

Swiss Rifle Association

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. "Grümpelschiesset" Dinner.

Amongst the many festivities, which were held in the Colony previous to Christmas, was the "Grümpelschiesset" dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association, which took place on Friday, December 11th, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7.

This is an event to which all the members look forward with pleasant anticipation; for not only does it afford an opportunity of spending a few hours in congenial company, but it is also accompanied by a good dinner.

In order to get the company, which numbered nearly 50 members and guests, into the right frame of mind, and to wet their appetite for the good things to come, cocktails were served in one of the reception rooms, after which everyone adjourned to the dining room.

What a feast it was, there was fish, "Blutwurst" and "Schwynigs", chicken, sweets and cheese, it was indeed a meal not only fit for Kings but also for "Republicans".

Previous to coffee being served, and after the customary Toasts having been duly honoured, the popular President of the Association, Mr. A. Schmid, who also acted as "Mine Host", extended a cordial welcome to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, and to the following guests: Major Patrick and Mr. Brooker, who represented the Surrey Rifle Association, to which the Swiss Rifle Association is affiliated, Major A. Weber, Assistant Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation, Mr. F. Streit, Chairman of the Presidents Assembly, Mr. Louis Chapuis, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

Mr. Schmid then referred to this year's shooting season, which had come to an end, saying that the results obtained had not only been good but very encouraging, as nearly half of the members who attended at the shooting range in Bisley, would have qualified for a "Kranz".

He expressed the hope, that members would persevere to maintain this high standard and said that hard training and practice are essential if the Association wished to emerge with credit at the Federal Shooting Competition, which is being held at Lausanne this year.

The Swiss Minister voiced his appreciation for having again been invited to attend this annual dinner, and extended best wishes for the success in Lausanne.

Mr. Louis Chapuis, one of the Doyens of the Colony, thanked the President for the invitation, saying that although he had never fired a shot in his life, he was nevertheless delighted to be present. After having related some of his experiences during his 62 years *séjour* in this country, he concluded by saying: "I have been fortunate in scoring a bull's eye in my career if not in shooting."

The Vice-President, Mr. J. Wetter, paid a warm tribute to the President for the great services he had rendered to the Association, saying: "he is not only an excellent leader, but also a first class Hotelier, Farmer and life stock breeder."

He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. W.

Fischer, who, he said has the right qualifications for an excellent chief range officer. Mr. Wetter, in concluding, complimented Mr. F. Magnin, the Hon. Secretary, for the splendid work he is doing "behind the scenes".

Major Patrick of the Surrey Rifle Association referred to the cordial relationship which has always existed between the two Associations, and thanked the members for their generous hospitality extended to him and his colleague.

Mr. W. Fischer, Chief range officer, associated himself with the President by declaring that the results obtained were highly commendable.

"We have", he said "a young generation of splendid marksmen, and we must do our utmost to maintain this standard, but we must not forget the older generation, which had produced in the past such fine shots like A. Schmid, Holliger, Wetter, Brullhard, Hess and many others.

On the conclusion of the speechmaking, Mr. Magnin announced that following an old tradition, the Society would like to present the official and other guests with a little present, and amidst acclamation he handed over to the Swiss Minister a substantial hamper, whilst the other guests received bottles of Wine and cigarettes.

Thus Father Christmas made an early appearance, and the bottle of Sherry which I carried safely home, was opened on Xmas day, and the Toast was "To the Swiss Rifle Association, and may they be successful in the coming year at Lausanne!"

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Mr. Magnin then proceeded with the prize distribution to the members, announcing the following results:

<i>Grümpelschiessen</i>	
Marcel Bucherer	57 points
Willy Fischer	53 "
Hermann Schmid	53 "
<i>Handicap competition</i>	
Albert Dubelbeiss	60 points
Marcel Bucherer	58 "
John Wetter, sen.	57 "
<i>Challenge Cup Competition</i>	
Walter Riesen	312 points
Willy Fischer	299 "
Marcel Bucherer	298 "
<i>Best yearly average</i>	
Walter Riesen	52 points
<i>Highest single series of the year</i>	
Peter Fischer	57 points
Marcel Bucherer	57 "

When everyone had chosen his prize, Mr. Magnin received a very suitable present from the members for the devoted services which he had again rendered during the year.

This most enjoyable evening, where good companionship and sportsmanship was so conspicuous, then came to a close, and I express not only my heartiest thanks to our "Scharfschützen" of the Colony, but also wish them the best of success for the coming Federal Shooting Competition in Lausanne, may they, this time, rank first of all the Foreign competitors. *ST.*

CHRISTMAS PARTY IN LIVERPOOL.

At the invitation of Mrs. G. O. Davidson, the Swiss ladies and girls of Liverpool and its surroundings met for a Christmas Party on December 15th at the Y.W.C.A. in Slater Street.

About twenty compatriots, including some children, were present and had a happy time over tea with games and the singing of songs. A Christmas Tree and presents contributed to the festive atmosphere.

In view of the success of this party, it was decided to hold monthly meeting at the Y.W.C.A., 18, Slater Street, Liverpool, on each third Tuesday of the month. *So.*

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