

City Swiss Club

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LEMBO TICINESE.

Domenica, 4 dicembre. Giorno improntato alla limpidezza del cristallo. Cielo puro, sfolgorante di sole, che lievemente temprava la crudezza dicembrina.

Il cannone tuona dall'austero castello d'Uri, nella vetusta Bellinzona che onora, quella domenica, i figli di tutto il patriottico Ticino, morti per la Patria, nei tristi anni 1914-1918. Centododici giovani vite stroncate così, mentre generosamente prestavano servizio per la loro amata Svizzera. Olocausto doloroso ma infinitamente grande!

E tutto il Ticino è presente, in ispirito, a questa commemorazione. Autorità religiose, civili e militari, giovani, vecchi... Tutti quanti uniti dal medesimo sentimento di riverente rispetto, di "amor patrio." Stretto intorno alla bandiera federale, alle cinque dei battaglioni ticinesi, venti anni dopo, il Ticino li ricorda, li esalta, oggi come allora, con una cerimonia degna del loro immenso sacrificio.

Già al mattino presto, alle 8.30, sul piazzale della Stazione, si formò il corteo imponente che poi si snoda lungo le vie della città, tra ali di numeroso pubblico. Prima sosta in Piazza Indipendenza per deporre una corona a quel monumento. Poi verso Piazza Governo, al giardinetto dove si erige il monumento che ricorda l'olocausto delle centododici vite, oggi amorosamente accarezzato dai lembi di un grande vessillo federale. Le dolci, troppo dolci, note della marcia funebre di Chopin salutano quel marmo-ricordo., circondato ora da tutte le bandiere. Momento solenne. Incancellabile. Il cap. don Alberti, cappellano d'armata, e che durante tutta la mobilitazione prestò le sue cure spirituali con infaticabile slancio, che vegliò su quelle vite divelte e ne raccolse l'ultimo respiro, benedicendole, ad una ad una le chiama e le saluta.

"Per la loro morte fa, misericordioso Signore, che il flagello sia risparmiato ai figli, e nel loro nome e nel nome dei milioni di giovani, di tutte le nazioni e di tutte le stirpi, stroncati dalla maledizione della guerra noi ti preghiamo: Disperdi, o Signore, disperdi tutti coloro che vogliono la guerra!" — Frase significativa in significativa cerimonia...

La commozione è intensa. Il col. Waldis con brevi parole depona la corona davanti al monumento. Le note dell'Inno Patrio eseguito dalla musica degli sotto ufficiali, si elevano nel silenzio profondo. Parla poi il Presidente del Consiglio di Stato, on. Forni, che pure legge un telegramma dell'on. Motta, impossibilitato a presenziare.

Chiude questa parte della cerimonia il Salmo Svizzero... "E dolce o Elvezia morir per te" ...

Il corteo si ricompone, si dirige verso la stupenda Collegiata, ove mons. Vescovo porta il suo saluto ai fedeli soldati saduti e li benedice e celebra poi la Santa Messa.

La navata, alta, solenne, ricca di marmi pregevoli, di stucchi, risuona di dolce musica, mistica che accuisce la mestizia del momento. Beati Morti!

Tripudio di sole, di luce, di splendore. Come pieno di sole, di luce, di splendore il sacrificio compiuto da chi è morto per Te, o Patria nostra, terra diletta...

E.G.L.

Lugano, 5 dicembre 1938.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Another record monthly meeting took place last Tuesday week. Members are to be congratulated on the wonderful support they are giving the committee. We had the largest attendance of members recorded for years at a monthly meeting.

A few distinguished visitors were present, and we had the pleasure of welcoming for the first time at a monthly meeting Pasteur Praderwand as an honorary member. The President told the Pasteur how delighted we were to hear of his intention to attend as frequently as possible. Pasteur Praderwand expressed his pleasure at mixing with his compatriots of the City Swiss Club. He made it clear that, whilst there were two branches of the Church in London there was only one Swiss Church, and he felt anxious that the spiritual interest of the Church should definitely be linked with the national interest of the Colony. He added that we were one large family, and, although we speak different languages, we have but a single heart. He was received with great ovation by all members present, and there is no doubt that his presence amongst the "boys" won for him a deep and lasting affection of all members of the Club.

The spirit of Christmas is beginning to prevail, and, whilst Pagan's omitted the Christmas decorations which had been arranged, they

made this up by a most excellent menu, and the Turkey and Christmas pudding considerably helped to create that Christmassy atmosphere which makes for goodwill among men. As it is the meeting was full of goodwill. Congratulations were flowing from members to the committee, from the committee to members, on the success of the annual Banquet. The President expressed his deep satisfaction at the wonderful support which had been forthcoming from the Colony, and from members who had done their best to make the annual function a success.

The official part of the meeting was over rather earlier than anticipated since no criticism was forthcoming in connection with the Banquet. This was followed by a variety entertainment greatly enjoyed by all those present. This had been provided by way of a change from the usual high class entertainment which has become a feature of the monthly meetings.

This being the last meeting of the year, best wishes were exchanged for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and the Secretary would just like to express the hope that amongst the good resolutions members may make for 1939, each may make up his mind to bring yet another member with him to the monthly meetings, as he is very anxious to increase the attendance by another 50%. Concerts, conferences, are already being arranged, and a few surprises are in store to make the meetings still more interesting, and if any member has any suggestions to make the Secretary would like to receive them to be able to submit them to the committee.

It is felt that Tuesday, January 3rd may be too near the New Year to have a large gathering. The Meeting is therefore postponed to January 10th. A very interesting conference has been arranged, a real first class surprise.

Now for a Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year to all members.

Bee.

SCHWEIZERLIED.

Wenn das laute Leben seine Wellen über Strass' und Menschen schlägt, muss der rechte Schweizergeist uns geben, was uns freudig über seinen Bann erhebt.

Weithin nun zum Streite rüsten vielgestalt'ge Völkerscharen sich, und es kämpft die Enge mit der Weite immer mächt'ger unter jedem Himmelstrich.

In der Heimat ragen aber Berge über Erdenmenge in die reine Höh', mahndend, dass ein jeder seine Plage kühn in einem höhern Licht befreiend seh.'

Mag die Masse siegen oft im Kampf um Herrlichkeit der äussern Welt, muss ihr Ungeist dennoch unterliegen, wo Persönlichkeit uns stark und frei erhält.

Fest in diesem Leben, dennoch um des Himmelsweite froh bemüht, muss uns zu den höchsten Bergen heben, wo des Ew'gen Hauch uns hoffnungsstark umsprüht.

Ernst Bommeli.

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