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General Meeting of the Swiss Rifle Association

held at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1,
on Saturday, November 24th, at 3.30 p.m.

About 40 Swiss were present at the opening of this inaugural meeting, when as a first item the provisional rules, submitted by the *Comité d'étude*, were, with some slight modifications, accepted. At the proposal of Mr. Chapuis, seconded by Mr. Wyss, the yearly subscription for ordinary members was fixed at 2 guineas, and for contributing members 1½ guineas. The Chair was then taken by the Swiss Minister, and, in complimenting the promoters of this movement, declared that the Swiss Rifle Association was now constituted. He added that this was one of his official functions which would always remain vivid in his memory.

Mr. Boehringer then read out the names and addresses of the 42 compatriots who had signed application forms for membership, and the Chairman declared them duly elected founders of the Association, it having been previously agreed that such founders should be of Swiss nationality. The following is the list of these founders:—

C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister, F. Eggenberger, Alfred Schmid, Arnold Schmid, Chas. Studer, Chas. Strubin; J. Billeter, P. F. Boehringer, Ulrich Bretscher, C. Brullhard, César Campart, André Corbat, G. E. DeBrunner, Emile Buchi, G. Burger, Charles Chapuis, Jean Gabi, P. Gysin, E. Hefti, Albert Indermaur, Robert Jaquenoud, M. Jutzi, Eugène Lutz, Ernest Oggier, Alfred H. Moser, H. Moser, Jacques Müller, H. Nachbur, G. Nanzer, Marius Paschoud, A. Perrin, H. R. Rein, E. Robert, F. H. Rohr, Ad. Schmid, Alfred Schweizer, J. Sermier, Gerald Stern, Gustave Wehrli, Aug. Wyss; Fred. Isler, Leop. Schaar.

The election of the Committee being the next item, the Chairman proposed Mr. G. E. DeBrunner, being seconded by Mr. Charles Studer. Mr. G. E. DeBrunner was unanimously elected President, and he returned thanks for the honour thus bestowed upon him, stating that in his opinion the Association, if run on truly democratic lines, would draw together a large number of Swiss elements, and he would like to see a return to that intimacy and "Gemütlichkeit" which of late seemed to be absent from some of the other societies in the London colony. Mr. G. Burger then rose to say that, before we proceeded any further with the elections, he thought it our duty to recognise the great interest displayed by the Minister in the formation of the Association, and he moved—with his consent, he hoped—that the Swiss Minister be hereby elected Honorary President. This proposal was received with enthusiasm and voted upon by acclamation. Monsieur Paravicini then addressed the meeting, stating that he was quite confident that, under the able leadership of the President they had just elected, the Association would prove a great success and enhance the already excellent reputation which the London colony enjoyed in Switzerland, and he would at all times support the object of the Association. Before leaving, he offered the first Cup, to be competed for on conditions which he begged the Committee to formulate.

The Chair being now occupied by the President, the remainder of the Committee was elected unanimously as follows, the different gentlemen having been duly proposed and seconded:—Vice-Presidents, Messrs. F. J. Borsinger and G. Burger; Hon. Treasurer F. Rohr; Hon. Secretary, P. F. Boehringer; Joint Range Officers, Messrs. C. Brullhard and A. L. Chevallier; Members, Messrs. M. Paschoud and A. Wyss.

A lengthy correspondence was read out by the President from and to Messrs. Wesley, Richards & Co. and Mr. A. L. Chevallier, with reference to the installation of a Rifle Range at Hendon, and the Regent Street Polytechnic as regards Miniature Rifle Shooting. A somewhat protracted discussion took place, Messrs. Robert, Campart and A. Schmid having the opinion that the Association should concentrate on open-air practice and not split up the activities in two directions. Mr. Chas. Chapuis spoke very strongly in favour of miniature shooting, and he thought, at present and under unfavourable weather conditions, they should have some opportunity of practising. He also was of opinion that miniature shooting was a most necessary preparation for open-air shooting for those who, like himself, had no experience. Mr. Charles Studer endorsed Mr. Chapuis' statements, and the point being put to the vote, it was resolved that the Committee should continue their steps in providing facilities for Miniature Rifle Shooting for those members who care to take advantage of it.

In answer to a question, put to the President, the latter stated that the cost of the installation at Hendon would commit the Association to a capital expense of £120—£150, and he asked the members to give the Committee the necessary credit.

By proposal of Mr. Charles Chapuis, seconded by Mr. Charles Studer, it was unanimously resolved that the Committee had full power to disburse the funds necessary in connection with a Rifle Range at Hendon.

The following three gentlemen, being of English nationality, were proposed by Mr. A. Wyss for membership and seconded by Mr. G. Burger:—Major L. Crooks, Mr. A. E. Duff, Mr. A. Uden. They were duly elected, bringing the total membership to 44.

Mr. Charles Chapuis proposed that any official communications to its members, with reference to this Association, should be made through the medium of *The Swiss Observer*, and thus the expense and clerical work of the Hon. Secretary could be reduced; Mr. F. Rohr seconded this proposal, which was carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 15th, at 3 p.m. sharp, at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society took place on the 14th November, at the Union Helvetia Club (1st floor), 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1, and enjoyed an exceptionally large attendance.

The President, Mr. DeBrunner, in opening the meeting, extended a special welcome to the representatives of the "fair sex" who were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed unanimously. Fourteen new members were admitted, whilst two resignations were accepted.

Particulars were given by Mr. DeBrunner concerning a lecture, to be held in conjunction with the *Nouvelle Société Helvétique* on "Sunlight and Disease," which will probably take place on Jan. 18th or 25th, 1924, and for which the services of Dr. Saleeby, an eminent scientist, have been secured. Members will be advised at a later date of this lecture, and it is hoped that a great number will take advantage of this exceptional opportunity. Mr. Cornu, President of the Entertainment Committee, stated that the last Cinderella Dance showed a deficit, and he urged all members present to bring their friends to the next Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel (St. Pancras) on the 1st of December.

The large number of members who attended the Monthly Meeting is undoubtedly due to the efforts of Mr. Cornu, who had arranged for a little music after the meeting, and those members who are fond of a "Zuger," "Schieber" or a game of chess, etc., will always meet some others willing to "lend a hand."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

KIRCHLICHES.

In der Nummer des *Swiss Observer* vom 24. November werden die Deutschschweizer eingeladen, ihre Meinung über das Abhalten eines deutschschweizerischen Gottesdienste, an ein oder zwei Sonntag Vormittagen in jedem Monat abzugeben. Dies zeugt von einem endlichen Erkennen, dass auch wir Deutschschweizer unsere kirchlichen Bedürfnisse haben dürften, und gewiss würden viele unter uns ein solches Entgegenkommen sehr willkommen heissen, wenn es auch um Jahrzehnte verspätet kommt. Wenn diese Neuerung erfolgreich sein und wir uns als eine einzige Schweizergemeinde fühlen sollen, so sollten uns aber auch die gleichen Rechte eingeräumt werden wie den Westschweizern. Nun sind wir Deutschschweizer, unsern bewährten freiheitlichen Sitten gemäss, daran gewöhnt, dass die *Gemeinde* ihren Pfarrer wählt, nachdem ihr Gelegenheit geboten worden ist, ihn predigen zu hören. Auch sind wir gewöhnt, dass alle kirchlichen Neuerungen der Gemeinde zur Annahme oder Verwerfung vorgelegt werden. Wir halten fest zu der schweizerischen Landeskirche und dem alten Glauben, für den unsere Vorväter gekämpft haben, und zu dem ernst-ehrwürdigen Gottesdienst, der allein dem Schweizer Charakter angemessen ist.

Wir kennen keine "services d'adoration" und keine liturgischen Gottesdienste. Solche stimmen nicht mit den Grundsätzen Zwingli's, sondern klingen römisch oder überheimisch.

Wenn also die deutschschweizerische kirchliche Gemeinschaft Berücksichtigung finden soll, dürfen wir dann erwarten, dass wir uns in einer wirklichen Schweizerkirche finden, mit einem schlichten Gottesdienste, ohne fremde Formen, einzig und allein im Geiste unseres Reformators Zwingli?

Dann wäre es uns eine aufrichtige Freude und unser Dank und unsere Unterstützung würden nicht fehlen.

DEUTSCH-SCHWEIZER.

25. November 1923.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Dec. 1st, at 6.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at Midland Hotel (see adv.).

Friday, Dec. 7th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by T. H. Holding, Esq., J.P., on "Wild Life in the Prairies."

Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 6.45 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant.

Tuesday, Dec. 11th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Informal Gathering, "A Talk on the Library of the N.S.H."

Friday, Dec. 14th, at 8.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Lecture by Mr. O. Braga on "The People of the Tessin: its Ideals and Aspirations."

Saturday, Dec. 15th, at 3 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Members' Meeting at No. 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: Council Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.

Saturday, Jan. 5th, at 6.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at Midland Hotel.

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