

Swiss Rifle Association

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Dawes report and working out a practical scheme for dealing with German reparations. When I say, "working out a practical scheme," I mean settling the problems which are still unsolved by the Dawes report, which covered a large amount of ground, but not the whole. I look forward, therefore, to France during the coming year taking part in helping the restoration of Europe—and, above all, of Central Europe—to peace and prosperity, instead of being, as most of us Englishmen think she was last year, an obstacle to such peaceful restoration.

The only other country that I have time to speak about is Germany, and in Germany, as you know, they have also had an election. In Germany the swing has been to the right, just as in France the swing was to the left. The swing to the right in Germany was expected. Germany has been governed since the end of the war by a coalition of what we might call the middle parties, excluding the Junkers and the Agrarian Conservatives on the right, and excluding the Communists on the left. She has had several governments, several chancellors, since the end of the war. They have been, I believe without exception, honourable men, desiring, as far as possible, to pay a fair reparations total, but none of them have been men of very great ability, except Erzberger and Rathenau, both of whom were murdered, and the pressure that has been put upon them by the Allies, and recently in particular by France in the Ruhr invasion, has deprived them of any little prestige which they might otherwise have obtained. They have had nothing to show to their countrymen in the way of achievement. They have been unable to reach a settlement of the reparations problem for various reasons, and they have had nothing to show except a long and apparently never-ending series of national humiliations. The natural result of that has been that impatient people have got tired of the parties of the centre and have transferred themselves in increasing numbers to the extreme right and the extreme left. The political situation in Germany at the present time is most obscure. The Nationalists are now the largest party, beating the Socialists, the second-largest party, by a few votes. They are claiming the right to nominate the next chancellor and to form the deciding element in the next coalition cabinet. Is the next cabinet going to accept the Dawes report? Some of the Nationalists are in favour of doing so, with conditions; and others of them are in favour of rejecting it altogether. But they will require some other parties in order to make and keep a majority, and there is no doubt at all of the fact that there is a majority even in that new Reichstag for the acceptance of the Dawes report. I therefore look forward (not, indeed, with complete confidence, but at any rate with hope) to the solution—or, at any rate, the beginning of a solution—of this difficult problem of reparations during the course of the present year; with Italy, France, England favouring it, and the majority of the German Reichstag favouring it, and with the whole nation of the United States favouring it unofficially, I shall be extremely disappointed if the present year ends without stopping this running sore which has been weakening the economic life of Europe, and preventing economic recovery and political pacification for the last five years.

Summarising my survey, I seem to see a slight rise of the barometer. There are still dark clouds in various parts of the European heavens, but on the whole I feel inclined to be more hopeful to-night than I was a year ago. On the other hand, nobody can look far ahead, because we are living in a new world where there are not only the visible forces to reckon with, but subterranean fires smouldering, burning, and perhaps ready to break out where we may least expect them. But I repeat that as far as I can see, surveying Europe as a whole, in May, 1924, I feel inclined to report that the health of the patient is a little better.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Une belle surprise nous attendait Samedi dernier au stand—le fusil d'ordonnance—ce joyau suisse; et quelle joie qu'il a produit, quel empressement pour démontrer sa précision, après les pauvres résultats obtenus avec les fusils à notre disposition jusqu'à présent.

Les premières détonnations, un coup de téléphone, précipitations vers la cible—trois—bravo! —l'enthousiasme est complet, le rêve est réalisé, nous tirons avec notre fusil, et voilà trois résultats:

Mons. Ar. Schmid ... 15 points (maximum)
 „ C. Brülhard ... 13 „
 „ Aug. Wyss ... 12 „

Après quelques ajustements du paraballe pour empêcher la pénétration de nos balles suisses, le tir sera resumé.

Rappelons ici à nos membres que ceux qui déclarent au Comité ou à la commission du stand leur intention d'aller au Tir Fédéral à Aarau auront la préférence de s'exercer avec les fusils suisses, vue la quantité limitée de cartouches qui sont à notre disposition, pour le moment.

A la cible automatique (100 mètres) le bijou admiré de tous ceux qui visitent le stand, les meilleurs résultats de Samedi et Dimanche réunis sont:

Master Teddy Barbezat ... 94 87 87
 Mons. H. P. Holliger ... 93 93 91
 „ L. Krucker ... 91 90 86
 „ J. Müller ... 90 87 84
 „ Ar. Schmid ... 89 87 83
 „ H. Ernest ... 88 88 82

Les gagnants du concours pour les deux coupes mentionnées dans le dernier numéro du "Swiss Observer" sont:

Master Teddy Barbezat avec 268 points,
 Mons. H. P. Holliger avec 264 points.
 La distribution sera faite aux Sports Suisses le Samedi 31 Mai.

Félicitations à Master Barbezat pour son beau commencement; bientôt nous espérons voir un groupe de jeunes, car il y en a plusieurs autres fils et filles de membres qui s'intéressent au tir. Nous nous ferons un devoir de stimuler leur ardeur toujours et partout, même au risque de nous voir dépassés. En avant la jeunesse! R.

FRIENDLY SKITTLE MATCH.

(Communicated.)

A friendly Skittle Match, which was arranged some time ago, was played on Saturday evening, the 17th inst., at the Union Helvetia Club, between two members of the well-known "A 1" and four amateurs. The toss for sides resulted in Messrs. Burger, Wyss and Budry being drawn against Messrs. Schmid, Affolter and Holliger; each player to have 30 shots, three times ten. Small side bets were fixed, and the player scoring the most points to receive a silver cup.

After two hours' enjoyable skittling the result was made known, and it showed that Messrs. Schmid, Affolter and Holliger were the winners by the very narrow margin of 11 points. The cup went to Mr. Holliger, who "led from the start, and, never being caught, won with something to spare." The cup then having had its customary christening and the delegate from the "Scottish Alpine Skittlers" having meanwhile arrived, the party adjourned to the "Grand Hall," where a banquet awaited them. However, after having partaken of the *hors d'œuvre*, which consisted of especially prepared "Buschweiler Cervelats," the party proposed to the Club Manager to have the rest of their meal in liquid form, to which proposal there was no objection. Various speeches were made and were all well received and applauded, especially the one made by our "Highland" friend, Mac, who gave those present plenty of opportunity to rise from their seats and to toast each other.

It was agreed to have a return match at an early date, at which our worthy "delegate" promised to be present again. The gathering then adjourned at the early hour of—a.m.

THE OLYMPIA HORSE SHOW.

SWISS OFFICERS COMPETING.

The following will complete the preliminary notice which appeared in our last issue.

Under the patronage of H.M. the King, the thirteenth International Horse Show will be held at Olympia, London, from Friday, June 20th to Saturday, June 28th. There are well over 2,000 entries.

Jumping competitions will be decided at each afternoon and evening session over the international course. The gala performance is fixed for Monday afternoon, June 23rd, and on this occasion will be decided the jumping for the King George V. Gold Trophy, at present held by France. The competitors in this classic event must be officers, and in addition to Great Britain, the armies of France, Italy, Switzerland, Norway and Poland will compete.

The Prince of Wales' Cup for teams of three officers of all armies will be decided on Thursday afternoon, June 26th. Introduced last year with great success, the Scurry Stakes will be repeated; the Hon. Rodman Wanamaker, C.V.O., presenting a 600-guinea gold challenge cup for the jumper who covers the course in the shortest time with the least number of faults. There will be two coaching marathons from Richmond Park to the Olympia arena, one for road coaches on Saturday afternoon, June 21st, and one for drags on the Tuesday.

The Swiss team, captained by Col. C. R. Ziegler, directeur de la Régie fédérale des chevaux à Thoune, will arrive in London on June 19th with seven or eight officers and about sixteen horses and eight grooms. The horses will cross the Channel on Wednesday, June 18th, and will have a day's rest in the pavilion stables of Messrs. Peden & Son. The officers will stay together in a West End hotel as the guests of the Directors of the International Horse Show.

The Box Office for the International Horse Show is now open at 12, Hanover Square, W.1.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 3 JUIN 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. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démissions. Divers.

N'OUBLIEZ PAS

55me Fête Suisse

Jeudi 19 Juin 1924, à 7 h.

CAXTON HALL (Westminster)

(Thé à partir de 5 h.)

Venez avec tous vos amis.

"Schweizerbund" Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

SWISS SPORTS

MAY 31st, 1924:

Special Sports Evening

DANCE (Famous Jazz Band). DINNER from 8 p.m.

Private Buses will start from the Club at 1.30 p.m.

Return Fare 2/-. Please book seats early. THE COMMITTEE.

UNION HELVETIA CLUB,

1, Gerrard Place, W. 1.

SWISS SPORTS, 1924

SUPPER from 7 p.m.

DANCE (with Special Band) till 12.30.

A Motor Coach will leave the Club for the Sports Ground at 1.30 sharp. Book seats early with A. WYSS, Steward.

ÆOLIAN HALL, London, W.1

FRIDAY NEXT, JUNE 13, at 3.

JULIETTE WIHL

(BELGIAN PIANIST)

Recital.

STEINWAY PIANO.

TICKETS: 12/-, 5/9, 3/-, 1/6 & 1/2. IBBES & TILLET, 124, Wigmore St. W.1

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

Dimanche, 1er Juin, 11h.—Confirmation.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30.—Deutscher Gottesdienst.

Dimanche, 8 Juin.—Pentecôte. (Service de Ste. Cène.)

BAPTEME.

Sylvia Evelyn ZISS, née le 23 Déc. 1921, fille de Joseph Victor et de Louise née Blanc, d'Anet (Berne)—le 25 Mai 1924.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, May 31st, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Tuesday, June 3rd, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C. (See adv.)

Thursday, June 19th, at 7 p.m.—55th FETE SUISSE at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Tea at 5 o'clock. (See adv.)

Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting).—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice at Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp).

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