioning the important forthcoming events in the Colony, Mr. W. Meier gave us his report of the Delegate meeting held at Zurich from 1st to 3rd May. In addition to our President we were represented by Messrs. J. J. Boos, L. W. Krucker, and A. C. Stahelin, Mrs. W. Meier and Mrs. L. W. Krucker had also joined the party, and were thus able to witness the presentation of the Ehrenzeichen to our Honorary Members Messrs. Boos and Stahelin, a very rare distinction.

Mr. W. Meier emphasised the warmth of the reception accorded to the London delegates, the only ones from abroad. After giving a brief survey of the general arrangements at Zurich, he mentioned the following major items of business before the delegates :

1. A proposition that the Central Committee study the question of setting up a special pension fund for those of our members who cannot make provision for the old age through other channels.
2. The maintenance of full employment. The rise in the cost of living has been fully compensated in commercial employment by adequate salary increases. As a class, therefore, we are interested in full employment and a stable cost of living index. This involves a close watch on any moves in the matter of price controls and the introduction of a new customs tariff.
3. Demand for legislation which takes account of our views concerning dismissals with proper compensation for loss of employment. It should also provide for a greater measure of joint control by the staffs of privately set up pension funds and similar institutions. Stress should be laid on the right to transfer pension entitlements from one firm to another (Freizügigkeit).

Our delegates found time to discuss with Mr. A. Schwander, chief of the federal department for professional education, the question of our renting the building next door until 1959.

On Sunday 100 veteran members, many of whom were present, were handed the plaques commemorating 50 years membership of the S.K.V. Our own Mr. H. J. Ungricht, who lives in retirement at Worthing, numbers among the veterans, and intends to collect his plaque at our September meeting. Federal Councillor Radolphe Rubattel addressed the meeting on federal legislation before our legislators, and contemplated for the future, and our General Secretary, Nat. Councillor Phillip Schmid-Ruedin, dealt with federal problems as seen by employees.

The Sunday session ended with a concert by the male choirs of four sections, assisted by the S.K.V. orchestra. After the banquet at Congress Hall, the members were taken by the new steamer Lindt to Richterswil and back to Zurich along the Meilen shore.

Mr. L. W. Krucker referred to the high appreciation shown to the London delegation and their ladies, that it almost made it unpleasant to have to ask for money for repairs, decorations, and equipment for next door. However, we do need the funds if the students are to be made to feel more at home. The need for funds was fully explained and appreciated.

Mr. J. J. Boos attended the 25th anniversary meeting of the Sickness Benefit Fund, and of the Fund which assists our members who lose their employment when over 40 and cannot get other permanent employment. Mr. Boos explained the working of the fund which he described as a very deserving cause of which the London section is a shareholder. He appealed to members spending their holidays in Switzerland and who do not spend the whole £40, to acquire some shares in denominations of frs.20.— to support this work founded at the time by Mr. Schmid-Ruedin. With reference to the A.H.V. Mr. Boos reported that pensions will be increased by about 10% from 1st January 1954, and that those insured working when over 65 years will, from the same date, no longer be expected to pay premiums.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin, in a speech full of honour and commonsense, reported on what he saw and felt while at Zurich. He dwelt appreciatively on the deep sense of duty and patriotism aroused by this outstanding function of our Society.

Mrs. W. Meier in her turn stated how much she and Mrs. Krucker valued the gesture and thought behind the bouquets of flowers which were given to them, and the kindness and courtesy shown to them on all sides. She was also impressed with the purposefulness of the proceedings and hoped she would have another opportunity of attending such a meeting in the future.

In conclusion Mr. Meier conveyed to us the greetings of Mr. Karl Strickler, Central President of the S.K.V., Mr. P. Schmid-Ruedin, General Secretary and National Councillor, of the other members of the Central Committee and, last but not least, of Mr. E. A. Hueni, former Vice President of the London Section, and chairman of our Education Committee.

E.H.S.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, June 26th, 1953. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: J. A. Reiber, P. Lehrian, J. J. Boos, F. Conrad, G. Marchand, J. C. Wetter, E. M. Hamilton, Mrs. C. Schaefer, F. A. Brawand, R. Dupraz, G. Ashley, W. Stettbacher, W. Gradmann.

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