

Démocratie et autorité

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1929)**

Heft 379 [i.e. 380]

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687017>

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quandary. The whole of the crew are British, the boat has always been British, and was built in Scotland, but owing to the new owner being of Swiss nationality she cannot sail under the British flag, because every ship flying the British flag must be owned by a British subject.

Mr. Schumacher was anxious to sail under the British flag and sought the assistance of the Swiss Legation in London without success. He asked the Board of Trade what flag he could fly, and was told any but the British. To overcome the difficulty he has decided to use the Swiss flag for the voyage, but on arrival at Sierra Leone the boat will be registered as British and fly the British flag according to colonial maritime law, which differs from the British."

Switzerland as seen in Wallington.

The *Wallington Times* (Jan. 24th) has treated its readers to a description of the institutions of our country. We appreciate the good things said about us and the kindly spirit, but we would advise our enterprising contemporary when he goes off the beaten track again to consult the appropriate text book in the local library; or better still, we could give him the addresses of a few Wallington residents who have gone to school in Switzerland and would no doubt be delighted to correct his proofs. Thus speaketh the *Wallington Times*—

"The present Constitution was formed in 1848, and is a model of a Federal Republic. Every man becomes a voter at the age of 20; each Canton governs itself internally, presided over by a Landammann, or Mayor. Its proceedings are public, and conducted in the most businesslike manner. Each Canton is composed of a number of small communities, like our local councils, who arrange their affairs to the best advantage to themselves.

These communities own all common land, waterfalls, forests, mountains, etc., and retain their hold upon them for future generations, leasing out the land, water power, timber cutting and mountain pastures. With this community property held for the benefit of the people, most of the more prosperous ones, instead of having to pay a communal tax, receive a yearly bonus either in money or kind. It is enough to make the mouths of our local councils water. Moreover, one-fifth of the country is forest land, and for every tree cut down three saplings must be planted, so the future assets of the nation are protected.

All the above are in marked contrast to our own country, where land ownership means profit to the individual and not to the community, and where great bodies like the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with £1,625,000 yearly income from estates and £1,387,000 from dividends and interest, disburse this to the bishops and clergy, overlooking the fact that they are trustees of much land that was given for the maintenance and education of the poor.

The Swiss Parliament consists of two chambers—the Bundesrat, one member elected for each 20,000 voters, and the Ständerat, or Upper Chamber, two members for each Canton, which forms a compact democratic body of 44. The veto is in the hands of the electors.

If a Bill is unpopular, it can be referred back by 50,000 electors signing a referendum, and their recommendations must be dealt with by the Parliament or the Bill cannot pass.

The country has a fine military history, and an efficient army existing only for self-defence. It has only one professional soldier, the Commander-in-chief; every man in training has another profession or occupation; every man over 20 must do his share in the defence of his country if he is physically fit and over 5ft. 1½ in height. There are no exemptions. Those who and if they possess independent means, the fine are not fit must pay for the training of others, can be very considerably increased. During manoeuvres citizens must, if called upon, billet soldiers free of charge or be fined, so that even those who are not actually serving can feel that they are doing something for their country.

The Army consists of the Auszug, men from 20 to 32 years of age. The first year they are in training for 65 days, and after that 16 days every other year. Then they go into the Landwehr, the first reserve; they then do nine days every four years, until they are 44 years old; then they belong to the Landsturm, or second reserve. The Army has no cavalry, who would be useless in that mountainous country, but they have the best mountain soldiers in the world, all composed of guides. Marksmanship is very highly thought of, and they have many rifle clubs for practice.

It is reported that Napoleon once asked the Commander-in-chief:

"What would you do if I brought 20,000 of my troops against you?"

The Commander-in-chief replied: "My men would fire once, and you would go home alone."

To sum up, although comparisons are said to be odious, we have dealt with a country which, compared with other European countries, comes out well. They have no nobility, for in their eyes every honest man is a noble man. They have no State Church and patronage, but 57 per

cent. are Protestants and 41 per cent. Roman Catholics, all free and self-supporting. There are no large landowners allowed. There are no extreme rich and but few paupers; no public houses and drinking bars as we know them.

Although the Germans like their beer and the French their wine and get them pure, I have never seen any drunkenness, although I have been in most of their Cantons, and there is in consequence little crime and but few prisons.

Switzerland is a buffer State, bordering on Germany, France and Italy, and it has no language of its own. It possesses 71 per cent. Germans, 21 per cent. French and 6 per cent. Italian and they live together as one family, "All for each and each for all"—a National Brotherhood. Education is free and under local control, elementary up to 12 years; Secondary up to 15, and after that special commercial and technical schools leading to the universities without any class hindrance."

A Waiter's Story.

The Bahnhof Buffet at Berne is a universally patronised culinary stronghold, not so much, we believe, on account of its central position but for reasons of the excellent fare provided there by the popular tenant, Mr. Müller. The following reference is from the *Daily Mail* (Jan. 24th):—

"An example of the democratic spirit of the Belgian Royal Family is provided by an incident which occurred at Basle a few days ago.

The station buffet was crowded to suffocation when a tall, bronzed man, accompanied by two women, entered, and, finding every other table occupied, asked a party of Swiss if they might be allowed to sit at theirs.

The newcomers were obviously amused at the conversation of the Swiss, and the younger woman was heard to remark, "They speak very good French, these Swiss." After drinking their 'citron presses' the trio rose to catch their train.

One can judge of the surprise of the Swiss when a waiter rushed over to tell them they had been sitting with the King and Queen of the Belgians and their daughter, Princess Marie, who were on their way home from the winter sports at Mürren.

The same buffet was the scene of another amusing incident a few days earlier. The room was crowded with diners when the head waiter emerged from the telephone box and began making a round of all the tables where the more smartly dressed women were seated.

He then went to the middle of the room and in a loud voice announced that Pola Negri was wanted on the telephone. Everyone stood up and craned their necks to catch a glimpse of the famous film star, but they quickly sat down again when a fat man wearing blue glasses—her secretary, one supposes—rose from his seat and walked to the telephone.

By a curious coincidence the passage of Pola Negri on her way to St. Moritz had been announced in the local Press the same day."

The authority for these historic events is the statement of the waiter, which we should not dare to doubt for a moment. It reminds us, however, of a similar revelation—more fanciful than correct, but probably made with an eye to business—made to us during lunch at a City restaurant, when the information was confided to us that we were sitting next to the chief actors in this week's Old Baily melodrama.

Trouserless Swiss.

This is another old friend of ours in a somewhat different attire. The copyright of the story is, we believe, claimed by Geneva, when a local bank clerk, during the inflation period, took the train to a town in France in order to procure himself a new "rig-out." Returning home, he joyfully dispatched his old clothes through the window before opening the carefully wrapped up parcel. The following is taken from the *Yorkshire Evening News* (Jan. 21st):—

"When the Orient express reached the Turkish frontier, the strange sight of a traveller gesticulating wildly to the guard of the train dressed only in his jacket and shirt caused considerable amusement, states a Constantinople newspaper.

The traveller, a Swiss, explained to the guard that, having bought a new suit of clothes at Constantinople, and wishing to avoid paying Customs duty at the frontier, he had shut himself up in his compartment and proceeded to put on his new clothes. He threw the old suit (which he had taken off) out of the carriage window, some miles from Sirkedji, the Constantinople terminus of the Orient express.

When, however, he opened the new parcel containing his new suit of clothes he found that his tailor had sent only a jacket and vest, and had forgotten to send a pair of trousers.

The guard good-humouredly sent a porter to obtain the necessary garment, and, amid the laughter of those assembled on the station, the Swiss received with joy a new pair of trousers.

As the train moved slowly out he waved his hand through the carriage window crying, "Vive les pantalons!" But he had to pay Customs duty all the same."

DEMOCRATIE ET AUTORITE.

Connaissez-vous sur la ligne, qui de Lausanne mène à Fribourg, l'antique et caractéristique cité à l'aspect moyennageux, encore à l'abri de ses remparts sous l'oeil patriarcal de ses tours, qui s'appelle Romont?

C'est là que samedi et dimanche derniers se sont tenues les assises annuelles de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Charmante réception qui restera gravée dans la mémoire de tous ceux qui eurent le privilège de ce déplacement. Et je dis cela sans méchanceté malgré le froid intense qui régna dans certaine salle de l'Hôtel de Ville le dimanche matin et qui transforma les assistants en de véritables glaçons!

En était venu nombreux et de fort loin pour suivre les débats qui allaient s'engager. Le sujet choisi était d'importance et passionnée à l'heure présente tous ceux qui se préoccupent de l'avenir politique de l'Europe, non seulement dans notre pays mais au dehors.

Démocratie et Autorité tel est le complexe qu'exposa avec clarté et science Monsieur le professeur Arnold Keymond, de la Faculté de Philosophie de Lausanne.

On sait combien le monde, secoué depuis une vingtaine d'années par la préoccupation d'un ordre politique nouveau, s'intéresse à ce problème. Les initiatives italienne, espagnole, polonaise et yougoslave, pour ne citer que les principales, sont venues lui donner une acuité nouvelle. La déroute du parlementarisme français qui se meurt en d'atroces convulsions et les efforts diversément accueillis d'un homme comme M. Coty ne sont pas faits pour apaiser les esprits. L'éminent rhétoricien de Lausanne prend la défense de la démocratie et relevant successivement toutes les critiques qui lui furent adressées les réfute non sans puissance. Il traite ensuite de la crise par laquelle passe l'idée démocratique et aboutit à cette conclusion dont on parle ces derniers temps d'une façon croissante en Suisse: "La désagrégation systématique de l'Idéal Moral sur lequel nos pères avaient basé non seulement leurs Constitutions mais qui étaient encore la raison d'être de leur activité et le motif de leur vie, est cause du mal."

Monsieur Keymond ne trouve comme remède unique que la reconstitution d'un Idéal commun à tous les Suisses par une meilleure adaptation de la vie aux conditions nouvelles.

Le Dr. Schindler, de la Faculté de droit de Zurich, qui succède à l'orateur précédent, estime que "Démocratie et Autorité" ne sont point antagonistes lorsqu'on les transpose de l'ordre politique à l'ordre moral et intellectuel qui doit servir de base au premier.

Un genevois de rare mérite s'est fait depuis longtemps un apostolat d'un autorité nouvelle élargie de l'idée fasciste et puisant aux sources mêmes de la philosophie sa raison d'être. On attendait son exposé et sa réfutation avec grand intérêt. M. Eugène Fabre, rédacteur en chef du journal *La Suisse*, n'a point déçu son auditoire, qui pourtant était visiblement d'un avis contraire à l'orateur.

M. Fabre estime que la démocratie, loin d'accroître la notion de liberté, la disperse, l'éparille, l'amointrir et la perd; qu'à partager ainsi la souveraineté elle n'existe plus! Puis poussant plus loin son exposé, il oppose les caractères de la nature, qui sont par essence inégaux, à la théorie égalitaire de la démocratie et n'hésite pas à déclarer que cet idéal a, à son point de vue, fait faillite et qu'il doit être abandonné.

Le premier orateur, résumant la controverse, la situe ainsi: "Les masses sont-elles, oui ou non, capables d'atteindre un certain niveau? Dans l'affirmative, craignons-nous à la démocratie, au cas contraire, n'en parlons plus!"

Cette discussion aura un retentissement considérable, non seulement dans les milieux intellectuels, mais dans les masses populaires également.

Le Tessin, décidément trop près de la frontière italienne, est secoué par les passions qui opposent socialistes et communistes aux fascistes. La dernière escarmouche, dont l'épilogue aura lieu au Conseil National même, a trait à une conférence!

Le professeur Salvemini, anti-fasciste notoire, qui vit du reste en Angleterre, devait faire un exposé à l'Ecole tessinoise de culture italienne. Il en fut empêché par le chef du département de

INSTRUCT

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l'Instruction publique du canton du Tessin, en plein accord d'ailleurs, avec le directeur de l'Institut en question, Monsieur Francesco Chiesa. Comme l'affaire prenait outre-Gothard de graves proportions, il en fut référé à Berne qui décida que le professeur Salvemini ne serait pas autorisé à exposer son point de vue en Suisse. Les socialistes ont interpellé réclamant la liberté de pensée et d'expression et désapprouvant ces interdictions qui pour plaire à un régime politique qu'ils blâment, privent les intellectuels tessinois d'un remarquable exposé. Comme la majorité ne se laissera point fléchir, M. Borella s'en ira interpellé le Conseil fédéral. Le Tessin nous donnera longtemps encore quelque inquiétude!

Erik.

ELLY NEY.

Those who are in touch with what is happening in the musical world of Switzerland will need no introduction to the name of Elly Ney, for she has played a good deal there, and Swiss enthusiasm has aided in establishing her to-day as the greatest woman pianist in the world.

Last week she paid a flying visit to London and gave a programme at the Wigmore Hall containing Schubert's Sonata in D major and his six "Moments Musicaux," separated with ambitious and just contrast by the "Appassionata" of Beethoven. It was a memorable occasion, not only because Elly Ney has won the reputation in Europe (where reputations mean something) of being one of the greatest pianists of the day, but because she played great music beautifully.

Nothing could have been more just than her presentation of the Sonata in D major. It is an affair of simple themes of pure music, beginning with that freshness which one might almost describe as childlike, and repeated with varying intonations in the joyous way that Schubert has. From these pleasant things she turned to deal majestically with the dreams and anger and delirium of Beethoven's "Appassionata," suggesting so inevitably the tempestuous life of its maker. Then back again to Schubert and tunefulness, always preserving the Schubertian singleness of purpose, never lost in elaboration, as true to the detail as to the spirit. The programme ended with the famous "Marche Militaire," expressing its nursery delight in a multitude of soldiers, surely wooden ones, painted red and blue!

Through this artist the mind of the simple German genius had certainly lived again for an hour or two in listeners' minds. And an audience mainly professional dispersed still beneath its spell.

Our readers will be delighted to learn that Madame Sophie Wyss will be heard on 'the Wireless' on the afternoon of Friday, February 22nd, from Daventry (5 GB) in Handel's "Judas Macca-baus" and the Air from Bach's "Whitsuntide" Cantata.

A.G.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

La première 'Cinderella' de la saison aura lieu dans les magnifiques salons de l'Hôtel Métropole (St. James' Rooms), Northumberland Avenue, W.1 samedi soir, le 26 janvier.

Cette soirée, aux heures bien trop courtes, a d'emblée un succès marqué; aussi la tâche du chroniqueur est-elle autant agréable que facile.

A commencer par le nombre fort réjouissant des participants—environ 110—les fraîches et délicieuses toilettes des dames offrant un coup d'oeil charmant, puis un succulent dîner, servi avec promptitude au début de la soirée de façon à permettre une suite ininterrompue de danses, l'excellent orchestre dont les morceaux choisis stimulent encore le plaisir des gastronomes et préparent déjà celui des danseurs et danseuses; puis encore le clou de cette première partie du programme: l'interlude musical, vivement applaudi, offert après le dessert par cet artiste consommé du violon, Signor Colombo lui-même, et enfin les danses, chacune plus entraînante que la précédente...

Mais l'horloge est sans pitié, les trains n'attendent pas, et lorsque vers le minuit votre chroniqueur doit forcément se soustraire à la distraction captivante de cette belle soirée, il régnait dans le salon de danse une gaieté et un entrain qui semblent destinés à durer jusqu'à la clarté du matin...

Les organisateurs ont droit aux plus chaleureuses félicitations, en particulier le très sympathique et dévoué Secrétaire du City Swiss Club, Monsieur Ch. Chapuis, qui, une fois de plus, a mis à contribution son talent et sa verve infectieuse habituelle pour compléter la parfaite réussite de cette 'Cinderella.'

Un mot encore aux absents, Monsieur l'éditeur, si vous le voulez bien: comme toujours, ils ont eu tort. Aussi le Comité me consentira-t-il de prendre les devants et de leur dire ici même que la prochaine soirée aura lieu le samedi 23 février au New Prince's Restaurant (Cabaret).

J.Z.

BRIDGE COMPETITION.

The Auction Bridge Competition was successfully terminated last Tuesday and the final scores are now as follows, the figure in brackets denoting the number of legs lost:—

R. Bessire	...	114 (14)
Ch. Valon	...	106 (12)

L. Chapuis	...	101 (11)
M. Gerig	...	98 (13)
H. Senn	...	88 (15)
A. C. Baume	...	82 (14)
G. E. De Brunner	...	78 (16)
P. F. Boehringer	...	77 (18)
J. Billeter	...	71 (19)
W. Notari	...	71 (20)
P. Bessire	...	71 (21)
A. Schupbach	...	61 (21)
L. Schobinger	...	54 (21)
N. Defrenne	...	40 (23)
E. Werner	...	38 (23)
L. Jobin	...	33 (26)

Apart from the entrance fee of 2/6, the prize fund received a contribution of sixpence for every leg lost, i.e., nearly £7 10s. There are three prizes and a booby prize (presented by Messrs. L. and C. Chapuis), which latter will go to Mr. L. Jobin, last year's President of the Club.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

J. Kuratle, Zurich: "Paris and Its Entertainments." Miss L. Hauss, Weil-Leopoldshöhe: "Dolores del Rio." E. Wieland, St. Gall: "Giuseppe Verdi." A. Vollenweider, Schlieren-Zurich: "The Foreign Policy of Italy." E. Schuermann, Lucerne: "Rheims and Its Environs." A. Niklaus, Biene: "Cosmic Energy." E. Keel, Vernayaz: "Electricification of the Swiss Federal Railways."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Should Europe Submit to the Influence of the United States?" Proposer, J. Kuratle; Opposer, F. Voser.

"Is a Doctor Justified in Informing a Patient of His Approaching Death?" Proposer, E. Abel; Opposer, H. Glättli.

Friday: A lecture illustrated by lantern slides was given by H. M. Broughton, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, on: "Constantinople."

Saturday: The School made an excursion to Twickenham by bus, thence on foot to Teddington Locks and through Richmond Park to Richmond.

"ST. JOAN" AT CAMBRIDGE.

A party of thirty-four students, accompanied by Mr. B. Davis, spent a very enjoyable day in Cambridge on Saturday, January 26th. The journey to Cambridge was made by motor-coach, thus enabling the students to see something of the English countryside in winter.

Arrived at Cambridge, the first call was at Girton College, where the students were cordially received by the Secretary, who very kindly conducted them over the College. From Girton the party proceeded to Jesus College, the beauties of which were pointed out by a student of the College, who also very willingly acted as guide to the other Colleges visited: Trinity, King's, John's, Queen's and Pembroke.

The afternoon was spent at a performance of Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan" at the Festival Theatre. This was thoroughly enjoyed, particularly as the Stage Manager explained the mysteries of the Cyclopama and the Switch-room. The play was followed by tea and a talk on "Undergraduate Life" by Mr. Cooke, a student at Cambridge. The students returned to London at 10.30 p.m., tired but happy.

PUBLICATIONS

of the "Verein für Verbreitung Guter Schriften" and "Lectures Populaires."

1/1. Sous la Terreur, par A. de Vigny	.....	1/-
1/2. La Femme en gris, par H. Sudermann	...	1/-
1/3. L'Incendie, par Edouard Rod	.....	1/-
1/4. La Tulipe Noire, par Alex. Dumas	.....	1/-
1/5. Jeunesse de Jean Jacques Rousseau (Extraits des Confessions)	.....	1/-
1/6. L'Ours et l'Ange, par Jean-Jacques Porchat	1/-	
1/7. Amour Tragique, par Ernest Zahn	.....	1/-
1/8. Colomba, par Prosper Mérimée	.....	1/-
1/9. Des Ombres qui passent, par Béatrice Harraden	.....	1/-
1/15. Suisse—Savoie—Dauphiné, par A. Dumas	1/-	
2/1. Le Légionnaire Héroïque, par B. Vallotton	6d.	
2/2. Contes Extraordinaires, par Edgar Poe	...	6d.
2/4. La Boutique de l'Ancien, par L. Favre	...	6d.
2/3. Un Véritable Amour, par Masson-Forestier	6d.	
2/5. Souvenirs de Captivité et d'Evasion, par Robert d'Harcourt	.....	6d.
2/6. Aventures d'un Suisse d'Autrefois, par Thomas Platter	.....	6d.
2/7. La Jeune Sibérienne, par Xavier de Maistre	6d	
2/8. La Fontaine d'Amour, par Charles Foley	6d.	
2/9. La Batelière de Postunen, par Eugène Rambert	6d.
2/15. L'Amulette, par C. F. Meyer	6d.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

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

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.	Motion de révision des
Admissions.	présents Règlements.
Démotions.	Divers.

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6.30: Culte et Ste. Cène.

7.30: Répétition du Choeur.

Dimanche, 10 Février.—M. Micol, des Vallées Vaudoises. Collecte en faveur de l'Eglise Vaudoise.

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.

(near General Post Office).

Sonntag, den 3 Februar 1929.—11 Uhr Vorm.: Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr Abends: Gottesdienst. Nachher: Chorprobe.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche. Mittwoch, 4-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen, etc. erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane. Telephone: Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, February 2nd, at 7 p.m.—**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY**: Annual Banquet and Ball at Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1.

Saturday, February 2nd, at 7 p.m.—**SWISS MERCANTILE SOC.**: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W. (See Advert.)

Tuesday, February 5th, at 7 p.m.—**CITY SWISS CLUB**: Monthly Meeting at Pagani's, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1. (See Advert.)

Wednesday, February 13th, at 8 p.m.—**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY**: Lecture by Major Nathan entitled "Great Britain's Industrial Future" at Swiss House, 34 and 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (In the Chair: Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister).

Thursday, February 14th, at 10 p.m.—**SWISS GYMNASIAC SOCIETY**: General Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Friday, February 15th, at 8 p.m.—**UNION CHRETIENNE**: Conference in French by the Missionary, M. V. Ellenberger, on "Our South African Missions and the Present Time," at 15, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Wednesday, February 20th.—**SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY**: Annual Dinner and Ball at First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn.

Saturday, February 23rd, at 7 p.m.—**CITY SWISS CLUB**: Cabaret and Dance at New Prince's Restaurant, W.1.

Saturday, March 2nd.—**SWISS MERC. SOCIETY**: Cinderella Dance.

Tuesday, March 12th.—**UNIONE TICINESE**: Annual Banquet, Ball and Cabaret at Monaco's.