

Unione Ticinese

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sua, sulla sponda dei "laghi italiani" e precisamente "in quel ramo del lago di Como..." così, sentii l'esimio oratore esprimere il desiderio d'esser nato nel nostro bel Cantone Ticino!

...nel nostro bel Cantone Ticino!... come "nessun profeta in patria" mi sembra ora d'aver vissuto due vite... quella folleggiante dell'età giovanile, quando, vivendo là nella mia terra natia, l'occhio non aveva ancora la virtù d'apprezzarne le meraviglie... e nella contemplazione delle bellezze, lo spirito non ne sentiva che la solita fragranza...

Colline, ricche di vigneti carichi d'uva nerissima, dai chicchi dolcissimi... superbe ombre di castani, conche verdegianti, valli austere, montagne maestose ed imponenti; cascate, abissi e gole, laghi placidi ed azzurri e fiumi spumeggianti...

Tutto, tutto era messa lì naturalmente... Dio l'aveva fatto così il nostro paese... e doveva essere fatto proprio così, per rendere bella la vita ai suoi figli, acciocché crescessero intelligenti ed operosi... ispirare i nostri artisti nelle belle lettere, pittura, scultura... creare capolavori d'Arte che solo la bellezza della natura e del cielo può ispirare e tramandare ai posteri!

E noi la godevamo questa vita; senza apprezzarla forse, così, senza pretenzione, senza vanto, senza attesa, senza confronti... era come il canto dell'usignuolo, tutta armonia...

Ma, strano, e pur non raro contrasto! Al ricordare quella semplice armonia, risponde il lamento dell'esule... un palpito come di rimorso, un senso di pentimento... un impulso nuovo d'esprimere il nostro entusiasmo, riprendere lena e manifestarlo più vivo!

Oggi rivedo quei cari luoghi con aspetto nuovo; li apprezzo come mai li ho apprezzati... so d'averli sempre amati e quando, come ieri sera, sento a parlare del mio Ticino da Chi lo conosce, lo ammira e lo "desidera" gioisco in segreto e mi sento orgogliosa d'esserne una umile sua figlia!

Così oggi, oscura l'alba della vita, i sensibili gaudii d'un giorno si svegliano e si ripercuotono e si realizzano in questi dolci richiami, che ci agitano, ci commovono e ci danno l'illusione fuggevole di visioni che ci rapiscono, di affetti che ci inteneriscono....

T. LUNGH-REZZONICO.

Londra, Marzo 1926.

UNIONE TICINESE.

Close upon 300 guests, members and friends attended the 52nd Annual Banquet and Ball of this society at Monico's International Hall on the 23rd of March. At the opening of the banquet the President, Mr. W. Notari, rose to announce that the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, having been called to Switzerland on official business, we were deprived of his presence that evening, and that of Madame Paravicini. He was, however, happy to say that Monsieur De Bourg was taking the chair instead of the Minister. Later on Mr. Notari read out the following telegram sent to Monsieur Paravicini in Berne, conveying greetings and good wishes to him, and through him our respects to the Federal Council and Monsieur Motta in particular, viz.:—

"Unione Ticinese riunita annuale convegno invia "Presidente Onorario sensi deferenza devozione "augura lunga prospera carriera Prega porgere "omaggi Consiglio Federale e Consigliere Ticinese Onorevole Motta.—Notari, Presidente."

In due course, the Loyal Toast and the Toast to Switzerland and the Federal Council, proposed by the Chairman, having been honoured, Monsieur De Bourg addressed the gathering in the following terms:—

"Signor Presidente, Ladies and Gentlemen, His Excellency the Minister has asked me to tell you how very sorry he is not to be able to preside, with Madame Paravicini, at the Banquet of the Unione Ticinese. He had to go to Switzerland rather unexpectedly, and will not be back in London before the end of this week. It is therefore my privilege to be in the chair to-night. Like all our compatriots from the other side of the Gothard, I am a great admirer and sincere friend of our fratelli ticinesi. I am fully aware—at least the President told me so—that the official language for the speeches to-night is the English. However, I am very much tempted to forget this recommendation. I am so fully tempted, in fact, that, with your kind permission and without Signor Notari's permission, I am going to break the rules and address the assembly in the language of Dante, or, in order to keep 'il colore locale,' in the language of Francesco Chiesa. In doing so I am following the good example set by Signora Lunghi-Rezzonico, whose articles published by the *Swiss Observer* are read with the utmost delight by everybody.

"Se fossi stato consultato prima di nascere, avrei senza nessun'esitazione scelto come patria in cantone Ticino, questa gemma della Confederazione Svizzera. In questo caso mi sarebbe stato più facile parlare stasera della bellezza di quel pezzo di Paradiso terrestre, della sua popolazione intelligente, tanto simpatica, e così sincera. Per noi Svizzeri tedeschi e francesi, il Ticino rappresenta un'attrazione irresistibile; abbiamo bisogno dei Ticinesi, della loro coltura, del loro aiuto

tanto nella vita artistica quanto nella vita economica, industriale e politica. Siamo fieri dei nostri compatrioti di lingua italiana i quali hanno dato e danno alla patria nostra uomini come il Vela, il Ciseri, il Chiesa e tanti altri, senza parlare dell'uomo i cui meriti sono oggi internazionalmente riconosciuti. Penso in questo momento al capo del Dipartimento Politico Federale, Onorevole Signor Consigliere Federale Giuseppe Motta. A Ginevra, il nome di Motta è quasi sinonimo di Società delle Nazioni. E se fermiamo la nostra attenzione sugli svizzeri all'estero, vedremo che dappertutto le colonie ticinesi contribuiscono alla buona reputazione del nome svizzero. Mi faccio un dovere di complimentare in modo speciale l'Unione Ticinese di Londra per il suo lavoro magnifico, ma mi manca il tempo per pronunciare i nomi di tutti i ticinesi di Londra i quali hanno bene meritato della patria.

"Mi è grata l'occasione di ringraziarvi tutti della vostra attività patriottica. Evviva il Ticino, evviva l'Unione Ticinese di Londra."

This speech, well delivered, was received with very hearty applause. Mr. Notari then rose to propose the toast of the Unione Ticinese, and with his gripping delivery held the attention of all present with what is undoubtedly the best speech he made during his seven years of presidency. He gave thanks for the warm welcome he received, and took it as a tribute to the cause which he, in common with his colleagues, had so much at heart. He was glad to see so many old friends around him, always eager to give the society their hearty support, and particularly so to see in increasing numbers our brothers from beyond the Gothard. After the great success of the celebration, two years ago, of the golden jubilee of its foundation the society rather feared to have reached the zenith of its activities and efforts, and that we should have fallen back on leaner days. Happily, however, that was not the case. The same spirit which prevailed then prevails now, and we have been able to enlarge and intensify the activities in our social and benevolent undertakings. Moreover, we had since so consolidated our internal organisation that at no time in its long history has the society worked more harmoniously or more efficiently, nor possessed more vigour. He attributed the post-war revival mainly to the inspiration and example which had been given to every member by the wholehearted devotion to the welfare of the society of its great Hon. Vice-President, Mr. Arthur Meschini, and hoped that the support received in the past would be continued for the future also.

This being the first official function of the society since the signing of the treaties linked up with the name of Locarno, Mr. Notari felt he could not let the occasion go without expressing the happiness of all Ticinesi at the fact that the representatives of the various Powers, who went to Locarno with the definite idea of promoting international peace, apparently found in the local atmosphere a stimulant to persevere in achieving what they set out for. He expressed the hope that the good work done there will endure. As Switzerland is composed of sections of three races, unequal in size and political strength, and to a good extent very dissimilar in temperament, mentality, creed and tongue, which, however, are no bar to the unity of which we are so proud, it is no wonder that the Swiss citizens should be firm believers in the spirit of international friendship and understanding.

When the applause abated, Mr. O. Gambazzi addressed words of welcome to the guests, and as the banquets of the Unione Ticinese are regularly attended by people of many nationalities, he likened the gathering to a miniature League of Nations, not bent upon the solution of knotty problems of international politics, but merely upon the enjoyment of a good banquet and the products of many countries, not forgetting, later on, the "Dew of Scotland," and then the continuation of the programme with dancing and cabaret in a spirit of perfect cordiality. He regretted the enforced absence of our esteemed Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, and Madame Paravicini, but welcomed Monsieur De Bourg in his stead, as well as Monsieur Martin and Dr. Rezzonico, of the Swiss Legation, and the representatives of the following Swiss Societies:—

Société de Secours Mutuels: Messrs. Colomb and Audemars;

City Swiss Club: Messrs. Marchand and Jobin;

Fonds de Secours: Mr. Dupraz;

Union Helvetia: Mr. and Mme. Lehrian;

Schweizerbund: Messrs. Tresch and Foster;

Swiss Mercantile Society: Messrs. Stahelin and Pfaendler;

Swiss Institute: Mr. Mayr;

Nouvelle Société Helvétique: Mr. Suter;

Swiss Choral Society: Mr. Manzoni;

Swiss Rifle Association: Mr. DeBruner.

He was also pleased to see Mr. Boehringer (*Swiss Observer*) and was glad he had given a bye to the cross-word puzzle craze. It provided a particular pleasure to the Ticinesi to see quite a good number of their fellow-citizens from north of the Alps, and it is hoped more still will come along on

future occasions. He was glad to see also the many notable Italian and English personalities, who make it a point never to miss one of our banquets. Coming nearer home, he heartily welcomed Mr. and Mme. Meschini and some of the older supporters of the society. Last, but not least, the presence of so many charming representatives of the fair sex contributed to make the gathering all the happier.

Mr. Dupraz replied to the toast, on behalf of the guests, in the following much appreciated speech:—

"It feels good to be once again amongst our friends, the Ticinesi, and to enjoy their hearty hospitality. Why is it that the Annual Banquet of the Unione Ticinese is always such a wonderfully cheery and happy gathering? I think that I have found out the reason. As some of you know, I come from Montreux, where, as the saying has it, we can control the weather and can guarantee sunshine whenever there is an open-air festivity. But the Ticinese at home goes one better. The sun shines for him all the year round—and how could one be dull and miserable when one is born on those sunny slopes, dotted with bright white houses, the brightness of which would almost be too much were it not tempered by the climbing vines, put there so that when the day is at its hottest, or when the work is done and the sun goes down, they can harbour us under their shady leaves, whilst homage is duly paid to a 'mezzo,' may be two.

"Having grown up in that limpidity and warmth, every young Ticinese who comes and settles down in this country brings with him particles of these good things, which accompany him wherever he goes. Moreover, these powerful germs infect those who come in contact with him, and that is why we all feel so happy to-night and why also it is recommended to try and keep in close touch with the Ticinese colony, if they will let you. The striking part of this intoxication (I believe it is the correct medical term) is that this happy condition lasts in other climes as long as there is life in the subject, however long he might have left his native country, and this explains why old Ticinesi (I will not mention names) look as gay and as fit as young ones. Furthermore, this intoxication is transmitted—sometimes with renewed vigour—to the second and third generations, and we have instances of specimens born and bred in England (I again will not mention names) who have been and are acknowledged leaders of this extraordinary spirit.

"There is another peculiarity, which is no doubt derived from the first: being of a happy disposition, the Ticinese wants others to be happy too. I know by experience that there is no one readier to come to the assistance of his fellow-creatures in need. The Unione Ticinese have always responded most handsomely to all appeals made on behalf of the Swiss Benevolent Society, and what is most striking is not so much the amount of money collected, which is considerable, as the number of the members who are anxious to help, to the best of their ability. I always remember an appeal made some time during the war, under the auspices of the Swiss Legation, on behalf of the families of our countrymen called back to serve in the Swiss army. On that occasion the Unione Ticinese collected a very large sum of money, and their lists were covered with names of members who could only afford a small amount, but meant to do their best.

"Is it surprising, then, that such people should be happy and prosperous—that the fairest of the fair sex, as we see here, should be eager to be included in this merry company, and that all tends to make this Annual Banquet delightful in every respect?

"Mr. President and members of the Unione Ticinese, I am speaking on behalf of all your guests to-night when I say that we are very flattered indeed to have been invited to share in this brilliant festivity, and we trust that this 52nd Annual Banquet will be followed by countless others, just as successful."

Very hearty cheering followed the close of Mr. Dupraz's speech, and the President then called upon Mr. Meschini to say a few words. In brief terms he expressed his great pleasure of seeing such a splendid gathering of old and new friends and assured the society that, as far as he was concerned, he would only be too glad to extend in the future whatever help or assistance he provided in the past. He thanked Messrs. Monico warmly for the fine banquet given, and the Ticinesi no doubt appreciated the fact that the younger members of that family were again present with us that evening, along with their charming ladies.

This ended the first part of the evening, and the dance orchestra in the ball room, and the singers and comedians under the direction of Mr. Claud Chandler, viz., Messrs. Fred Wilson and Clay Thomas, and Misses Doris Smerdon, Dorrie Courtney, Gwen Lewis and Irene Cecil, in the International Hall, kept the assembly happy till 2 p.m.

It is the sincere hope of the Committee and members that all those who favoured us with their

presence will have returned home with the satisfaction of a well-spent evening, and with the desire of being with us again on the next occasion. As I transcribe the speeches of our fellow-Swiss I must confess to blushes—shared, no doubt, by the other Ticinesi—at the good things said about us. Let us hope our fellow-citizens and friends will never be given cause to alter their opinions.

All the supporters of the society will be pleased to know that, on the day following the banquet, a Marconigram was received from Signor Motta, warmly reciprocating our greetings in the following terms:—

“Notari, Presidente Unione Ticinese.—Ringrazio cordialmente saluto patriottico trasmessi a mezzo ministro Paravicini e lo ricambio fervidamente. —Motta, Consigliere Federale.”

O. B.



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.

SWISS HOUSE.

L'Editeur du *Swiss Observer*.

Monsieur,—Avant son départ pour Berne, M. Paravicini m'a chargé de vous envoyer la copie ci-incluse d'une lettre de M. Barbezat, Président de "Swiss House," se référant à la liquidation de cette institution.

Le Ministre vous serait obligé si vous pouviez publier cette lettre dans le prochain numéro du *Swiss Observer* pour que les vraies causes de la fermeture de "Swiss House" soient connues dans les milieux intéressés.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée. J. BORSINGER,

Premier Secrétaire de Légation.

32, Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, le 23 mars 1926.

Monsieur,

Je crois que nos amis suisses ne connaissent pas à fond les raisons qui nous obligent à fermer notre maison hospitalière le "Swiss House," et il serait bon qu'ils soient mieux renseignés sur les raisons impérieuses qui nous forcent la main.

La principale cause est le "Restriction Act" qui empêche nos jeunes compatriotes de prendre des places ou situations quelconques en Angleterre sans être possesseur d'une licence du Bureau du Travail, et, comme vous le savez, ces licences ne sont accordées que dans de très rares exceptions. Les jeunes Suisses qui viennent étudier la langue (en s'engageant de ne remplir aucun poste payé ou d'accepter aucune rétribution) entrent dans des familles ou pensions où on parle l'anglais, puisqu'elles ne possèdent qu'un permis de séjour très limité.

Malgré la perte considérable que nous soutenons depuis longtemps—maintenant environ deux mille francs par mois—nous avons continué à maintenir le "Swiss House," et à présent nous ne possédons plus de réserves, celles-ci ayant été dépensées pour remettre l'immeuble en bon état, et, même ces réserves n'ont pas été suffisantes, un emprunt non couvert nous a été consenti par une Banque suisse à Londres. La situation financière est donc très mauvaise et ne peut être

rétablie sur des bases saines.

D'autre part, nous avons eu la concurrence du "Foyer Suisse" qui, originairement, avait été fondé pour les jeunes gens seulement; il n'aurait pas dû admettre les jeunes filles suisses qui, naturellement, se seraient rendues au "Swiss House." Il est inutile de relever ici une certaine campagne faite en Suisse contre le "Swiss House" par des personnes mal intentionnées. Mais puisque le Bureau Central des "Amies de la Jeune Fille" n'a pas connaissance de ce fait, je vous confirme ce que vous savez déjà. Un membre de notre comité s'est rendu à la gare ici, à deux fois différentes, pour attendre des jeunes filles de la Chaux-de-Fonds qu'on avait détournées du projet d'aller à "Swiss House" avec la recommandation des "Amies de la Jeune Fille" de Chaux-de-Fonds, mais de se rendre au Y.W.C.A. à Bayswater! Vous avez eu vous-même une correspondance du même genre avec un ancien membre du comité rentré à St. Gall. Nous avons du reste maintes autres preuves en mains.

Recevant des subventions du Conseil Fédéral et de quatre cantons, il ne nous est plus possible de recevoir des étrangères maintenant puisqu'il y a un déficit; l'admission d'étrangères était une mesure de guerre pour maintenir l'établissement. Aujourd'hui nous avons 25 pensionnaires dont 75% environ sont de nationalité suisse.

Les deux premiers articles des règlements montrent clairement que "Swiss House" avait été fondé seulement pour des personnes de nationalité suisse.

Un appel pour un support financier a été fait par la Légation Suisse en Angleterre au Conseil Fédéral; le Trésorier de "Swiss House" de son côté fit un appel aux Banques en Suisse, aux maisons de commerce et fabriques importantes, mais le résultat a été nul ou à peu près.

La décision de fermer le "Swiss House" n'a pas été prise à la légère, mais avec délibération et réflexion et après de nombreuses consultations avec la Légation Suisse à Londres, et aussi avec l'assentiment d'anciens présidents de la Société.

La décision fut ratifiée par une Assemblée générale extraordinaire du "Swiss House" (dames et messieurs) en Décembre 1925, et présidée par Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Ministre de Suisse en Grande-Bretagne.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

(sig.) C. A. BARBEZAT,
Président du "Swiss House."

Londres, le 19 mars 1926.

SWISS FOOTBALLERS' VISIT TO LONDON

The members of the Basle team, which arrived yesterday (Friday) at Victoria Station, are visiting this morning the London head office of the Swiss Bank Corporation and other points of interest in the City; they will leave 99, Gresham Street, E.C., at 1.45 by char-à-banc. The kick-off at the Preston Road ground of the club is timed for 3.15 sharp, and the match will be played under English Association rules, Mr. F. Ratcliff acting as referee. The two sides are made up as follows:—

Basle—P. Rittel; H. Herzog, W. Oertli; S. Shaw, R. Kirchhofer (capt.), F. Peter; W. Leutenegger, F. Schilling, J. Dublin, G. Isler, E. Habertur.

London—C. Burger; A. Hablützel, F. W. Rasch; J. W. Castle (capt.), P. W. F. Way, W. Steiner; C. B. Holton, H. R. Tobin, E. Goubach, F. J. Hill, M. Hillebrand.

After the match the players and their friends will have dinner together at the Swiss Hotel, 53, Old Compton Street, W.1, where the visiting team is being accommodated during the time of their stay in London. The return journey has been fixed for Monday (April 5th) at 10 a.m. from Victoria Station.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

R. E. Pfister (279), P. Casparis (260), A. Dufour (288), H. Sandoz (288), Miss R. Braem (263), J. Billter (264), S. Jeker (290), Swiss Y.M.C.A. (290), Alb. Affolter (291), J. G. Bachmann (291), R. de Cintra (345), W. Krucker (291), W. Beckmann (292), A. Brauen (292), F. E. Caspar (292), M. Rysler (292), Miss M. Schwab (291), A. Herdan (293), Mrs. T. Lunghi (267), W. Fischer (294), R. Gaillard (268), Dr. H. Rast (294), John Nussle (291).

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By arrangement with the Swiss Postal Authorities, TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES, which can be cashed at any Post Office in Switzerland, are obtainable at the Offices of the Bank.

The WEST END BRANCH open Savings Bank Accounts on which interest will be credited at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle

aura lieu le MARDI, 13 AVRIL au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 5/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C. 2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Ordre du Jour :

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

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2
(Langue française.)

Vendredi Saint. 2 Avril, 11h.—Service Spécial avec Ste. Cène; Les 7 paroles de la Croix.—Bach et Haendel.

Pâques, Dimanche, 4 Avril, 11h. et 6.30.—Services de Fête avec chœurs, etc., et Ste. Cène matin et soir, M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Lundi de Pâques.—Course à Rammore Common. Rendez-vous Waterloo 10.15, devant le quai 6, pour Box Hill. Invitation cordiale. Prix 5s. avec thé.

BAPTEME.

Pierre André, né le 20 Nov. 1925, fils de Pierre MELANJOIE, dit SAVOIE, et de Rose Yvonne née Béguelin, du Locle (Neuchâtel)—le 28 Mars 1926.

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.

Karfreitag, 2. April, 11 Uhr vorm.—Predigt und heil. Abendmahl. Gesangsvortrag der "Swiss Choral Society."

Ostersonntag, 4. April.—

11 Uhr vorm.—Predigt und heil. Abendmahl.

6.30 nachm.—Predigt und heil. Abendmahl.

Ostermontag.—Ausflug in Verbindung mit dem schweiz. Y.M.C.A. Treffpunkt Baker Street Station. Punkt 10 Uhr.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, April 3rd, at 3.15.—FOOTBALL MATCH between Sport Club "Bankverein Basel" and football section of the Swiss Bank Club, London, on the latter's ground at Preston Road (Preston Road Station on the Metro.). In the evening Dinner at the Swiss Hotel, Old Compton Street, W.1 (tickets at 5s. to be obtained beforehand).

Tuesday, April 13th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual General Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland St., W.C.1.

Wednesday, April 14th, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, and followed by a Lecture on "Sweden and Norway—Special Account of their Paper Industry," by W. Pfister, Esq., at the Union Helvetia.

Wednesday, April 14th, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.

Friday, April 30th, at 8.30.—SWISS CHORAL SOC.: Annual Concert at Mortimer Hall, 93, Mortimer St., W.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting) Shooting Practice at the Range, Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp). Lunch provided on Sundays.

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