

Swiss mercantile society

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WINE GROWING IN SWITZERLAND.

Although, during scarcely half a century the cultivation of the vineyards has had a regress of more than 50 per cent. in Switzerland, Valais not only did not let it diminish by an inch, but has even extended it considerably during the same time. It occupied 2500 ha. at the end of the 19th century and now it has extended over more than 3300 ha. If one considers the configuration of the country, the nature of the soil, one may be astonished that the inhabitants of Valais have had the courage to clear the land and to plant under such difficult conditions and that they continue to do it, in spite of hard times and unfavourable economic circumstances.

A great part of the Valais vineyards has been created amidst rocks that have been blown up by mines, whilst the stones were crushed into sand. In other places, the most golden and richest grapes at Montibex, and at Ravaney, for instance, grow where formerly the soil was covered in dire confusion with stones and gravel, rolled down from the mountain by some torrent.

If the Valais wine-dressers were not discouraged when facing the formidable toil exacted by the creation of their vineyard, if they go on quietly with their hard labour, it is that the climate is more favourable than anywhere else to the life and growth of this delicate plant, from the moment when it bursts under April's gentle breezes, out of the frail and tender winter buds, to the sunny days of late autumn which burnish the grapes.

During the month of its active life, the wine is flooded in dazzling sunshine, the light of which is hardly ever veiled by mist or cloud.

Tradition maintains that the first wine stocks were planted by the Romans and that later on old soldiers brought from foreign lands those clear fruited wines that are still now the pride and joy of their great grandchildren. One of the charms of the Valais vineyards is that they provide not only ordinary wines for everyday use, but also those that utmost refinement may require for the perfect arrangement of a sumptuous meal.

Among those that are called ordinary wines, a distinction must be made according to their origin and the particular vineyard they come from. The "Fendant," for instance, which is now considered as the standard of the wine-stocks in this country, is very different, according to the place it comes from. Pleasant to taste, agreeably flavoured everywhere, it becomes, in certain parts particularly well situated, so fine and perfect that it is a produce of the highest kind and greatest worth, such as the Montibex and the Johannisberg. Next to these come the Dôle, velvety and dark red, leaving at the bottom of the glasses like a far away reflection of the old convents of Burgundy whence it came.

Besides these three wines, Valais offers the numerous army of its other products, dry like Chablis or sweet as southern wines: Muscat, Malvoise, Humagne, Arvine, Amigne, Hermitage, Rouge du Pays. S.I.T.

Doings in Our Colony.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Soixante-dix membres et invités se sont réunis le 1er juillet pour la première soirée au Brent Bridge Hotel.

Pour une fois, le climat britannique a été favorable et nous avons profité d'un temps superbe.

A la fin du dîner, en proposant la santé des invités, le Président a souhaité le bienvenu à Mmc. Léonora Bosset, pianiste et Mr. Roberto Caruana, violoncelliste, les artistes bien connus. Il a également levé son verre à la santé de Mr. L'Hardy qui vient de compléter sa 42ème année comme membre du Club.

Nous avons tiré une tombola pour des cadeaux aux dames et la pipe traditionnelle pour les hommes. Comme prix de consolation, un des invités a gagné une bouteille vide.

O mânes de la Prohibition, réjouissez-vous! La soirée a été un grand succès. Il y avait beaucoup d'entrain et quoique le beau temps a attiré beaucoup de monde au jardin au commencement, vers 10 heures le bal battait son plein, et nous avons participé avec enthousiasme un peu hamamanoïde il faut l'avouer, aux spot dances, Paul Jones, lemon dances, et une polonaise qui ont été dirigées avec son tact habituel par Mr. C. Chapuis qui a cumulé ses fonctions de Président avec celles de M.C.

Au cours de la soirée, nous avons eu le plaisir d'écouter Mr. Caruana qui, accompagné par Mme. Bosset au piano, a joué la Sonate de Handel en Sol mineur, en 4 mouvements. C'était vraiment un plaisir d'écouter ce morceau et les artistes ont été vivement applaudis et chaleureusement remerciés.

Nous avons remarqué que nos élégantes suivent la mode de près car les robes longues furent en majorité.

La plupart des dames portaient des toilettes de ninon ou de chiffon. La charmante femme de notre Président portait une robe délicieuse de

georgette jaune et orange et entre autres, j'ai remarqué deux robes en dentelle noire très chic et une robe en ninon noir et bleu avec un paletot de la même étoffe, dernier cri.

Heureusement nous ne sommes plus au 18e siècle et il n'est guère nécessaire de donner une description des vêtements masculins, cependant notre meilleur danseur était habillé avec son chic habituel.

La soirée s'est terminée à minuit sur une note très gaie et tout le monde s'est donné rendez-vous pour le mois prochain. Avis aux absents.

ck.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. R. Bahnik, Zurich: "The Swiss Chocolate Industry." Mr. E. Vögtli, Zurich: "My favourite book, 'Gosta Berling.'" Mr. E. Täuber, Winterthur: "A Marine Engine." Miss A. Geutsch, Liestal: "Work and Capital." Miss Y. Merz, "Should the State maintain the poor."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Should Doctors Tell and Should Doctors Kill?" Proposer: Miss Benz. Opposer: Miss Neeser.

"Are you in favour of Co-Education?" Proposer: Mr. Rentsch. Opposer: Mr. Brunner.

"Is Civilization a Step Forward?" Opposer: Mr. R. Ringger. Proposer: Mr. Berlinger.

On Saturday, June 29th, about 80 students accompanied by Mr. Whitehouse attended the flying display at Hendon. We had perfect weather and after some discussion we decided to enter the 2/- enclosures. Some of us placing the benches on top of each other succeeded in getting an excellent view of the aerodrome. The display itself was enjoyed by everyone, and the formation flying in particular created an impression. By 5.30 most of us were fairly tired of craning our necks and after queuing up alongside Hendon Central for half-an-hour or so succeeded in getting our seats in the train.

UNION HELVETIA.

SHAREHOLDERS MEETING HELD ON JUNE 19th, 1930.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting. The accounts for the 12 months ending December 1929 were read and confirmed.

The Chairman in his report stated:—

As predicted at the Annual Meeting held last year, your Directors regret to have to suggest that no dividend be paid for the year 1929, owing to the heavy cost of repairs and decorations that were necessary, and recommended at that meeting.

Your Directors feel confident that you will agree with them that it is far better to keep the premises in fair order.

It is, however, hoped that with your goodwill and financial help to be able to present a better account in the near future.

No resignations or proposals for members on the Board having been received, Mr. A. Wyss proposed and Mr. L. Barder seconded that the old Board be re-elected en bloc, which was carried.

Mr. A. Wyss proposed a hearty vote of thanks be given to the Board of Directors.

Mr. P. Lehrian proposed and Mr. H. Senn seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Steward and Stewardess for their services during the year, and also to the staff.

Mr. P. Lehrian also proposed a special vote of thanks to the Secretary, Mr. G. H. N. Bridges, for his work and help he has given to the Managing Director during his term of office.

G. H. N. BRIDGES, Secretary.

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City Office, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

and at our

West End Office, 11c, Regent St., S.W.1,

which is situated next door to that of the Swiss Federal Railways.

Swiss Rifle Association

Headquarters: 1, Gerrard Place, W.1

Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon



First of August Competition

Open to all Swiss

300 metre and 100 yards Targets

now in progress

Shooting every Saturday afternoon & Sunday

FOYER SUISSE, 15, Upper Bedford Pl., W.C.1

Sunday, July 6th.

GIRLS' AFTERNOON EXCURSION

to

Kew Gardens

Meet 4 p.m., Kew Gardens District Railway.

Leader: Miss J. Wyss.

W. WETTER Wine Importer

67, GRAFTON STREET, FITZROY SQ., W.1

BOTTLED IN SWITZERLAND.

	Per doz. 24/2	Per doz. 24/2
Clos du Mont Valais	47/- 53/-	Johannisberg de Sion 46/- 52/-
Fendant	44/- 50/-	Dôle Red Valais de Sion
White Neuchâtel	49/- 55/-	Valais Fendant Sierre 44/- 50/-
Red Neuchâtel	48/- 54/-	Dôle Red Valais Sierre 48/- 54/-
Dezaley	48/- 54/-	

Carrriage Paid for London.

ALL ORDERS EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française.)

Temporairement: 83, Endell Street, au 2e étage du bâtiment d'école.

Dimanche le 6 Juillet 11 h. "L'inquiétude du temps présent." Genève 28/16 M. R. Hoffmann-de Vismc. Service de Ste. Cène.

7 h. Prédication M. M. Pradervand. Culte de Communion M. R. Hoffmann-de Vismc.

Les services se tiendront à nouveau dans l'église, presque terminée, à partir du Dimanche 6 Juillet.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 6 Juli 11 Uhr morg.: Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

Während der Ferien des Gemeinde Pfarrers wird Herr Pfarrer Walter Pfenninger aus Zürich ihn vertreten. Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen sind an Herrn Pfarrer Pfenninger, Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford place, zu richten. Die Abend Gottesdienste fallen während der Monate Juli und August aus.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, August 1st, from 3 to 9 p.m.—FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION, at the Rifle Range, Hendon.

Thursday, August 28th, at 8 p.m.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE and SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Lecture by Professor Dr. C. Schröter of Zurich with over 100 coloured lantern slides on "Naturschutz in der Schweiz und der Schweizerische National Park," at King George's Hall. Admission free.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice every Saturday and Sunday at the Range (see advert).

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