

# City Swiss Club

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## NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

The new Committee, or should it be the old Committee or the new old Committee, has started the season in a blaze of glory, and if it can be taken as a presage of things to come, this season will be one of the most successful the Club has ever known. Now the reason for this enthusiasm is as follows. On Tuesday, May 8th, the first monthly meeting was held at Mr. Pagani's, and instead of the usual business, we were invited to a "Soirée familiale," to which ladies were welcomed, and at which Mr. Tschiffeli had promised to give us a talk about his wonderful exploits on horseback through the three Americas, a talk which was to be illustrated by lantern slides, after which dancing was to take place until the mystic hour of midnight struck on Big Ben's deputy. This programme sounds almost as complicated as my last sentence; but what a success!

Over one hundred and forty members and guests were present.

After the usual toasts had been drunk, Mr. Senn called upon Mr. Tschiffeli, who kept us enthralled for over an hour. I would willingly have listened to him for another hour, so interesting was he, and I would willingly have watched many more slides, of which he informed us the ones he showed formed only a small proportion. Mr. Tschiffeli is a born lecturer, and he has the rare faculty of condensing his matter so that interest never flags, and when he had finished, one could only wish that he was about to start. I have seen many travel films and listened to many travel lectures, but never have I heard so thrilling an account of high adventure as was given to us that evening.

I suppose everyone knows about Mr. Tschiffeli's exploits, but I cannot help saying a few words, in case there should be someone who is ignorant thereof. All alone, with two horses, he travelled from Buenos Ayres through South America, over the Andes, through Central America, and through North America to Washington. I think that what he left unsaid was almost more pregnant than what he actually did say. The difficulties he had to overcome would have baffled almost any other man.

I still can hear his words about the Andes: "As one toils over the mountain passes, one wishes one was down in the valleys, and as soon as one is in the valley, one wishes oneself back on the mountain top." The extremes of temperature on these equatorial ranges must have been trying beyond description. Bitterly cold on the mountain, and a steaming, moist, tropical heat in the valley. Flies on the mountain and mosquitoes in the valley. Little to eat for man and practically nothing for a horse. Ever-

It was only in the case of complications of Switzerland with foreign parts that British influence was benevolently exerted. Morier himself described his activity in Switzerland in the following words: "It is true that the Government of Great Britain, by reason of its position and of the unchangeable benevolence of its policy, has been looked upon by all parties and governments in Switzerland with complete trust in the case of complications with the negotiations with Sardinia, Austria and France about the Polish refugees in Savoy, the German refugees, the French spy, Conseil, and Louis Napoleon, brought with them, and the solution of which was much lightened by British influence." The value which was placed upon this influence was especially shown in an internal matter — the petition made in 1845 by the Bernese government that the British Legation should intervene first to bring about the speedy release by Lucerne of the captured "Volunteers," and then to rescue Dr. Steiger, of Lucerne, their chief, from capital execution.

In 1845 Metternich was again pressing for a joint intervention of the Powers "to rescue poor Switzerland, which was in a state of social disorganisation." He asserted as his justification, just as in 1832, the Treaties of 1815, which pre-supposed the undiminished sovereignty of the 22 cantons, a sovereignty which was continually being violated by the Radicals. Austria could count, as usual, on Prussia and Russia. Even Louis Philippe and his minister, Guizot, transferred their dislike of the Radicals in their own country to the Radicals in Switzerland, and made visible approaches to Austria, though they hesitated to accept Metternich's proposal for a joint intervention. Instead of this, Guizot induced Lord Aberdeen, Foreign Secretary in Peel's ministry, to take the lead in a gentle warning to the Swiss. On February 11th, 1845, Aberdeen sent to Morier a despatch meant to be circulated. This described the danger of a dissolution of the Pact of 1815 to the cause of Swiss neutrality, and expressed the hope that

lasting mountain ranges to pass, rivers to be crossed, and when they could not be crossed, the only thing to do was to swim across, first with one horse and then with the other. Hunger and thirst and disease. Danger from man and danger from animals. In spite of every conceivable difficulty, he achieved his object. Buenos Ayres to Washington! A glance at the map will give you some idea of the distance, but distance was the least of the problems to be overcome. To add to his troubles, he apparently ran into a revolution in one of the Central American states.

I fear I can hardly do justice to the subject, and not only did the lecturer keep us spellbound with the account of his adventures, but he showed us a most extraordinarily interesting series of photographs which he took with a small camera, and which I understand were afterwards enlarged to lantern size in Washington. These slides were coloured and gave a vivid impression of many of the places through which he passed and of the different tribes and races which he encountered. Among some of the most beautiful were views of the mountain passes of the Andes.

A wonderful achievement, and I am sure every Swiss present was proud to feel that it had been done by one of his countrymen.

The lecture came to an end all too soon, and the rest of the evening was given over to the joys of dancing. I have described the dances at the City Swiss Club so often that I think I will say no more about this one, except that it was a great success.

Our President, Mr. Senn, is to be congratulated most heartily on the success of the evening, and if he has failed to infuse new blood into the Committee, he certainly did so so far as the programme for a meeting was concerned.

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## LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

Bisley Camp, surrounded by Surrey hills, was at its best last Sunday, and those of the members who came along with their families were able to enjoy picnicking under ideal conditions.

The attendance was good, but not sufficient advantage is taken of the fact that practice may commence at nine in the morning. Most of the members arrived late, due in some measure to one of the cars having become a "hospital case."

Nearly all the participants went in for competition shooting, and the handicap points produced somewhat freakish results. The best series were scored by Alfred Schmid and W. Fischer, with 53 each, but the points credited to the "also ran" constituted a heavy penalty. In the same way the best averages in the competition series went to W. Fischer (51), Alf. Schmid (49), and J. M. Hess (49), but the first

the cantons would advise the ruling canton, Lucerne, to solve the questions which were troubling Switzerland by the legal methods prescribed in the Pact of 1815, and not by the use of physical force. This courteously worded warning of England against the "Volunteer rioters" in Switzerland was regarded as harmless; but a note from Guizot, dated March 3rd, by reason of its imperious tone, was sharply criticised, both in the Diet and in the Press, as a non-permissible intervention, so that the later notes of the eastern Powers attracted relatively little attention.

However, a certain amount of agreement between the Powers seemed to have been attained; and Metternich desired to strike while the iron was hot. On May 20th, 1845, he proposed to Guizot to make the following declaration: that the Five Powers would regard the destruction of the Pact of 1815, whether openly executed or under the cloak of a majority vote of the Diet, as an act which annulled the guarantee of Swiss neutrality. Guizot negotiated with Aberdeen, who replied that England would take no part in any campaign in favour of the Jesuits; and so Metternich's plan fell to the ground for the time being.

The nearer the danger for the Sonderbund approached, the busier were the Continental diplomats in working in its favour. In September, 1846, Metternich put forth a definite programme, according to which the intervention of the Powers was to be made step by step; first that, when the position of capital should pass to Berne, then dominated by the "Chiefs of the Volunteers," all the envoys should publicly leave Berne; then that identical notes of the Powers should be issued to threaten Berne; and, finally, that armed intervention should follow. Louis Philippe and Guizot drew back, in consideration of public opinion in France, from such radical measures, preferring to support the Sonderbund with weapons that could be smuggled in.

But from London Metternich received a plan and definite answer. In July, 1846, the Tory

prize was secured by J. Deubelbeiss with an average of 47.5, the second by F. Notter with 48.5, and the third by W. Krucker with 46.5, which latter, with one exception, was the lowest competition average of the day.

The new handicap points have been calculated on the actual scores of the previous competitions, and should exhibit the relative performance of the members. W. Fischer is now scratch and the following points are credited to: Alf. Schmid 0.3, J. C. Wetter 1.6, J. M. Hess 1.7, P. Hilfiker 3, O. Brullhard 4.3, H. Senn 4.8, F. Notter 5, W. Krucker 5.1, J. Deubelbeiss 5.5, Arn. Schmid 8.8, J. C. Fenner 17.7, and E. Fuchs 18.1.

The next shooting practice takes place on Sunday, the 27th inst., in the morning only, i.e., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## ARTHUR LOUIS FRAISSARD.†

We deeply regret to inform our readers of the death of Arthur Louis Fraissard, who lost his life in a French air liner last week.

Born at Couvet (Neuchâtel) in 1895, he came to London in 1919, where he spent some time at the Swiss Bank Corporation; there he gained useful experience and a clear outlook on economic subjects.

Then the watch trade called him, and he became the English representative of that world famous horologist, Paul Ditisheim, who greatly appreciated his services. Later he launched out into broader fields, and "carried" fine watches of other Swiss manufacturers, as well as those of "P.D.'s."

In October, 1929, he joined the Zenith Watch Company (Great Britain), where in time he became a co-director with Mr. Roost; on the retirement of the latter in February this year, Mr. Fraissard became sole director.

Mr. Fraissard was a keen business man and was greatly appreciated in the trade. He was a man of infinite charm, and he will be greatly missed by his friends. Owing to extensive travelling for his firm, Mr. Fraissard was unable to play an active part in the Swiss Colony, but he was a member of the City Swiss Club since 1920.

Mr. Fraissard leaves a widow, to whom we express our deepest sympathy in her tragic loss.

Ministry of Peel and Aberdeen had given way in England to a Whig Ministry, with Lord John Russell as Prime Minister and Lord Palmerston as Foreign Secretary. The new British Cabinet stood alone in understanding and sympathising with the efforts of Liberal Switzerland. Moreover, the great British historian of Greece, George Grote, during his stay in Switzerland in 1847, showed his sympathy in the excellent letters he published in the "Spectator" about Swiss affairs, which he depicted in quite another light than that in which they were shown in the half-official Press of Germany and France.

Palmerston had also his special reasons for frustrating the Swiss policy of Metternich and of Guizot. At the end of 1846 France destroyed the Entente between the two western Powers by the breach of faith shown by the double "Spanish marriages," of the Spanish Queen, Isabella, with the Bourbon Francesco de Assisi, and of her sister with the Duke of Montpensier, Louis Philippe's son, through which the French King hoped to secure a preponderating influence in Spain.

On November 6th, 1846, Austria, speculating on the ruin of the Entente, annexed the republic of Cracow, the last remnant of independent Poland, and expected to evade the objections raised by England with impunity. But Palmerston was not the man to allow himself to be treated in this fashion. He paid back both Louis Philippe for the Spanish marriages, and Austria for the annexation of Cracow, by supporting the Liberals and Radicals in Switzerland, who were opposed by those two Powers. In principle he was for the non-intervention of the Powers in Swiss affairs. But, instead of simply standing aside, he did more and what was better for Switzerland. Apparently agreeing to the plans of the other Cabinets, he managed, by skill and good fortune, to get into his hands the leadership of the campaign against Switzerland, to blunt its edge, and to delay it till it came too late.

(To be continued.)