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LA FESTA ANNUALE DELLA COLONIA SVIZZERA A LONDRA.

Ieri sera, 27 Giugno, si celebrò la 66ma. festa della colonia svizzera a Londra nella spaziosissima Central Hall di Westminster.

Questa data che raccoglie la gran famiglia svizzera attorno al vessillo federale, fu inaugurata già nel 1862 da un piccolo gruppo di benivolenti, allo scopo di riunirsi una volta all'anno come bravi figli di una sola madre.

Da piccolo gruppo, nel corso degli anni, la "Festa Svizzera" che abbraccia ogni società svizzera di Londra, si sviluppò notevolmente e si organizzò, allo scopo di beneficiare i fratelli meno fortunati, abitanti la Metropoli.

Un comitato di uomini volenterosi, entusiasti nell'ideale loro di far divertire beneficiando, raduna ogni anno i figli Elvetici, in una serata musicale, splendida e popolare.

Invitati alla fraterna celebrazione di questa data annuale, siamo accorsi numerosi a rendere omaggio di Fede, di Amore alla nostra patria, di riconoscenza ai fedeli ed intrepidi organizzatori ed agli artisti scelti che si prestano di buon grado.

Non mai forse come in questi tempi difficili la nostra piccola patria ha bisogno di sentirsi attorno a sé tutti i suoi figli, d'aver da loro un voto di fiducia, di sentire proclamare la Fede e l'Amore suo operoso.

"Piccola" patria sulla carta geografica, ma come ben disse nella sua squisita e fervida allocuzione il Pastore R. Hoffmann-de Visme, anima della serata, la Svizzera corre lontano, sorvola ogni spazio, conquista ogni angolo del mondo colla sua coltura, intellettualità, sviluppo sociale.

Diventa tratto d'unione fra le nazioni che la circondano.

La serata venne aperta ufficialmente dal presidente d'onore, nostro Ministro alla Corte di San James, Signor Paravicini.

La bella sala era decorata con fiori freschi a profusione e bandiere rappresentanti tutti i 22 cantoni facevano corona ad una immensa croce bianca in campo rosso.

Il nostro Capo disse che si sentì subito in ambiente casalingo appena entrato nell'aula ed era felice d'essere in mezzo a quella numerosa famiglia, principalmente vedendo tanta gioventù, nuova rappresentante della colonia, che si succede, nella ruota della vita.

Il presidente della "Nuova Società Elvetica," Signor Sutter, (anche questa, altra infaticabile e fruttuosa società per il bene nostro e per tener alto il nome svizzero fra i popoli che li ospita) lesse una lettera ricevuta dal Segretariato della "Nuova Società Elvetica" a Berna, portando l'augurio di buon successo alla nostra serata coi saluti fraterni alla colonia svizzera riunita.

Lesse pure altra lettera scritta dal direttore della scuola terza elementare di Meiringen; egli mandò la sua scolaressa, con gentil e nobile pensiero, a far raccolta di rose delle alpi e le mandò, sulle ali del "Swissair" per essere distribuite fra gli amici di Londra.

Queste vennero vendute; tutti avevano orgogliosamente e con affetto, all'occhiello, un ramoscello della stella rossa delle alpi nostre ed il ricavo di questa vendita servì ad ingrossare la somma destinata a beneficiare i bisognosi e vecchi impotenti al lavoro.

Il programma del concerto era compilato d'artista, e religiosamente, la numerosa adunata lo ascoltò, rompendo in frenetici applausi alla fine d'ogni numero.

L'eco delle nostre montagne, lo portò melodiosamente Monsieur F. von Bergen colla sua bella e robusta voce tenore.

Entusiasticamente applaudita è pur sempre la "Swiss Institute Orchestral Society," diretta da anni dall'infaticabile Monsieur E. P. Dick, che si presta in ogni funzione delle diverse società sorelle.

Pure molto apprezzate ed applaudite les "Selections" da Chopin, le umoristiche fantasie ed i canti popolari della "Swiss Choral Society."

Per me, figlia del Ticino, ebbi forse una predilezione naturale, quando vidi una gentil figura di donna, che sentii "nostra" portare l'eco della nostra dolce lingua italiana... La signorina Eva Cattaneo fu la Diva della serata... con passione e fascino dovette cantare e cantare... per accentare la folla entusiasta... ma il tempo stringeva; e non soltanto l'orologio crudele andava avanti ma anche le grosse campanule scosse con delizia speciale dal Pastore Hoffmann-de Visme, chiamavano il gregge a raccolta ed all'ovile...

Alla squisita signorina Cattaneo fu presentato uno stupendo mazzo di fiori ed anche lei, visibilmente commossa, a malincuore dovette lasciare gli ammiratori entusiasti.

Ebbi il piacere di trovare diversi ticinesi, fra i quali il neo-eletto Presidente dell'Unione

Ticinese, l'intrepido signor Oscar Gambazzi col Vice-Presidente, signor Eusebio.

In una serata così splendida, fra il tripudio degli animi, fra i suoni, i canti popolari, Svizzera nostra, l'entusiasmo e l'amor nostro per te si riaccende, ci sentiamo orgogliosi d'essere tuoi figli, inalziamo nei nostri cuori il fuoco sacro dei nostri ideali.

T.L.R.

28 Giugno 1935.

APRES LA FETE.

Ce que l'excellent ST. n'a pu dire, dans son compte-rendu de la dernière "Fête Suisse," parce que les comptes n'étaient point bouclés encore, c'est ce que le Comité qui l'a organisée désire faire connaître à la Colonie. Grâce à la façon dont celle-ci a répondu à l'invitation qui lui était adressée, c'est une somme de £25. 0. 0. qu'il a été possible de verser au Fonds de secours pour les Suisses pauvres, une fois tous les frais payés. En se rendant en foule au Central Hall l'autre jour (il y a eu bien au delà de 1,000 participants) nos concitoyens ont véritablement fait une bonne œuvre et leurs compatriotes qui sont dans le besoin leur en sauront spécialement gré. Aussi le Comité d'organisation tient-il à remercier tous ceux qui ont assuré le succès de cette grande réunion de famille helvétique à Londres tant les artistes dévoués, nos amis fidèles, que tous ceux qui ont fait acte de présence et y ont été de leur bourse.

Au nom du Comité,
le Secrétaire.

SWISS DOUBLE SUCCESS AT HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA.

The handsome successes of our compatriots from the Rowing Club Zurich deserve honourable mention also in the S.O.

In the GRAND CHALLENGE CUP, Zurich's eight was narrowly defeated in the first heat by Jesus College, Cambridge, who won by a margin of three feet only. One hates to make excuses, but — Zurich rowed and won in Mannheim on Sunday, had a new boat at Henley, a course quite unknown to them, drew the worse station and suffered an honourable defeat on the Wednesday. Their splendid performance against such great odds disarms criticism. Some years ago two Swiss teams of the Reuss R.C., Lucerne, competed for the Silver Goblets; they admitted that lack of training on the spot and failure to be thoroughly acclimatised robbed them of success. The moral is obvious!

The following four of the Zurich R. C. competed in the STEWARDS' CHALLENGE CUP, (won by a foreign crew only once before, by the Winnipeg R.C., Canada, in 1910): H. Bertschert (bow), H. Homberger, A. Homberger and K. Schmid (stroke). They thoroughly deserved the honour of being the first continental crew to win the trophy. Not only was theirs one of the most perfect exhibitions of four-oared rowing seen at Henley for many years, they also set up a record for the course in beating by 3 lengths London R. C. in 7 min. 14secs., 10 seconds inside the previous best. A great victory indeed!

E. Ruffi (Zurich R.C.) scored a personal triumph by winning the DIAMOND CHALLENGE SCULLS by 3½ lengths in 8 min. 15 secs. from J. Zavrel, Czecho-Slovakia. This was Ruffi's first entry for the event, whereas his opponent in the final had reached the semi-finals for the past two years, only to be eliminated by the ultimate winner. Zavrel led early on but could never gain a lead of more than one length. Ruffi began to spurt on nearing the mile post, coming up rapidly. At the bottom of the enclosure he took the lead and after a final effort by his rival, he drew out to win by a substantial margin in record time.

Well done, R.C. Zurich; well done, Switzerland!

M.G.

SILVER JUBILEE KING GEORGE V.

The following letter has been received in answer to the Address of Congratulation from the Swiss Colony in London:—

Home Office,
Whitehall,
16th May, 1935.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that the Address of Congratulation from the Swiss Colony in London on the occasion of His Majesty's Silver Jubilee has been laid before The King, who was to receive the same very graciously.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(signature unreadable).

The President,
Swiss Colony in London,
Swiss House,
34/35, Fitzroy Square,
W.1.

ATHLETIC MATCH.

Metropolitan Police, "C" Division Athletic Club
versus

College of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

Wednesday, July 3rd was a red letter day in the annals of the Swiss Mercantile Society College. The students were granted the rare privilege of a half-holiday. Four motor coaches were nearly filled with a party numbering approximately 120 including students, lecturers, etc. They left Swiss House at two o'clock and wended their way towards "Imber Court," Thames Ditton, the stronghold of the Metropolitan Police, where the College was to meet a team of the "C" Division Athletic Club, the Champions of the Metropolitan Police, in a 12 events athletic contest.

On arrival at Imber Court our large party surged forth on to the beautiful grounds. The Police had spared no efforts for the comfort of our party. Chairs lined the running track and electric amplifiers provided the music. Shortly after 2.30 p.m. after the photographer had been busy the signal for starting was given by Mr. Evans, Secretary of the Police Athletic Club, who acted as a very capable announcer at the microphone. Superintendent Ralph acted as referee and many well-known athletes of the Police officiated. Monsieur W. De Bourg, Counsellor of the Swiss Legation, honoured the meeting with his presence and closely followed the contests. He was accompanied by Mr. G. Keller, a former student of the College, who represented the Swiss Press, Mr. C. A. Barbezat, President and Mr. H. Semm, Hon Treasurer of the Swiss Sports Committee, were among the judges and time-keepers. The Police had also brought along many supporters and soon the programme was in full swing. We started off very promisingly — ztcao swing.

We started off very promisingly in the High Jump, Heider clearing 5ft. 5ins., thus eclipsing his previous best and equalling our A. Matter's record High Jump at the Swiss Sports two years ago. H. Blair, the Police ace, cleared 5ft. 7ins. but failed at 5ft. 5ins., his previous best. Our G. Fischer was third with a very creditable 5ft. 5 ins. This was indeed a very fine beginning and inspired our team with the necessary enthusiasm. There followed the sprints, viz. 100 yds. scratch and 220 yds. where we missed our sprinter "par excellence" Mr. W. Meier, who for business reasons was unfortunately prevented from competing. However, G. Fischer came in second, beaten on the tape by inches only in the excellent time of 10½ secs. Sergeant Ward of Imber Court acted as starter and as he put it, saw to it that there were no flying starts. On the track the Police were particularly strong and Fischer, who made a bad start, finished very strongly. A very fine race indeed! In the furlong (220 yds.) we had no look in, the Police finishing first and second in the fine time of 23 1/5th secs. Benz and Fischer who finished third and fourth respectively, ran very well against such strong opposition. In the Half Mile, Juon ran an excellent race, making the pace most of the way, to be beaten by a few yards only in the finish by a more seasoned runner, in 2 min. 10 sec. Juon, although a novice at this distance, has got wonderful stamina and once he has acquired a more suitable style over this distance, making more use of his arms, I am sure he will do greater things yet. In the Mile "We also ran" but were never in it. May it be said to the credit of both our runners that they finished the race and in not too bad time. Here the opposition was much too strong for us and the one runner, Juon, who might have done well, had to be spared for the relay-race. In the Hurdles, however, we finished first and second, admittedly against weak opposition. Fischer was first in 17½ secs. with Heider, who had the misfortune of throwing over one of the hurdles, a creditable second, inches behind. In the Veterans' 100 yards race our champion runner, Mr. H. H. Baumann, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, ran a grand race against two gallant competitors from the Force. He finished strongly in the remarkable time of 11 1/10th secs., and although Mr. Baumann's age is more than double that of many of our athletes (pace the indiscretion) he still beats many of the youngsters. A fine preservation of stamina indeed.

In the field events we did very well indeed, being first, third and fourth in the Discus, despite being without our first string, Mr. Henchoz, who was also unavailable for business reasons. In the Weight Putting we were first, second and third. The Javelin was one of the most exciting events. Both the "big shots" of the Police, viz., Worsley and Blair, the former being the winner of this year's Metropolitan Police Championship and the latter the record holder of the Middlesex County Championship, competed. The tussle was between those two and our H. Heider who won this event at the Swiss Sports with a throw of 147 ft. However, the expected record throw did not come. For some