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ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Anglo-Swiss Society took place at the Swiss Embassy on 30th November. The President, Sir Clifford Norton, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., was in the chair. From the annual report it was learnt that a Dinner to welcome the Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer had been held early in 1964 and a Film Show and *Fondue Bourguignonne* Dinner following the A.G.M. in November. The Ambassador and Madame de Fischer had given a Reception at the Embassy in October. At the end of 1964, there were 171 members including ten Honorary Members.

The Accounts were presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. D. Richardson, O.B.E., and the new officers were elected. Sir Clifford Norton stepped down from the Presidency but agreed to remain Vice-President. The new President was elected in the person of the Earl of Selkirk, P.C., G.C.M.G., G.B.E., A.F.C., Q.C. He has many close ties with Switzerland, is President of the Commonwealth Winter Games and Chairman of the Anglo-Swiss Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He also organises the Inter-Parliamentary Ski Racing Competitions.

Dr. E. M. Bircher, the Hon. Secretary, resigned, and the meeting elected Lieut.-Col. H. S. Townend, O.B.E., and Monsieur P. Stauffer, Cultural Attaché at the Swiss Embassy, as Joint Hon. Secretaries. The retiring President and Hon. Secretary were thanked for their work, as was Mrs. Cobb who is in charge of the secretarial work.

Before the meeting closed, the wish was expressed that the Society should become more active again in order to play a more important part in Anglo-Swiss relations. The Society was founded in 1948 and was re-constituted in 1960. The objects are to preserve and consolidate the long tradition of mutual understanding and esteem between the U.K. and Switzerland, and to develop public knowledge and appreciation in both countries of their respective languages, art and culture, pastimes and sports, institutions and conditions of life. The third object is to make use of literature, press and other media in propagating such knowledge, to issue publications and to organise discussion groups and lectures, and dinners in honour of distinguished guests or on special occasions.

From these aims and objects can be seen that there is wide scope for the Society's activities, and it is hoped that a great deal more will be done in the coming year.

Following the Annual General Meeting, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer gave a Reception at the Embassy Residence.

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THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

Lack of space has prevented the Editor from publishing items which appeared in the "Swiss Observer" thirty years ago. Before the year is out, she would like to recall a few events which happened in the last few months of 1935. It was a time of economic difficulties for Switzerland, and several banks were in trouble. It was also the period of Swiss newspapers being banned in Germany, of anti-Nazi demonstrations and of Prof. Karl Barth's expulsion from Germany. The Referendum on a total revision of the Federal Constitution was rejected by the Swiss electorate by a very large majority. The Swiss Army was equipped with tanks, and the Swiss riflemen were successful at the International Shooting Contest in Rome. Queen Astrid of the Belgians had been killed in a motor accident on the shores of the Lake of Lucerne.

In several issues there were articles and letters to and from the Editor regarding Swiss sanctions in connection with the Italian occupation of Abyssinia. In the General Election in Switzerland, Mr. Duttweiler of Migros and Hotel-Plan fame got a seat in Parliament for the first time, together with six of his supporters (Landesring der Unabhängigen). The Federal Finance Bill introduced drastic measures to balance the Federal Budget. They included new duties, increased customs duties and a cut in salaries of federal civil servants.

The new President of the Federal Council was Bundesrat A. Meyer. The other Federal Councillors were Messrs. Baumann, Etter, Minger, Motta, Obrecht and Pilet.

Events of interest in the life of the Swiss community in the U.K. included a concert by the Swiss Institute Orchestral Society and a Talk by the Swiss "Soldatenmutter" Frau Elsa Zueblin-Spiller. There were a Swiss reunion at Cheltenham, an Old Folks' Christmas Luncheon at the Foyer Suisse and the S.M.S. Students' Christmas Ball at the Prince's Gallery. Mr. J. Billeter presided at the Annual Banquet of the City Swiss Club and Mr. E. Kuebler at the "Gruetli-Feier" of the Manchester Swiss. The British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club had a report of their Annual Dinner in one of the issues. One of the most outstanding events was the appearance at a meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique of the writer and explorer A. Tschiffely and the famous pilot Walter Mittelholzer. The world-renowned psychologist C. G. Jung gave a series of daily lectures in London.

The new General Manager of the Grosvenor House was Mr. L. Hilpert, and Mr. J. J. Pfaendler celebrated his Silver Jubilee as Manager of the Employment Department of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

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