

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

"A TRAVERS LA SUISSE."

What a week-end! What an orgy of patriotic Displays! it started on Friday evening when Mlle. Alice Briod was entertained by a company of about 60 members of the Colony at the Foyer Suisse, on which occasion the participants were privileged to listen to two remarkable addresses, one by Monsieur de Jenner, Counsellor of Legation, who was in the Chair, and the other by Mlle. Briod the guest of honour. —

On Saturday afternoon the Nouvelle Société Helvétique held another of their celebrated film shows, entitled "A Travers la Suisse." These performances are by now some of the star turns in the Colony, and should they, for one reason or another, be discontinued, they would be sadly missed. —

The same evening the City Swiss Club held one of their equally famous Cinderella Dances at the Mayfair Hotel, where about 180 members and guests made themselves merry and bright.

And what a remarkable foresight of organisation!! we Swiss are truly marvellous, where, I ask my readers, could you find such a splendid body of men, who could crowd into 24 hours three such magnificent functions? Having had to attend everyone of them, I was on the verge of a collapse on arriving home, but what do the sufferings of an editor count, as long as the ball is kept rolling. But perhaps one fine day this splendid body of men, will put their wise heads together, and make arrangements, so that a clash can be avoided, which would be beneficial not only to your reporter, but also to the various institutions concerned. I understand that some feeble efforts have been made in the past, unfortunately without success; the unity of which we sing in our patriotic songs and which are advocated by every after dinner speaker at our numerous functions has, not yet reached the social domains. —

The film show was opened by a short address by our popular Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, thanking the N.S.H. once again for having presented the Colony with such a fine entertainment, he also introduced to the audience, Mlle. Briod, who, as one of the secretaries of the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, is closely connected with these shows.

The lights were then lowered and the performance began with various scenes from the carnival at Basle. What a pity one could not hear the sounds of the famous "Trommeln," these instruments looked most impressive. I nearly had a shock when I saw a chariot which was full of men dressed as apes, and it was announced that these were members of the "Affenklub," I felt much relieved to notice that the proud City of Basle also harbours such species; as some of my friends, on various occasions have acquainted me with the fact, that the biggest "Affen" could be found in Basle. — "One lives and learns." The next picture took us to Zurich, where the burning of the "Bögg" at the "Sechseläuten" was in progress; various groups from the cortège were shown with hundreds of boys and girls in various period costumes, and when the "Bögg," suspended from a high pole began to catch fire and finally exploded, one of my friends nearby, who hails from the borders of the Limmatt nearly collapsed from sheer excitement.

Then came a most impressive picture from the last Federal Gymnastic Festival, depicting the "Freibungen" executed by several thousand gymnasts, a wonderful sight indeed; we also witnessed the crowning of the various standards with laurel wreaths, by pretty ladies dressed in white.

Leaving the big town, we were transported to the picturesque town of Gruyère, where a "Alp Aufzug" was shown. Gruyère boasts to have some of the finest cattle in the world, those shown were splendid specimens, all ornamented with huge bells. A group of old bearded "montagnards" caused some hilarity especially amongst the younger members of the audience, and one young fellow behind me shouted saucily "beaver," with the result that he was promptly informed by his indignant father, that another such remark would cut the performance short as far as he was concerned, and yet the poor boy was right; as a matter of fact, I had exactly the same "inspiration," but I was too shy to give vent to my feelings. —

I was just going to have a little sleep, when a dig into my ribs, brought me back, it was administered to me by an old friend of mine who hails from the same city as myself, and the cause of this gentle dig, which nearly knocked me out, was a picture of the "Zibelemärit" (onion market) in Basle, which is one of the great events in my native town. Well do I remember how I arrived home one day, decorated with a row of onions, which weighed me down to such an extent, that I settled down for the night out-

side my paternal front door; awakened at dawn by a terror stricken maid, who thought that I had given up the ghost, finally to be carried inside, onions and all. — Happy memories!!

The "Zeitglockenturm" with its wonderful clock work brought back to me a host of old remembrances.

Scenes from the "vendange" on one of the shores of our lakes were most interesting, we witnessed the picking of the delicious grapes, and the pressing of them. Seeing the juice running away in little streamlets, most of the spectators felt suddenly very thirsty and restless, but the agony was soon relieved when the next picture showed a party of men "gorging" over a dish of "Raclette," which is a kind of creamy cheese, and which I was informed is a very popular valaisan speciality, and all those who felt previously thirsty suffered now pangs of hunger. These were most trying moments and a sigh of relief went through the Hall when various models of clocks and clock-work articles were thrown on the screen. Next we visited the "Tir Fédéral" at Fribourg, and many a heart beat quicker amongst those of our London Swiss, who last year visited this festival with such splendid results.

Most impressive was the picture of the "Laudsgemeinde" in Glaris, then cantonal Parliament which takes place in the open.

This was followed by some wonderful pictures of the high alps, the Matterhorn in its majestic glory, the Weisshorn, the Dufourspitze, the Gornegrat surrounded by miles of silvery glaciers, an unforgettable sight. Then we paid a visit to the famous Grimsel "Stausee," a masterpiece of technical achievement, the Barberine Electric Power Station with its awe inspiring turbines. Next the manufacturing of cables was shown and the erecting of the world famous electric locomotives which speed through the large tunnels carrying their precious loads at high speeds.

The show finished with some lovely pictures of the Wallis and the Loetschental, awakening in many of us pangs of homesickness, and filling the hearts with an immense longing to visit this earthly paradise once again.

Mr. Suter, the vivacious and untiring President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique then said a few words, explaining the object which the Society has in view in presenting these pictures. He was followed by Mlle. Briod, who, excellent speaker as she is, gave a short *résumé* about the activities of the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger. Pasteur Hoffmann de Vismé also spoke a few words. The Hall was then cleared for the "second house." During the performance a great number of Swiss records were put in motion, they were put at the disposal of the Society by the courtesy of Mr. Newman, of 2, Lower Porchester Street, W.2, and to him goes not a small part of the success of this performance.

And so ended another film show, and the enthusiasm which was witnessed at the end of the performance was a striking proof, how much everybody enjoyed the wanderings through our beautiful little homeland. I wish to thank the Nouvelle Société Helvétique on behalf of all those who were present at St. George's Hall for having given us so much pleasure, and enjoyment, and may I be allowed to voice the wish that this institution will get the support, which they so richly deserve, of the members of the Colony, as a little thanks offering for all they have done in the past, and will do in the future.

ST.

LE CITY SWISS CLUB AU MAYFAIR.

Près de trois mois après le banquet annuel et bal si réussis à "Grosvenor House," la première soirée dansante du City Swiss Club cet hiver, tenue samedi dernier au "Mayfair," a eu elle aussi le plus franc succès. Il suffit de dire qu'il y avait foule, du moins pour une occasion de ce genre, au point que le Comité s'est vu obligé au dernier moment d'exercer l'option que la direction de l'hôtel avait heureusement pu lui offrir, soit d'utiliser au besoin le "Ballroom" plus spacieux, au lieu du "Garden Suite," scène des mêmes soirées dansantes de très agréable mémoire, tenues ces cinq ou six dernières années.

Aussi un certain air de surprise était-il visible auprès des habitués, qui cette fois n'eurent donc à faire cette longue et presque mystérieuse descente d'escaliers conduisant au "Jardin." D'aucuns l'auront sans doute regretté, car il y a une différence très frappante entre l'atmosphère de ce dernier et celle du "Ballroom." On a décrit autrefois à cette place ce ravissement qui vous envahit alors que l'on passe de la simple obscurité, on peut-être — comme il arrive parfois — de l'intempérie du dehors, à l'ambiance toute charmante, toute printanière de cette caverne des "Mille et une nuits," où les panneaux aux scènes champêtres, aux fleurs aux multiples couleurs, les colonnes au treillage vert vous offrent généreusement

ment le sourire, le parfum imaginaire de cette nature qui semble briller sous les rayons du soleil (qui pourtant ne pénètre jamais jusqu'à cette profondeur!); quoi l'essence même de la gaieté qui court tout autour de soi, y anime chacun et fait le succès des soirées dansantes du City Swiss Club au "Mayfair."

Dans la sombre dignité du "Ballroom," où un menuet ou un quadrille seraient tout à leur place, l'on ne pouvait s'attendre à trouver dans l'assemblée cette infectieuse légèreté de cœur: d'où cette surprise, ces regrets dont je parlais tout à l'heure et qui — je vous en demande pardon, chers lecteurs — ont emporté ma dissertation non pas sur les réalités de samedi dernier, mais bien vers un mirage, une vision enchantée d'autres jours. Cependant, il n'est que juste de dire l'aisance avec laquelle on put danser et, au fond, n'est-ce pas là chose essentielle?

L'orchestre Colombo, serviteur fidèle et si apprécié des fêtes du City Swiss Club, était là, d'abord pour dispenser ses airs mélodieux durant l'excellent dîner, y compris le fameux pot pourri des airs suisses dont le très sympathique maestro a, il y a quelques années, enrichi son vaste répertoire tout spécialement à l'intention du City Swiss Club. Ces quelques musiciens, renforcés un peu plus tard par les experts du rythme chorégraphique, surent entraîner les danseurs par leurs plus récents foxtrots, valse et même par une rumba, sans oublier ni les populaires "Paul Jones," ni la traditionnelle "spot dance." Disons encore à ce sujet que la sagesse d'un Comité averti avait fait prévenir l'orchestre de ne prolonger aucune — j'ai dit aucune — danse au delà d'un seul et unique bis. Cette question, toujours très discutée lors des assemblées des membres du Club après les soirées dansantes, ne peut qu'avoir été traitée cette fois à la satisfaction de tout le monde!

Bref, la dernière soirée dansante du City Swiss Club passe aux annales en laissant aux participants le souvenir agréable de quelques heures de délicieux délassement. Et les félicitations et remerciements de tous vont à pleines mains au dévoué Président et à l'Inlassable Secrétaire pour l'organisation minutieuse et pour la réussite parfaite de cette soirée.

J.Z.

RECEPTION OF THE N. S. H.
AT FOYER SUISSE.

For the first time since several years the London Group of the New Helvetic Society has had the pleasure of entertaining the representatives of all the Societies of our Colony at dinner and inviting a number of friends and sympathisers. The dinner, though of a very modest and intimate nature, served a threefold purpose of patriotic interest. In the first place the N. S. H. wished to give the members of our Colony an opportunity to meet the Secretary of the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, Mademoiselle Briod, who has come over from Basle with those beautiful mountain-films which were shown to our Colony on Saturday last. In the second place the gathering at the Foyer Suisse offered a most suitable occasion for a demonstration of our Colony in favour of the new law for strengthening the Swiss army. And thirdly the N. S. H. wished to reveal to the Colony a new plan for organising similar meetings every second month for the purpose of providing a suitable and intimate opportunity for discussion of current affairs in Switzerland.

Mlle. Briod was most heartily welcomed both by Mr. Suter, President of the N. S. H., and by Monsieur de Jenner, Counsellor of Legation, who honoured the company by his presence both as representative of the Legation and as an old and most active friend and member of the New Helvetic Society. In the course of an inspired *ex tempore* oration in French, M. de Jenner spoke with the highest appreciation of the important work performed by the New Helvetic Society as well as by the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger on behalf of our countrymen abroad. He reminded his hearers with justified pride that he himself has been founding and presiding two groups of the N. S. H. in the countries of his previous diplomatic appointments. M. de Jenner then turned his attention to the difficult situation and the political developments in Switzerland. He particularly referred to the new law for modernising and enlarging the Swiss defence services, deploring the fact that the Socialists have forced a plebiscite to be taken before the new law can be declared valid. The speaker had obviously the full consent of his hearers when he declared, that for any responsible countryman who has the future of Switzerland at heart there could be only one answer to this challenge: namely a resounding and overwhelming majority for the acceptance of the new law. M. de Jenner then proposed the following resolution which was loudly acclaimed by everyone present:

Bundespräsident Minger.

Bern.

"Die Gruppe London der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft und die übrigen Vertreter der

hiesigen Schweizerkolonie ersuchen mich einstimmig dem Schweizervolke gegenüber der Hoffnung Ausdruck zu geben dass dieses Volk am 24. Februar eingedenk seiner Vergangenheit Ihnen die Gefolgschaft nicht versagen und so einstimmig wie möglich seinem festen Willen Ausdruck verleihen möge die Geforderten Opfer im Interesse seiner Landesverteidigung zu bringen.

Paravicini.

The resolution was, after the meeting, telegraphed to the Federal Government by our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, in the name of our Colony.

Mlle. Briod gave, in a beautifully delivered lecture, an exhaustive account of the very responsible, difficult and extremely valuable work the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Étranger has been performing in the mutual interest of the Swiss abroad and our own country. The Secrétariat strives above all to strengthen and fructify the bonds between the home country and the Fourth Switzerland, which latter is of great value, and could be of even greater assistance, to the home country both as a pioneer for its products and its spiritual values and as a disinterested counsellor in the political, economic and social difficulties through which it is at present passing. Full extracts of Mlle. Briod's stimulating lecture will be published in a future issue of the "Swiss Observer."

As the last speaker Dr. H. W. Egli, the London representative of "Der Bund," after vigorously seconding M. de Jenner's resolution, issued to those present and the Colony at large a hearty invitation in the name of the N. S. H. to take a more active interest in the developments of affairs in Switzerland, and as an easy way to do so, to turn up in large numbers at the future evenings to be organised by the N. S. H. for the discussion of home affairs. The discussions which will take place every second month on the third Friday at the Foyer Suisse, preceded by a simple joint meal (inclusive charge 2s. 6d.) and a short introductory talk on the most recent problems that have arisen in Switzerland. The N. S. H. hopes that these meetings will become a regular platform for voicing the opinions of our Colony on the developments in Switzerland, as well as on problems concerning our Colony.

Dr. E.

UNIONE TICINESE.

Domenica, 17 febbraio a.c., l'Unione Ticinese tenne la sua prima Assemblea Generale Ordinaria dell'anno in corso con un modesto concorso di Soci.

Presiedeva il Vice Presidente, Signor Oscar Gambazzi, nella inevitabile assenza del Presidente, Signor Willie Notari.

Nessun commento sulla lettura del verbale della precedente Assemblea Generale e così pure il rapporto della Commissione per la Revisione dei Conti viene approvato all'unanimità. Il solerte Segretario, Signor Pietro De Maria, riferisce quindi dettagliatamente sull'attività svolta dal Sodalizio durante il decorso anno 1934, il sessantesimo dell'Unione Ticinese; ricorda i festeggiamenti e passa poi a giustificare ogni singola posta del conto gestione con una scrupolosità da fare invidia ad un banchiere.

Assolto il mandato, la Direzione per l'esercizio 1934 si dimette e si passa immediatamente alla nomina della nuova Direzione, la quale viene scelta come segue:

O. Gambazzi, *Presidente*;
G. Eusebio, *Vice Presidente*;
P. De Maria, *Segretario*;
U. Hanswirth, *Vice Segretario*;
C. Berti, *Cassiere*;
A. Moresi, *Esattore*;
G. Camozzi, *Membro*;
C. Donati, *Membro*;
E. Longhi, *Membro*;
R. Orelli, *Membro*;
C. Togni, *Membro*.

Il ritiro dalla Presidenza del Signor Willie Notari, che per ben sedici anni ricoprì la più alta carica dell'Unione in modo magistrale, va notato quale avvenimento di eccezionale importanza nella storia dell'Unione Ticinese. L'attività indefessa che spiegò con raro entusiasmo, gagliarda energia e fine spirito d'iniziativa gli varrà la gratitudine imperitura dell'intera Società. Nel perdere si valente timoniere — speriamolo soltanto temporaneamente — tuttavia l'Unione Ticinese può dirsi fortunata d'aver potuto contare su persona non meno degna di dirigerne i propri destini, l'arzilla Signor Oscar Gambazzi che conta circa mezzo secolo d'associazione con il Sodalizio del quale, com'è del resto noto, fu segretario per trent'anni e, da ultimo, l'istoriografo.

In una breve allocuzione, con voce commossa quasi, il neo eletto Presidente ringrazia per l'attestazione di fiducia di cui è stato fatto segno e con pacate parole traccia vividamente l'opera imponente del suo predecessore. Gli fanno eco nello stesso senso il Cassiere, Signor C. Berti, ed il Segretario, Signor P. De Maria.

Lunedì, 1 aprile p.v., fu proposto ed approvato quale data per il banchetto annuale,

mentre alla Direzione fu assegnato l'incarico di studiare e eventualmente organizzare un'escursione estiva sociale.

Esaurite in seguito altre trattative all'ordine del giorno di secondaria importanza, l'Assemblea è dichiarata chiusa.

eusj.

SHERRY PARTY AT THE LEGATION.

A Sherry Party was held at the Legation on Wednesday last, to meet Mlle. Briod, Secrétaire de l'office des Suisses à l'Étranger.

FOOTBALL.

17th February, 1935.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Lugano	6	Concordia	1
Carouge	0	Nordstern	2
Young Fellows	2	Grasshoppers	1
Locarno	1	Servette	1
Bern	5	Young Boys	0
Biel	4	Chaux-de-Fonds	1
Basel	0	Lausanne	1

Lausanne are once more back to the first rung of the league-ladder, thanks to Servette unexpectedly dropping a point in Locarno. Lugano keep third place, but Young Fellows jump over Grasshoppers and Basel to fourth. The local derby in Bern ended even more disastrously for the Y. B. than in the first round. Surprising, especially as Bern have not been nearly so good of late, as they were in the early part of the season.

The real surprise, however, was recorded in the *First League*. In the group East, Lucerne headed the table with 22 points from 12 games, 10 wins and 2 draws, the only undefeated club in the two top divisions of all Switzerland. They travelled to Bellinzona, the bottom club of the group, having won only once and a long time since; they retire well and truly beaten by three goals to nil! Wonders never cease; Lucerne are still very well placed, as the second club, St. Gall, has but 14 points safe in the locker though three games in hand. But they must not follow the example of Aarau, leaders in the western group. Aarau was running away with it, winning their first nine games off the reel; then they stumbled against Old Boys, lingering somewhere near the bottom of the list and, strange to say, Aarau has lost every game since. After 13 matches they still have only 18 points and both Olten and Grenchen are now within striking distance. The glorious uncertainty of football.

M.G.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, February 23rd, 1935 — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Annual Banquet and Ball at the Trocadero Restaurant, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.

Tuesday, March 5th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — preceded by dinner (7.15 sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W. (see advert.).

Saturday, March 16th, 7 o'clock sharp — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance at the May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Saturday, March 16th — Ice Hockey Match, (Swiss National Team v Wembley Canadians) at Wembley.

Monday, March 18th — Ice Hockey Match, (Swiss National Team v England) at Queen's Road Rink, Bayswater.

Wednesday, March 20th — Ice Hockey Match, (Swiss National Team v Streatham) at Streatham Ice Rink.

Wednesday, March 20th — at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, to be followed by a causerie by the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme on: Naples et les Suisses, at the "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, March 23rd — Swiss Club Birmingham — Annual Dinner and Ball — at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. (Reception 6h30, Dinner 7 o'clock.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que
L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE
aura lieu le 5 mars au Restaurant PAGANI,
42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée
d'un souper à 7 h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démonstrations
Admissions. | Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595)
Le Comité.

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Dimanche 24 Février 11h. — "Zachée," Luc. XIX

1-10. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6h.30 — M. le Past. U. Emery..

7h.30 — Répétition du Choeur.

Dimanche 3 Mars: M. Hoyois — Collecte en
faveur de l'Eglise Missionnaire belge.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Wilhelm Fritz Ringger, de Winterthur, né le 16
Mars 1898, décédé le 10 Février 1935 — le 14
Février 1935.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

Sonntag, den 24. Februar 1935.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntag-
schule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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