

Lembo ticinese

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other event which occupied the minds of people in Switzerland was the proposed crisis initiative which attempted to inflict new and heavy sacrifices on the various classes. Reassuring, though partly so, his reference to the intentions of financial and banking authorities at home with regard to their monetary policy. Far from doubting the determination with which all efforts to adhere to the gold standard will be pursued we are, nevertheless, alive to the fact that the odds look tremendous.

With a passing allusion to the diplomatic talks carried on by British Statesmen abroad, which he hoped would lead to general understanding and peace, M. De Bourg, concluded his interesting speech amid enthusiastic approval. He then read the following telegram from our Minister, just handed to him:

"Thoroughly disappointed not to be with you to-night to greet the members of the Unione Ticinese and to welcome my old friend Gambazzi

PARAVICINI."

The popular President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mr. A. F. Suter, responding to the principal toast, found so many good qualities in the Ticinesi as to lead one to believe that, had the earth been peopled exclusively with them, Utopia would be a reality, not a dream. His refreshing wit kept his amused audience bubbling over with mirth, he said:

Monsieur De Bourg, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When your genial President asked me to respond to the toast of the guests, I confess I accepted this honour with alacrity. Having been favoured with an invitation to your annual banquets for some years past, I have been itching for a long time to pay your Society a few well deserved compliments. I fear only one thing and that is that I might have to repeat what Mr. de Bourg has already said so well and so wittily, but I must not really miss this wonderful opportunity, in spite of your eagerness for the dance.

All who know the Unione Ticinese are agreed upon this fundamental truth:— that the Ticinesi are great patriots and have fine qualities. They are a hospitable race and amazingly generous in their benevolence; they have a keen sense of solidarity; they are earnest and thrifty workers and they all have a natural understanding for the fine arts. Out of a great profusion of historical proof of these qualities I would only mention two:— The famous architects and builders and stone workers of the middle ages, and so-called guilds of the "Comacini," whose genius has produced some of the most wonderful cathedrals and churches in Italy, Spain and elsewhere in Europe; and in our own times the vast fraternity of the great Restaurateurs, restorers of a different but no less pleasant type, spread all over the globe, wherever people can afford to eat rich foods and call in the doctor afterwards to correct any slight irregularity. Surely these are indications enough of the constructive and useful character of our friends, of so much greater benefit to the world than the genius of the destructive soldier. A telling proof of their exceptional thrift lies in the fact that of the total deposits of 45 million francs in the savings banks of the Canton Ticino in 1913, no less than nine tenths had been sent home by Ticinesi living abroad. An unexpected lesson for our Scotch friends!

Since that time, I fear, things have got worse and we all have become poorer, but you Ticinesi of London, you have not lost your quality. You follow instinctively the traditions of your forebears:— You stick together, you look after your sick and needy, you go on with the work and are bright and cheerful during the worst of times, you have big families and know how to bring them up in devotion and discipline, in fact, you are the best type of citizen Switzerland could desire. We transalpine, whom you have at times been tempted to call forestieri, as if we were the wild men of Borneo, have a tremendous admiration for you.

Now, after all these compliments, I hope you will not feel like the young widow whose husband had not been exactly all that a model husband ought to be. But he was dead now, and at the funeral service the parson painted him in purest white, extolling his high-mindedness, his devotion and his self-sacrifice. The widow listened for some time, then she turned to her young son in confusion and said:— "Johnny, I'm afraid I have come to the wrong funeral."

There is a toast that lives in the hearts of all of us, man, woman and child born in Switzerland, a toast that is an ineradicable part of our blood; happy the Swiss for whom this toast comes true after a useful life:—

Ai nostri monti ritorneremo,
L'antica pace ivi godremo.

Mr. President, I am delighted to express to you, on behalf of all the guests present, our grateful thanks for your magnificent hospitality and good-fellowship and I raise my glass to the long, happy and prosperous life of all those who constitute your splendid *Unione Ticinese di Londra*.

Mr. Arturo Meschini was then next called upon for his traditional "one minute speech" as he himself humourously described it, and was followed by Mr. Styles Allan, the prospective Mayor of the Borough of Marylebone, who said a few words on behalf of the English guests.

But the evening could not have been complete had not the retiring President, Mr. W. Notari, yielded to the persistent calls to address the diners. He candidly admitted that for the first time after sixteen years he had been able to enjoy the food and wine, entirely carefree.

Eloquence having completed its exceptionally long course, itching feet finally came into their due, spurred on by the quiet rhythm of an unobtrusive orchestra.

In an interval during the dance, Miss Maisie Griffiths executed a fan dance with efficiency and no lack of grace. Mr. Robert Harbin, on the other hand, proved himself a resourceful entertainer in convincing his audience that a lighted cigarette could be carried in one's waist-coat pocket with no evil consequences; that a cut piece of rope was really uncut, and that he knew by heart the first thousand pages of the London Telephone Directory, Whittaker's Almanac and English Dictionary; no mean feat at that.

In another break in the dance Mr. Gino Berni, propitiously turned up to regale us with Neapolitan "romanze." Sung with his wonted vigour, their languid rhythm conveyed the illusion of more idyllic if rustic surroundings—a "Grotto" lost in the shade of the chestnut trees, the cooling breezes rising from the lake below, and on the granite table, roughly hewn, the gaily decorated "quintini" filled to overflowing with the host's most treasured produce, the "nostrano"; to the eye an intense crimson, but slightly acrid to the palate.

To describe the ladies in any detail other than in such a general term as ravishing may be considered a piece of unmitigated churlishness. This will not be attempted. Their garrulous gaiety, rapturous charm and colourful toilettes gave the function an air of distinction, the hours unforgettable enjoyment.

The newly appointed Entertainment Committee, on whom this time the full responsibility for the organization fell, acquitted themselves of their arduous task in a commendable manner; the evening was an unqualified success and no higher praise was ever better deserved.

eu.sj.

PAGINE DI STORIA TICINESE.

Un nostro egregio collaboratore ci ha fatto gentile omaggio di un breve sunto della storia del Canton Ticino.

Ci lusinghiamo di fare cosa gradita ai nostri lettori riportandolo a puntate nelle nostre colonne. Le prima puntata apparirà in un prossimo numero.

Ed.

LEMBO TICINESE.

Voce fatta di mille voci, quella del lago infrangentesi contro la riva, spruzzando le alghe, le felci e le svelte imbarcazioni, civettuole, così come sono tutte gaiamente dipinte a nuovo. Anch'esse, le barche, aspettano che il tepore primaverile faccia comparire a Lugano i forestieri— questi benedetti forestieri che rappresentano il pane quotidiano per molti. Gli alberghi pure aprono i loro battenti, spalancano i portoni dove sono lì impalati i portieri in livrea. Ma gli alberghi sono numerosi, troppi anzi, si può dire che è tutto il lungo-lago un susseguirsi di alberghie ristoranti. Tutti belli. Tutti con ogni comodità. E quel forestiere che tarda ad accorgersi che a Lugano il clima è ora mite, l'aria balsamica, la natura invitante! S'accoggerà, invece forse che il suo borsellino è verdeggiante (come si sa, il verde è il colore preferito dei borsellini, delle tasche vuote!). Qualcuno c'è, ma non basta! Ed ora anche il vicino Campione è chiuso. Intendiamo bene, non il borgo di Campione, ma il suo Casinò che lo rendeva famoso e che attirava così tanta gente, ammalandola con la speranza di una grossa vincita! Per riflesso, Lugano, ne guadagnava. Chi, dal vicino Regno andava a Campione, faceva pure una visita alla Regina del Ceresio, facendo scorta di sigarette e cioccolata, e cercando poi d'evadere quel cerbero d'una dogana italiana! Ma, veramente, la stagione è ancora molto giovane, e c'è tempo ancora per i forestieri d'arrivare, verranno con le rondini anch'essi! Intanto ci sono i cigni che cercano un posto calmo e sereno per crearvi il loro nido, e le autorità a raccomandare di non disturbarli. Chi pare prosperi mica male sono le cliniche— ne sorgono numerose in questi tempi, vastissime,

eleganti e frequentatissime, a volte sono più che al gran completo— quella di S. Anna, di S. Rocco, di Moncucco, di Viarnetto, tutte in posizioni incantevoli, però... meglio ammirarle sudose all'esterno! Internamente è da preferirsi visitare il Museo Villa Ciani, anch'esso appena riaperto o il famoso Castello di Trevano, che rappresenta l'eterna questione luganese; cosa farne di questo castello con tanto terreno intorno, con tanto sfarzo, con tanta storia (un po' romanzata anche!)? Meglio visitare Via Nassa con i suoi negozi che sfoggiano ogni ben di Dio; eleganti e civettuoli— meglio salire sul S. Salvatore, sul Monte Bré, le cui funiculari da qualche giorno ripresero le corse, e dalle rispettive vette spaziare lo sguardo laggù, lontano... sorvolare le cose terrene, le piccinerie umane, respirare tra cielo e monte, l'aria pura, monda d'ogni male... dimenticare di vivere, per sognare; dimenticare la crisi economica che si fa sentire anche nel Ticino, per quanto in tono minore che negli altri cantoni svizzeri; dimenticare certe marache che capitano a palazzo governativo, ove alcuni impiegati con le loro malefatte gettano un'ombra nera su quelle mura che dovrebbero racchiudere un'atmosfera quasi impeccabile. Anche nel nostro piccolo cantone purtroppo succedano truffe in grande stile degne delle lontane cosmopolite metropoli, e qualche furto è perpetrato anche da noi, che ha in se quasi i caratteri di quelli di New York e Chicago... ma meglio non parlare di questo, meglio tuffarsi nel sereno del lago anche se il tuffo è semplicemente fatto con il pensiero!

E.G.L.

THE ICE-HOCKEY CLUB DAVOS IN ENGLAND.

After having played a beautiful draw against Wembley Canadians, as reported in the last No. of the Swiss Observer, the Ice Hockey Club Davos met last Wednesday the British League champions Streatham, on their home rink. The game was from the start to the end terrific. Our countrymen, who had, before this match, a few days' rest, were in a shape where nothing could go wrong. The British champions pushed the pace from the very beginning, hoping to tire out Davos, who were playing only with two spares instead of a complete forward line of three, but Davos responded to this without ever slacking down at all. The combination between Torriani and the two brothers Cattini was as good as anything demonstrated by Canadian representatives in the last few years. The defence was very efficient too, and the goalkeeper saved many dangerous situations. The play in the opponents' camp was worthy of their title as British League champions. The smart work of the goalkeeper gained special admiration. Davos scored first and they could manage to keep one goal ahead of Streatham until the end. The final score being 3:2 for Davos.

The following day, Thursday, Davos faced their last opponents the Wembley Lions at Wembley. Some 10,000 spectators filled the arena, amongst them Madame Paravicini with a party of distinguished sportsmen including the Olympic champion Lord Burleigh, the Air Minister, Lord Londonderry with Lady Londonderry and daughter, and the man who flew over Mount Everest, Lord Clydesdale. I would like to express to Madame Paravicini herewith the warmest thanks on behalf of the Ice-Hockey Club Davos for having them thus honoured. The play was, using the words of a daily paper, one of the most hectic of all Ice-Hockey matches of this season. The pace was top speed throughout, bringing additional thrills every second. Davos took over an early lead and towards the end of the second period they were leading 3 goals to 1. An additional goal by Davos was cancelled, with the explanation that it touched the player's hand. The protest of the scorer, Torriani, was of no use. This, with a few other well justified disagreements with the referee, broke the spirits of our National champions, and from here onwards everything went wrong. The game finished with 5 to 9 goals for Wembley Lions. Eberle, the Davos goalkeeper, was not in good shape, but considering that he played with a broken thumb, one has to make him great allowances. The Davos forward line, with Cattini I centre, and Torriani and Cattini II on the wings, has been declared by a Canadian authority as the best forward line on this side of the Atlantic, equal to any Canadian line. Even in their defeat I think that they gave us ample proof for this compliment. On defence were Geromini I, the eldest Swiss player, who will be 40 years old on his next birthday, and Badrutt, a youngster who did very useful work for Switzerland in the recent World Championships. As spares were present Buchli, young in years but a veteran in experience, and Geromini II, a promising young player. It may be interesting to know that the Swiss National Team which gained the European Championships and was placed 2nd to Canada in the World Championships at the beginning of this year, is made up principally of players mentioned above.

So ended the Tourné of the Ice-Hockey Club Davos in England. One draw, one win and one