

City Swiss Club

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CITY SWISS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER. at the Dorchester Hotel.

The traditional Xmas Dinner of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, December 15th at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. Mr. R. Pfenninger was in the Chair, and there were about 80 members and guests present.

Although there was no Xmas tree, nor any mistletoe — no Ladies being present —, there was a very happy and genial atmosphere reigning in the Orchid Rooms. Christmas, the feast of good cheer was close at hand, and the Meeting was, so to say the *Hors d'Oeuvre* of the festive Season.

After cocktails having been served in one of the ante-rooms, the company adjourned to the dining room, which was, as usual, generously decorated with lovely flowers.

A Christmas dinner without Turkey and Xmas pudding would be like roastbeef without dripping, so Turkey it was, and a jolly good one at that, nor were the plum-pudding and mince pies missing, and even the silver sixpence made its appearance in the former. The compliments which were later on paid to the Manager of the Dorchester, who was present, and is, of course, a member of the Club, were well deserved, and I have no doubt, were passed on to "Monsieur le Chef", who is a compatriot of ours.

The "Neuchâtel", "Fendant", and "Dôle de Sion" greatly helped to stimulate the "Stimmung". After the customary toasts, which were more heartily responded to than usual, the President accorded a warm welcome to the guests and the members, and invited the Hon. Secretary to read the Minutes, of at least three former Meetings, which for some reason or another, were not read before. To make up for lost time, these were read at a speed which was far too quick for a Bernese to follow, but as the reading was acknowledged by vociferous clapping, I must assume that most of the members understood what it was all about.

There followed a short meeting, when several new members were proposed, seconded and elected, and amongst the resignations were two, which were kept in abeyance, hoping that the respective Gentlemen, having belonged to the Club for a great number of years, would re-consider their decision. (I understand that in one case that has already been done).

The Meeting being closed, our old friend Mr. A. Gandon, with his accordeon started playing a medley of Swiss melodies in which everybody lustily joined in, songs in French, "Schwyzerdütsch" and Italian were rendered with much gusto, some however were just a wee bit out of tune, and would not have gained a prize at a Federal Singing Competition. Most appropriately some Xmas songs, like "Silent night, Holy night", and "O Tannenbaum" were rendered, recalling to many, no doubt the happy and carefree times, when we, as children, sat round the Xmas tree back home in the "old country". — Happy memories! —

It is said, that when a Swiss is happy "he starts to yodel", and as everybody was happy, Mr. E. Luterbacher, champion yodler, was carried, not to the slaughter house, but to the piano, where he promptly began to yodel with a vengeance, and not to be left

behind, several of the company did likewise, although some had no idea how to do it, and their agonising performance sounded more like the shrieking of a banshee. Still the spirit was willing.

For my special benefit, a good friend of mine, hailing from "Jura Bernois" — in that part of the canton Berne where there is a separatist movement, which is more noisy than dangerous — together with some of his friends from the same *endroit* started to sing their new "National Anthem", no doubt expecting that I should right away burst into tears.

They sang it with much feeling and enthusiasm, but evidently, the movement being of recent date, only knew two verses, after which they "faded out" which was a great pity, I would have been interested to hear more of this Pakistan-Bernese hymn, and acknowledging this "beau geste" of my Jurassien friends, I expressed the hope, that for the time being at least, we would still sing the "Bärnermarsch" together; but if the age long ties have to be broken, do not let us worry too much, we shall still be under the same flag, the flag with the white cross, and that is all that matters.

After more singing, yodelling and "Handörgele" the President closed the proceedings, wishing everybody a Happy Christmas, and a

PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

ST.



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