

La Nouvelle société helvétique

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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

This Society held their Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, the 19th instant, at the Union Helvetia — twenty-five members only being present. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted, whilst eight applications from new members and five resignations were accepted. Mr. Cornu, president of the Entertainment Committee, complained bitterly regarding the very small attendance at the Smoking Concert, which took place at the Union Helvetia on the 14th inst., and expressed his gratitude to those who had volunteered to make the evening enjoyable, in spite of the meagre support from our members. He paid a special compliment to Mr. Chappuis and Mr. Kamber, whose efforts were also greatly appreciated by those who had attended the Concert. In concluding, Mr. Cornu, who took the Chair in the absence of the President, mentioned that our Annual Banquet and Ball would be held at the Midland Hotel (St. Pancras) on April 5th next at 7 p.m., and that tickets, which are obtainable at 24, Queen Victoria Street until Thursday, the 3rd of next month, would be limited, owing to restricted seating accommodation.

LA NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, March 19th, at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

1. The Treasurer reported two resignations, one admission and one re-admission. The total membership is now 346.

2. During the election of the new committee Mr. Goetz presided. The following gentlemen were unanimously elected as members of the Committee for 1924:—Mr. J. Baer, President; Mr. C. Campart, Hon. Secretary; Mr. A. F. Suter, Treasurer; and as new members, in the place of Mr. F. Beyli and Dr. W. Weibel, Messrs. Theo. Weber and M. Bachofer.

3. Mr. Baer thanked the meeting very much for this new proof of the confidence, and Mr. Ritter expressed the gratitude of the Council to the outgoing Committee. Those who have ever served on this body, he said, know what this work means. The Council ought to be especially grateful to Mr. Baer, who is not only the official chairman, but one of the main inspirations of the Society.

4. Instead of the Rev. Hoffmann, who is, unfortunately, still not quite well, Dr. Krafft has consented to give a lecture on "L'Emigration des industries suisses," and the meeting hoped that this subject would rouse considerable interest, especially in the commercial circles of the colony.

5. It was agreed that the London Group should give its moral support to the Swiss Choral Society in its endeavours to bring a Swiss jodel quartette to London.

6. A general discussion arose regarding a letter from Mr. E. Bloch concerning propaganda for our movement, the development of the social side of our activities and the choice of subjects for lectures, participation in the Swiss Sports and an endeavour to repeat annually the organisation of a concert in aid of the funds of the Swiss Benevolent Society. Mr. Baer suggested that an appeal should be addressed to the members of the Group to do more in the way of propaganda, and the Entertainment and Propaganda Committee was asked to study this question and make suggestions to the next Council Meeting.

7. After a report, read by Mr. E. Bloch in the name of the Swiss Sports Committee, the Council entirely agreed with the suggestion to found a Benevolent Fund in memory of the late Mr. Georges Dimier.

8. It was decided to send every member a copy of *The Swiss Observer*, containing our last presidential annual report and an extract of Dr. Lang's farewell address, and the Propaganda and Entertainment Committee were asked to draw up a special appeal to be attached to these copies.

9. Mr. Goetz raised the question of the Zones and asked the Council to vote a Resolution taking regard to the new factors in this question. Opinion was, however, against taking a new resolution after the one taken a few years ago, and it was finally decided that Mr. Goetz, as a member of the Swiss Committee to the League of Nations Union, should raise this question with the Chairman of the Committee and endeavour to get it taken up again in the hope of making the English League of Nations Union come to a decision.

10. At the request of Mr. Ritter, Mr. C. Campart gave some interesting statistics regarding the attendance of members of the Council.

Dr. A. KRAFFT, Secretary.

THE LATE Mr. HENRY DURLER.†

Few of the many Swiss, who have settled down in foreign lands, become sufficiently "assimilated" to play a leading part in the commercial and social life of the country of their adoption. The late Mr. Henry Durler, whose sudden death we reported in our last issue, was an outstanding example, which will command the pride and admiration of every one of us. A self-made man in the strictest sense of the word, he devoted his talents and services for the benefit and advancement of the community

in which he had made his home.—A kindly fate soon reunited him to his wife, who passed away barely a month ago, when both of them were looking forward to celebrate, later in the year, their golden wedding. Mr. Durler was little known to the younger generation of the London Colony; in former years he used to attend the annual banquets of the City Swiss Club, where his fiery allocutions in "Schwyzerdütsch" had become a regular feature. One of his daughters (now Mrs. Tapley) married in 1907 the late Mr. J. Gautschi, who was at one time president of the City Swiss Club and who died in 1917. The following personal notes we reproduce by courtesy of the *Luton News and Bedfordshire Advertiser*:—

"Like his late wife, Mr. Durler was a native of St. Gall, Switzerland, but settled in Luton early in life, and about 1900 became British by naturalisation. He had already gained some experience in a hat factory at Neuchâtel, and built up a valuable export trade in hats with the Continent. When, owing to various causes, this began to decline, he decided to specialise in the plait export trade, and at a still later period in the bleaching business, and so cultivate a trade in bleached plaits with the countries which were electing to do their own manufacture. To this end he established what were at that period model bleaching works, which were moved successively to larger and still larger premises, and eventually reached their present home in one of the most commanding warehouses in the whole town. Known to-day as Henry Durler & Son, Ltd., this business gained a world-wide ramifications and reputation.

"Outside his business, his principal interest for many years was in the work of the Luton Chamber of Commerce, of which he was three times President, in 1904, 1905 and 1906, and in which he never lost interest, although in later years he has left active work in this direction largely to his son, Mr. Robert Durler. Some of the older members of the Chamber will recollect a very happy garden party at Whitehill in one of those years, when they were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Durler in this way as a change from the annual outing which in years gone by was a feature of the Chamber of Commerce year.

"Mr. Durler was not slow in singing the praises of the town of his adoption as opportunity served. With Mr. George Ordish he represented Luton at the 1903 Congress of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in Canada, and in connection with which the two delegates had a wonderful trip from one end of the Dominion to the other. About this he had much to say when he returned, and his address to the Chamber, deliberately charged with argumentative matter on the fiscal question, and emphasised with a wealth of gesture, is still well remembered. In 1905 Mr. Durler was a delegate to the autumnal meeting of the British Chambers of Commerce at Liège, and on his return said that the delegates lost no opportunity of making Luton and its industries known wherever they went.

"A little-known incident in his life was a strenuous, but unfortunately unsuccessful attempt to save a man from drowning at Lowestoft in 1892. The man had disappeared in a muddy pool, and Mr. Durler, who continued diving for a quarter of an hour, was subsequently publicly thanked for his efforts to find the victim.

"Mr. Durler, who was in his 73rd year, leaves one son, Mr. Robert Durler, and three daughters, Mrs. J. W. Boue, of Luton; Mrs. Tapley, of London; and Mrs. Demmer, of Switzerland."

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SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

CONCERT

ON

Tuesday, April 1st, at 8 p.m.

AT

MORLEY HALL,

26, GEORGE STREET, HANOVER SQ., W. 1.

Tickets 2s. incl. Tax.

"Schweizerbund" Swiss Club,

74, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
(Nearest Station: GOODGE STREET, Tube.)

Annual Dinner and Ball

ON

Thursday, April 3rd, at 8 o'clock.

Tickets 7/-. Evening Dress Optional.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle aura lieu le MARDI 8 AVRIL au Restaurant GATTI et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 6.45 h (sh. 5/- par couvert).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Telephone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Rapport des Vérificateurs des Comptes. Admissions. Election du Comité. Démissions. Divers.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 30 Mars. 11h.—Rev. Lelièvre.
6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, April 1st, at 8 p.m.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Concert at Morley Hall, Hanover Sq., W.1.
Thursday, April 3rd, at 8 p.m.—SCHWEIZERBUND: Annual Dinner and Ball at 74, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
Friday, April 4th, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture on "Lafcadio Hearn," by J. Tinkler, Esq.
Saturday, April 5th, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Hotel.
Tuesday, April 8th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual General Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.
Tuesday, April 8th, at 7.30.—UNIONE TICINESE: Benedizione vessillo e serata in onore Comitato Donne Ticinesi. Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.
Thursday, April 10th, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Dinner at Pagan's, 42-48, Great Portland Street, W.
Wednesday, Apr. 16, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Council Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

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