

Editor's postbag

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

55th ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL
OF THE
SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB).

On Friday, the 20th April, a large number of members and friends of the "Schweizerbund" gathered together at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, for the Club's Annual Dinner and Ball. These functions, proving as they do, to be occasions of much enjoyment amidst homely surroundings, are always looked forward to, and the one under review was no exception to the rule.

Enlivened by stirring music provided by Dick Payne's Band, 120 members and friends sat down to an excellent and well-chosen dinner, for which credit must be given to Mr. and Mrs. Rossier, the Club's new Steward and Stewardess. To further the homeliness of the evening, a number of Swiss songs were most effectively rendered by Mrs. Aebersold, and yodels sung by Mr. Duebelbeiss were much appreciated and applauded by the gathering.

In the absence of the Swiss Minister, Mr. C. R. Paravicini, Mr. De Jenner, Counsellor of Legation, kindly consented to take the chair. Unhappily, owing to indisposition, the President of the Club, Mr. J. Christen, was unable to attend, but the Vice-President of the Club ably officiated in his stead. Among the delegates of the Swiss societies were those from the Unione Ticinese, the Union Helvetia, the Swiss Mercantile Society, the Secours Mutuel, the Swiss Orchestral Society, and the Swiss Gymnastic Society.

In accordance with the usual custom, Mr. De Jenner rose to propose the toast to H.M. the King, followed by the toast to Switzerland, after which the Vice-President, Mr. H. Caluori, presented the following address:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and honour to extend to you, on behalf of the Committee of our Club, a very hearty welcome to our Annual Dinner. Especially would I like to express my most sincere thanks to Mr. De Jenner, who has kindly consented to take the chair and to represent the Swiss Minister at this function.

When looking round the room, it gives me pleasure to see a great many very old, beloved, honorary members, and members of the Club with their friends.

It is with a light heart and happy feeling that on this evening my pleasant duty on behalf of the Committee, is to inform you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the financial position of the Club has greatly improved. In fact, most of you are aware that on our last balance sheet ending 1933 a profit was made.

For some years the Club has had rather a difficult time in trying to keep above water, but at last, in my estimation, it is safe to say that with changes made, prospects are more rosy. It is somewhat like the Budget; it has established a new spirit of hope and confidence.

I wish to thank you, once more, for your kind support and co-operation in the past, and I ask and invite you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to please support the Swiss Club in the future. This Club has always been considered a Home from Home, and I can assure you that you can always have a jolly good evening here, especially the ladies; as we men well know, where there are no ladies, there is no fun.

I believe I am right in saying that I have your whole-hearted support in passing a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Rossier for the excellent arrangements and splendid dinner served this evening, also the artists who entertained at our concerts voluntarily.

Mr. De Jenner, with well-chosen words, replied as under:—

The Swiss Minister's absence this evening is due to the fact that, owing to an unfortunate attack of "grippe," he had to delay his journey to Switzerland, where he is still detained. However, his loss is my gain, and I would like to tell you how pleased I am to have the honour of addressing you to-night, and how much I thank you for your very kind reception.

I must congratulate you on having arranged such a very pleasant evening, in spite of the general bad times. It is a great satisfaction for me to see that the British optimism which was mainly responsible for the overcoming of the crisis in this country, has also infected you! It would be a great thing if the optimism of the Swiss in England could spread to our compatriots in the old country, who, I am sometimes afraid, lack somewhat this kind of spirit, even though they have other qualities that may help them to achieve what Great Britain has already achieved. In any case, let us accept the gift, no matter where it comes from.

I am confident that the happy turn of the tide brought about by the new Budget will lighten the burden which every one of you has

had to bear, and that it will not be long before the joy you must all be experiencing is also felt in our own country.

It is in this hope that I wish you the very best success in the future and give you the toast: Switzerland and the "Schweizerbund."

The semi-official part of the dinner having come to a conclusion, members and friends danced merrily until 2 a.m., by which time the customary and highly appreciated onion soup arrived, and so concluded a most enjoyable and successful evening. *Im.*

ANNUAL CONCERT
Swiss Choral Society
and
Swiss Institute Orchestral Society.

The happy month of May is once again in sight, and nature has put on its best garments, the tender green of fields and the blossoming trees make the heart jump for joy. Winter with its dreary days has departed, and joy and sunshine have entered into our hearts. Even the London policemen have discarded their winter "furs," a sure sign that Spring in its full glory has at last arrived.

Can the beautiful spring time be heralded in better than on *Wings of songs*, or *Strings of harps*?

We learn that the above-mentioned Societies have combined their forces, to give their Annual Concert, on Thursday, May 10th, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.

Both these institutions need hardly any introduction; they are known to most of us, they have gladdened our hearts on many occasions, they have given us untold hours of delight. Many a heavy and sad heart has received a new impulse, a new lease of that *joie de vivre* which is such a necessary stimulant in these grey times.

To many of our compatriots, who, through one reason or another, are unable to visit the green hills of our beloved country, this evening will bring back cherished memories of long ago. The choir has been successful in arranging a very attractive programme of Swiss Folk songs, and only discretion prevents me from disclosing the various items already here, but when I heard of all the unpretending, but lovely songs with which the audience will be regaled, I made up my mind not to miss this opportunity to hear them, whatever happens.

I give no secret away if I disclose the fact that the orchestra has been equally successful in presenting a very excellent bill of fare. There will be a lively march to wake us up from our winter slumber, at least two "overtures" will delight the opera enthusiasts, and a valse will make all the flappers feel "dreamy" and love-sick.

There is a most enjoyable evening in store for the members of the Swiss Colony, and I sincerely trust that both the Choral and Orchestral Society can register a "full house." I consider it almost a duty for everyone to attend, in view of the fact that both societies have given their help to so many functions in the Colony, without any pecuniary reward, is it too much to ask that they should now reap the benefit of their unselfish collaboration?

Therefore keep your date free on May the 10th and join the happy pilgrimage to Conway Hall; you will not regret it. *ST.*

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY
Conductor: Mr. Eric A. Seymour, F.R.C.O.
and
SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY
Conductor: Mr. E. P. Dick.

ANNUAL CONCERT

under the Patronage of the Swiss Minister,
Monsieur C. R. PARAVICINI,

Thursday, the 10th MAY, 1934

at

Conway Hall
Red Lion Square, W.C.1

Start of Concert 8.50 p.m. sharp.

TICKETS at 2/ (incl. tax) can be obtained from Mr. John Gerber and Mr. E. P. Dick, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.; Mr. A. Stauffer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Telephone Clerkenwell 9595), or any member of the two Societies.

LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

Though the official weather forecast was none too promising, last Sunday turned out an ideal day for shooting practice. The attendance at Bisley is still increasing, but the firing of some of the old members proved somewhat erratic. The social functions which took place in the Colony during last week were no doubt responsible for this temporary forfeiture of efficiency.

The honours of the day go to Alf. Schmid with a record score of 56; J. Haesler and W. Fischer scored 52 each.

Of the six series shot off by Alfred Schmid, only one missed the "Kranz"; the same applied to P. Hilfiker. Other "Kranz" winners were J. Haesler (3), W. Fischer (3), J. Deubelbeiss (2), H. Senn (2), E. Notter (1), and P. Odermatt (1).

Ample advantage was taken of a competition on equal terms for three attractive prizes. The score of two previously declared series was the basis. Alfred Schmid was an easy winner with 106, second and third prizes falling to W. Fischer and J. Haesler with 102 each. A similar competition, but with handicaps based on the above results, has now been fixed for the next meeting. The following are the points credited per series to the former competitors, Alfred Schmid being scratch: W. Fischer and J. Haesler 2 each, P. Hilfiker 4.5, J. Deubelbeiss 8.5, H. Senn 10, J. M. Hess 11, Arn. Schmid 13, E. Notter 14.5, J. C. Fennel 17 and E. Fuchs 23.

The next shooting practice will take place at Bisley on Sunday, May 6th.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the above association was held on Thursday, April 19th, at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1. We hope to publish a full report of the proceedings in a future issue.

EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,

With reference to your recent remarks in the "Swiss Observer" about the out-of-date naturalisation laws in Switzerland, I beg to enclose a copy of a recent issue of the "Die Front," dealing with an edifying naturalisation case.

It might be worth your while to bring this case to the notice of the readers of the "Swiss Observer," as it will show them the levity with which the naturalisation question is still being handled, especially by the Swiss Socialists, who evidently require no moral qualifications for their candidates to Swiss citizenship. Some readers may also find an explanation in this case, why the "Fronten" movement has arisen in Switzerland, where Swiss citizenship still remains on the list of cheap Swiss goods for foreign buyers.

Yours faithfully,
E. W.

From a report of the "Budgetdebatte in Zürcher Gemeinderat", "Die Front", 20. März 1934:—

... Beim Einbürgerungsgesuch eines gewissen Strobel meldet sich Kd. Knecht. Er protestiert prinzipiell dagegen, dass Ausländer am laufenden Band eingebürgert werden. Mit welchen Elementen uns das rote Zürich dabei beschert, zeigt dieser Fall: Strobel war (alles nach den Akten) ursprünglich Deutscher, dann Franzose, 1907 zum ersten Male in Strafuntersuchung, 1913 in Zürich in Weiberaffären verwickelt, im Kriege Deserteur, 1919 als "unerwünschter Ausländer" des Landes verwiesen, 1921-27 verschiedentlich bestraft wegen falschem Hoteleintrag und dergleichen. Ein erstes Einbürgerungsgesuch war 1899 in Basel abgewiesen worden, ein zweites 1932 in Zürich. Wahrlich ein netter zukünftiger Eidgenosse, für den wir dem roten Zürich zu Dank verpflichtet sind. Kd. Knecht beantragt Abweisung des Gesuches. Peinliches Schweigen auf allen Bänken, endlich beantragt ein Sozi, um nicht der Nationalen Front ganz recht geben zu müssen Rückweisung an die Kommission zu erneutem Studium, und die rote Mehrheit setzt dies denn auch durch. Dr. Häberlin aber hatte Annahme des Antrages von Kr. Knecht beantragt. Der N.F. gebühre Dank, diesen Fall aufgedeckt zu haben, überhaupt schade es nicht, wenn die Einbürgerungen wieder mit etwas mehr Ernst behandelt würden als auch schon. Und wenn eine Freisinniger dergleichen sagt, so muss es schon stimmen, dass die N.F. einen neuen und ernsthaften Geist in den Ratsaal gebracht hat!"

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
at every meal—for Health!