

Social und personal

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1922)**

Heft 45

PDF erstellt am: **08.08.2024**

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Chauvinism. It would necessitate a great military convention, which is just in complete antagonism to one of the articles of the League of Nations, which says there should be no more secret Treaties. It would be bad for France by encouraging the Chauvinist elements which exist in that country, bad for England because it would diminish and possibly take away altogether the policy of the "free hand" which we have pursued ever since Waterloo until a few years before the Great War, and if you have something like an Anglo-French Treaty it would not stop there; Germany and Russia would do the same, and they would make a very formidable couple—not now, but in years to come, when both recover. Therefore you would have Europe once more divided into two camps. My advice, for what it is worth, is to have nothing to do with a one-sided pact; what I desire is a guarantee to France against an unprovoked German attack, and a precisely similar guarantee to Germany against a French attack. There would then be no favouritism, no need for a military convention, nothing like an Alliance against one country or the other, no stimulus to the Chauvinism either of France or Germany, no cause for traducing the ideas and ideals of the League of Nations.

You will perhaps say that France would not accept it. I daresay she would not now, but if she was to look carefully into it she would find it would give her all she wanted, because it would guarantee to her the permanent possession of Alsace-Lorraine, and it would make Germany realise that she could only get back Alsace-Lorraine by war with Great Britain as well as with France. After having discussed it with people of many nationalities, that seems to me the best thing to be done.

NOTE—The third line in the concluding paragraph of this article in last week's issue contains a printer's error. The line should read:

firstly, the fall of Venizelos; secondly, the victorious career

SWISS CLUB (Schweizerbund).

The Annual Dinner and Ball of the "Schweizerbund" took place on Saturday, 8th April, 1922, the Swiss Minister, Mr. C. R. Paravicini, being in the Chair. The large hall was crowded, but the excellent dinner was served without a hitch and with a promptitude which testified to the thorough arrangements made by the Steward of the Club.

The Loyal Toast having been proposed by the Chairman, Mr. F. Riederer, the president, rose to take our thoughts back to Switzerland, which, he regretted to say, was still suffering from an economic crisis. No one doubted, however, that from these trials she would emerge stronger and healthier, and he looked forward to the future with unqualified optimism. His words were heartily applauded by the company, and the toast "Prosperity to Switzerland" was drunk with unrestrained enthusiasm. Mr. Paravicini, in his reply, dwelt on the anomalous position created by the visa question. He expressed his pleasure in again occupying the Chair this evening, after having done so for the first time more than 20 years ago; this enabled him to claim some very old friends amongst the members—he singled out Mr. Wetter—and he had been delighted, in a recent report on the activities of the London Colony, to refer somewhat extensively to the "Schweizerbund." The many humorous references in his speech were much appreciated by the audience and imparted a tone of freedom, whilst affording subsequent speakers a welcome license.

"The Guests" was proposed by Mr. F. Delaloye, who expressed his gratitude to the Minister for having been able to accept the invitation of the Club. He then greeted the representatives of the following sister Societies: Secours Mutuels (Mr. Colomb), City Swiss Club (Mr. de Cintra), Unione Ticinese (Mr. Notari), Union Helvetia (Messrs. Emmenegger, Isler and Wyss), Swiss Mercantile Society (Messrs. Werner and Strubin), Swiss Choral Society (Mr. Manzoni) and "The Swiss Observer" (Mr. Boehringer). The toast was replied to, in French, by Mr. de Cintra, who commented upon the characteristically Swiss atmosphere of the gathering, which required very little application of the "methode Coué" to imagine one's self in Switzerland; in Italian by Mr. Notari, who especially thanked the Committee for the hospitality his Society

had always received from the Schweizerbund; and in Romansch by Mr. Manzoni, who spoke with much emphasis and effect, and to whom the reporter respectfully presents his apologies for having neglected the study of this beautiful language.

The last official toast, "The Ladies," having been duly honoured on the invitation of Mr. W. Schoeneberger, treasurer of the Club, the President called upon Mr. F. Isler for a few words. There are few people who willingly respond to such an unexpected call, but Mr. Isler is an adept in after-dinner oratory, which appears to cause him no more trouble than for a hen to lay an egg. He set himself to work without much ado by examining through his spectacles some innocent remarks made by previous speakers and by giving his own interpretation—thus keeping the company in a continuous fit of laughter.

During the dinner a number of songs were interposed. The Jodels of Mrs. Aebersold, accompanied on the zither, earned well-deserved applause, and a selection of songs, rendered by the Swiss Choral Society, showed the latter at their best; what appealed to us most was the song "Killarney," with the beautiful tenor solo, admirably sung by Mr. Fischer. The Swiss Choral Society are beginning to fill a gap at our social functions, and no Swiss gathering is complete without their assistance.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

The Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini entertained at luncheon, on Thursday, April 6th, Mr. Arthur Balfour, Vice-President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, Mrs. Arthur Balfour, Mr. Robin Balfour, Mr. G. P. Gooch, M.A., D.L., Co-Editor of the "Contemporary Review" and President of the Social and Political Education League (who has given a lecture at the Swiss Institute), Mlle. Irène de Pourtalès, Mlle. Wavre, of Neuchâtel, M. Walter de Herrenschand, of Berne, Mr. Arthur Palliser and M. Henri Martin, of the Legation.

The Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini entertained at dinner, on Monday, 10th April, Commander Eyres-Monsell, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, and Mrs. Eyres-Monsell, Lady Cory, Lady Carew, Mr. Gerothwohl, Foreign Editor of "The Daily Telegraph," the Norwegian Minister and Mme. Benjamin Vogt, the Finnish Minister and Mme. Donner, M. Arnstedt, Counsellor of the Danish Legation, and Mme. Arnstedt, Colonel Maton, Military Attaché to the Belgian Embassy, and Mme. Maton, M. W. de Herrenschand, M. François Borsinger and M. Henri Martin, of the Swiss Legation.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

With reference to the Sunday Concert on April 2nd we have received from a correspondent the following lines which complement the report already published in our last issue:—

Das am 2. April in der Steinway Hall stattgefundene Konzert der Swiss Choral Society wurde von der ca. 400-köpfigen Zuhörerschar enthusiastisch aufgenommen.

Der Chor mit seinem guten Stimmenmaterial, unter der bewährten Leitung des Herrn Pestou, trug die fünf Lieder vollklingend und lobenswert vor, wovon der "Truber Buab" und das "Bild der Heimat," sowie "Killarney," mit den Soli der Herren W. Fischer und Steiner, spezielle Erwähnung verdienen. Die Sologesänge der beiden Herren Mitglieder Kronauer und Gerber wurden mit begeistertem "encore" gekrönt. "Italien. Salat." als Doppelquartett vorgetragen, begleitet von vier Mitgliedern der S.C.S., gab Anlass zu weiterem starken Applaus.

Die Artisteneinlagen der Mesdames Theurer, Aebersold, Heintz, Adère, Rossier, Nicolls und des Herrn Pestou, sowie die russischen und spanischen Tänze bereicherten das Programm und entzieten den verdienten Erfolg. Miss Adère wurde vom Präsidenten der S.C.S., als Anerkennung für geleistete Dienste, ein prächtiger Blumenstrauss überreicht.

Der Präsident, Herr Manzoni, dankte in kurzen Worten allen, die zum guten Gelingen des Konzertes beigetragen hatten, und richtete einen warmen Appell an die anwesenden Landsleute, der S.C.S. beizutreten. Um den guten Willen klarzutun gedenkt der Verein mit einem Charity Concert, dessen Erlös dem Fonds Secours zufallen soll, Anfang November dieses Jahres an die Oeffentlichkeit zu treten. Mr. Haesler warb in kurzer Ansprache für einen Fahnenfond, und die nachfolgende Kollekte ergab den erfreulichen Betrag von £8 9s. 9d.

Der schöne Erfolg dieses Konzertes sei ein Ansporn zu noch besserem Gelingen. A. G.