

Swiss Mercantile Society

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1948. But boredom and the extreme rigours of the 1951 winter made him return to London to be near his children, now all happily settled. Once again bad health forced him to give up the Restaurant at Earls Court within the year and seek rest at Kingston-upon-Thames.

John Veglio had been for many years a member of the "Unione Ticinese" and at one time served on the Committee. Thus, one more link with the prosperous days of "Ticinese" emigration to London is broken. To his widow, his sons Martin (conjurer Howard de Courcy), Gino and John, and daughters Armida and Giuditta we send our heartfelt condolences.

J. E.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

There was again a very good attendance at the Monthly Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 11th January.

The President, Mr. O. Grob, had the sad duty of announcing the death of Mr. A. C. Baume, a contributing member for over 40 years, and of Mr. F. Wespi, who had joined the Society in 1928, having previously been a member of the Aarau section. The members rose to pay a last silent tribute to the departed friend.

Following the official business, Mr. E. Burgaezzi, of Swissair and a member of the Society, gave a very interesting talk on air transport in general and the specific rôle and organisation of Swissair.

In a short history of civil aviation which, in Switzerland, had its beginning in January 1919, the lecturer gave an account of the efforts of enterprising and courageous pioneers which led to the formation of private air transport companies. It was not until 1931 that these were merged into one undertaking for the whole of Switzerland, and the Swiss Air Transport Ltd., Swissair, was founded. At the end of that year, Swissair's staff totalled 64.

The growth of this undertaking to its present importance can best be gauged when it is realised that at the end of 1959 the company employed 6,187 people and provided a network length of 127,000 km., the total revenue being over 277 million Swiss francs in that year.

Mr. Burgaezzi gave interesting details of the development of aircraft, from the primitive machines used in the early stages to the present jet airliners which carry an ever increasing number of passengers and quantity of cargo all over the globe.

Following his address, he answered numerous questions put to him by the audience. These evinced the keen interest with which all present had followed the story of one of the world's renowned and leading airlines.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer at the end of his talk.

In conclusion, we were privileged to view Swissair's latest film, "You'll never be the same". This colour sound film, which was shown on the Society's new Paillard-Bolex projector, portrayed a

voyage of two travellers by different means of transport across the American continent, after having previously crossed the Atlantic by one of Swissair's luxury airliners. It was a lighthearted story, and showed scenes of American life and customs, as well as glimpses of industrial and agricultural activities, all of which were on a grand scale and with ultra-modern devices. Traversing vast tracts of land we saw the diverse scenery encountered from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, endless plains and even desert, and much that was beautiful to behold, particularly in the mountainous regions. Altogether a very interesting and entertaining film.

W.B.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

A Charity Concert in aid of the Welfare Office under the patronage of Madame M. Daeniker, wife of the Swiss Ambassador and Honorary President of the Welfare Office, will take place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9, Belsize Grove, London, N.W.3, on Tuesday, 14th February 1961, at 8.15 p.m. sharp. Tickets 10/- each including light buffet supper (7.15 p.m.).

The concert is offered by Carola Grindea (piano), and Joan Spencer (violin).

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

The following members of the staff of the Swiss Bank Corporation retired at the end of last year.

Mr. R. S. Griffiths, a keen golfer and a first World War Cavalry Captain, retired after 36 years' service, mostly spent in various forms of bookkeeping.

Mr. R. (Bob) Tobin, Attorney, retired after having completed over 50 years' service. In his young — and even not-so-young — days Mr. Tobin was well known as a keen amateur sportsman, not only in such games as cricket and football but particularly in boxing. In fact, during a distinguished Great War career, when he rose from Private to Captain, was wounded four times and decorated, he found time to become the champion at his weight of the British Expeditionary Force.

* * *

Promoted to attorney are Messrs. Dennis A. Boylett, John F. Carlen and Frank J. Deed, whom we wish to congratulate.

CITY SWISS CLUB

MEETING

followed by card playing

Tuesday, 7th February 1961 at 6.30 for 7 p.m.

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL

PARK LANE, W.1

THE COMMITTEE