

# 75th anniversary of the Foundation of Volkart Brothers' London House

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members who are willing to support us, not only financially, but also morally, and thus enable us to offer to our young people the same advantages to which we owe gratitude to the S.M.S.

The President's speech evoked great applause, and was followed by an address by the Swiss Minister, who said:—

He had come to this banquet to enjoy himself and not to make long speeches. His neighbour to the left (President of S.M.S.) had suggested that the frequentation of banquets in the Swiss Colony might be a somewhat onerous obligation for the Minister. He (the Minister) would emphatically rectify such a conception. On the contrary, the opportunity of meeting his countrymen at such occasions as this one not only constituted an important part, and certainly a very pleasant part, of his official activity, but was also one to which the Federal Council, and especially the Political Department, attached considerable importance. The social meetings of Swiss Societies were indeed the best opportunities for the Minister and his Staff to enter into direct and personal contact not only with the leaders of each such association, but also with their members individually.

He was delighted to have been able to come to this dinner accompanied by Madame Paravicini, and he had from her the most urgent instructions to express her particular appreciation of the cordial and touching reception accorded to her by the President and the Members of the S.M.S. It had been a bitter disappointment to her not having been able, owing to a bronchitis, to go to this year's City Swiss Club dinner, and no better chance could possibly have been given to her to make up for that lost opportunity than the S.M.S.'s annual dinner with all its cheerfulness and good humour.

He wished to express his gratitude, on account of both Madame Paravicini and himself, for the kind remarks made by the President in the course of his excellent speech, and although he knew beforehand that he could at any time rely on the loyalty and energy of the members of this Society, he was happy to have thus received a new and valuable proof of their truly patriotic spirit.

To Mr. J. Semadeni fell the important task of proposing the toast to "The Ladies," because due regard has to be paid to the fact that a S.M.S. ball would be an impossibility without the presence of the fair sex, and therefore it is essential to ensure them a proper address of welcome. The toast to "Our Guests," delivered by Mr. B. Bretscher, was replied to by Mr. A. C. Baume on behalf of the guests, who included, apart from Monsieur and Madame Paravicini, the following:—Dr. Cl. Rezzonico (representing the Commercial Division of the Swiss Legation), Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Mr. G. Marchand (Vice-President of the City Swiss Club), Mr. A. Suter (Treasurer of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique) and Mrs. Suter, Mr. A. C. Baume (Vice-President of the Fonds de Secours Suisse) and Mrs. Baume, Mr. G. Colomb (Vice-President of the Société de Secours Mutuels) and Miss Colomb, Mr. O. Gambazzi (Secretary of the Unione Ticinese) and Miss Gambazzi, Mr. J. P. Gallo (representing the Union Helvetia), Mr. W. Beckman (President of the Swiss Institute) and Mrs. Beckman, Mr. J. Tresch (President of the Swiss Club) and Miss K. Readman, Messrs. Bohmer and Ritzman (representing the Swiss Choral Society), Mr. H. P. Holliger (Secretary of the Swiss Rifle Association) and Mrs. Holliger, Mr. Block (Swiss Gymnastic Society), Mr. P. F. Boehringer (*The Swiss Observer*) and Mrs. Boehringer, Mr. Halperin (*Neue Zürcher Ztg.*).

Mr. J. Pfändler's appeal on behalf of the Fonds de Secours resulted in the handsome amount of £27 7s.

The "business" part of the evening then came to an end, and the dancers took possession of the ballroom until 1 o'clock.

#### NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. GROUPE LONDONNIEN.

The January Council Meeting of the London Group of the N.S.H. was held on the 20th ult.

The Treasurer had to notify several resignations, but otherwise his report was a very satisfactory one.

Several communications were brought to the notice of the meeting by the President. Amongst them was a letter from the Swiss Committee for the Celebration of the National Festival, thanking the Groups Abroad for what they had done in answer to their appeal of last February for the deaf-and-dumb. We also received a postcard of good wishes from the "Soldatenheim Schwyzerhüsi," Lucerne, and sent a card of thanks in return.

In reply to a letter from the Swiss Sports Committee, asking us to appoint three delegates to their Committee for this year, the following gentlemen very kindly agreed to serve in this capacity: Mr. F. Golay, Mr. A. F. Suter, and Mr. G. H. Weber.

Letters were also read from the "Services des Oeuvres Sociales" and the "Unione Ticinese," as well as circulars Nos. 60 and 61 from the Secré-

tariat des Suisses à l'étranger. The latter informed us of their intention to make a collection of lantern slides, with a suitable text to go with them, for circulation amongst the Groups, and they also announced the intention of the Auslandschweizer-Kommission to grant a credit of 1,000 francs towards helping to found libraries, where required, amongst the Groups Abroad. As we already have a large library of our own, and as the Swiss Federal Railways have a large collection of lantern slides which they are always ready to lend out for the purpose of lectures on Switzerland, there is no need for the London Group to benefit in this instance by the offer of the S.S.E., which will undoubtedly be a great boon to many other Groups not so fortunately situated as we.

A letter was read by one of the Councillors from the Rev. Schmid, of Zurich, who is anxious to come over to London to lecture, should any of the Societies here be able to arrange for him to do so. It was agreed that we would be glad to have a lecture from him some time this spring, if one of the other London Swiss Societies would combine with us.

#### 75th Anniversary of the Foundation of Volkart Brothers' London House.

The night of February 1st saw a merry company at Pagan's, namely, the office staff, from managers down to the youngest office-boy, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the firm of Volkart Brothers. The company, numbering 31, spent a most enjoyable evening. The dinner provided by Pagan's was excellent, the speech- and toast-making was everlasting, and a jazz band contributed to the further enjoyment of the evening.

#### 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.*

Sehr geehrter Herr Redaktor,

Es ist eine wertvolle Sache um die enge Verbindung der Auslandschweizer mit dem Vaterlande, und dankbar empfinden wir die Arbeit Ihrer Zeitung um den nationalen Zusammenhang.

Dem Leser im Heimatlande aber tut es weh, wenn einzelne Ihrer Korrespondenten in witzelnden Worten über Dinge von so hohem Ernste schreiben wie über die Haltung unseres Bundesrates zu den Russischen Sowjets. Es ist das eine Frage, in welcher unsere nationale Würde auf das Gefährlichste engagiert ist; — der Entscheid wird für unser nationales Leben von grösster Bedeutung sein.

Und etwas Anderes schmerzt uns: das ist die Stellung zur Armee, welche in gewissen Berichten über die Schweiz in Ihrem Blatte eingenommen wird.

Wir wissen wohl, dass unserem Milizheer und unserer Soldatenerziehung noch viele Mängel anhaften. — Aber ich darf versichern, dass von allen leitenden Stellen das Möglichste getan wird, um derartigen Uebeln zu begegnen.

Es will uns aber doch scheinen, dass dem Schweizer im Auslande nicht vorwiegend Schattenseiten unserer Institutionen vor Augen geführt werden sollten.

Unser Milizheer hat immerhin damals, als im Weltkriege unsere im Centrum Europas gelegene kleine Schweiz schwer bedroht war, mächtig beigetragen, unser Land vor Kriegselend zu bewahren. Damit hat die Schweiz auch allen Nachbarn genützt, und weil sie eine Friedensinsel blieb, so konnte sie eine erfolgreiche caritative Tätigkeit entfalten. Und sie konnte auch den Beweis liefern, dass ihr innerer Zusammenhang gesund und fest und dass die ihrer Existenz zu Grunde liegenden Ideen richtige waren.

Die sog. Londonerklärung vom 13. Februar 1920 zum Völkerbundpakete verpflichtet die Schweiz, auch künftig aus eigener Kraft für wirksame Verteidigung ihres Territoriums zu sorgen. — Das wollen wir tun! Dazu brauchen wir die Unterstützung aller vaterlandstreuen Schweizer in- und ausserhalb unserer Grenzen.

Deswegen bittet ein alter Soldat Ihr so wertvolles Organ um gütiges Wohlwollen für unser bescheidenes, aber opferwilliges Milizheer.

Mit vaterländischem Grusse!

WILDBOLZ,

Oberst-Corpskommandant

Bern, 3. Februar 1926.

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Dimanche, 14 Fév., 11h.—M. le Pasteur A. Arias, de  
Naples. (Collecte en faveur de l'Eglise Vaudoise.)  
3.15—au presbytère.—Anciens catéchumènes.  
6.30.—Phil. 2, 19 ff. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme,  
7.30.—Répétition du Choeur mixte.  
Samedi, 20 Fév., 7.45—au Foyer.—Conférence avec  
projections lumineuses, du Colonel Luxmoore, sur  
"La frontière N.O. de l'Inde."—Thé ensuite.—  
Invitation cordiale à chacun.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux,  
etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme,  
102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798).  
Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

## SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 14. Februar, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.

6.30 Uhr nachm.—Gesangsgottesdienst.

Samstag, 13. Februar, im Foyer Suisse.—Vollständer-  
abend mit Erläuterungen. 5.30: Thek.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1, St. Anne's Church,  
9, Gresham Street, E.C.2;

Mittwoch, 12—2, 'Foyer Suisse,' 12, Upper Bed-  
ford Place, W.C.1 (am Wohnort des Pfarrers).

Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, Feb. 17th, at 8.15 sharp.—SWISS MER-  
CANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting,  
preceded by a "Souper," at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Friday, Feb. 19th, at 8 p.m.—NOUV. SOC. HEL-  
VETIQUE: Annual General Meeting at 28, Red  
Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, Feb. 20th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB:  
Cinderella Dance at Pagan's Restaurant, 42, Great  
Portland Street, W.1.

Thursday, Feb. 25th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Serata  
Famigliare (Banchetto e Ballo) allo "Schweizer-  
bund," 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, March 18th, at 8 p.m.—SCHWEIZER-  
BUND: Annual Dinner and Ball at 74, Charlotte  
Street, W.1.

Tuesday, March 23rd.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual  
Banquet and Ball at Monico's, Piccadilly Circus.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday  
evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend.

Particulars from the Hon. Secretary at 1, Gerrard  
Place, W.1.

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