

Harvesting in the north...

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The time had come for the Treasurer's Report. Mr. H. J. Keller presented a concise and clear report in which the important features of the newly separated Ordinary and Charity Funds and those of the Club House Fund were resumed in a nutshell. The Auditor, Mr. Ernst Tangemann, pronounced the time hallowed auditorial phrase, namely that the published accounts gave, in his opinion, "a true and fair view of the state of the Club's affairs on 31st March, 1971". As income had considerably exceeded expenditure, it was not felt necessary to increase subscription fees.

Mr. Edgar Bonvin took the chair *pro tem* and expeditiously handled the election of the new responsible members of the Club, who included many new names, as the following list shows: Committee: President, W. E. Bion; Vice President, E. Tangemann; Treasurer, H. J. Keller; Assistant Treasurer, F. Fraefel; Secretary, L. F. Ackermann; Assistant Secretary, L. F. Jobin; Additional Member, H. Jauslin. The Trustees of the Club House Fund were Messrs. E. H. Burnier (Treasurer), L. A. Chapuis and B. E. Jaeggi. The Auditors will be Mr. F. Augstburger and Mr. P. Gut, and the Press Reporter continues to be PMB. Mr. Bonvin invited the Meeting to acclaim our retiring President.

The debate on the Club's donations was animated by a member, Mr. L. A. Chapuis, who felt strongly that more should be given to the Churches and the Swiss Benevolent Society. The newly created Charity Fund of the City Swiss Club had received £691.71 from the Tombola of the Annual Banquet and Ball and a transfer of £491.70 from the Ordinary Account. Of this impressive total, £50 had been allotted to each of the three Swiss Churches and £100 to the Swiss Benevolent Society. There thus remained £933.20 of unused funds, which prompted an indignant Mr. Chapuis to suggest giving £150 to each of the churches and £300 to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

The arguments in favour of such a gesture had already been brought forward at the previous AGM. Basically, the guests at the Annual Ball gave their money to the Tombola on the understanding that its proceeds were to be devoted to charity. This principle has naturally been accepted by the City Swiss Club, but it felt that the lean years should be provided for and that, for this reason, the Churches and the Swiss Benevolent Society should be given regular but moderate donations. Mr. Chapuis refuted these arguments and saw no reason to fear a lean year. However, he was defeated by the general feeling of the Meeting and by Father Bossard, who said that the churches didn't need more money at present, but that they would gladly avail themselves of City Swiss Club generosity the day they had to acquire

new common premises. In the end the Meeting agreed to give the churches £75 and the Benevolent Society £150.

Much of the latter part of the evening was spent in discussing ways of reviving the life of the City Swiss Club. Mr. Jauslin made a dramatic appeal for new suggestions, or for explanations which would help to stop diminishing attendances. From a membership of 225 he estimated the average attendance at monthly meetings to be 20 or 30. That meant that only 10 per cent of members took the trouble to take part in their Club's activities. The suggestion was made to merge certain activities with the Anglo-Swiss Society. This would ensure that a minimal attendance would honour distinguished speakers. This was turned down emphatically by a vocal member.

Others suggested bringing ladies to the monthly meetings with speeches liable to interest them. Our new President, Mr. Walter Bion, emphasised the need for introducing more young people to the Club. Others noted the necessity of maintaining the general level of membership, remarking that it wasn't indicated to introduce hippies and au pairs to the Club. Father Bossard chipped in by urging the Club to impress upon the Swiss authorities to inform all young Swiss leaving for England on what was awaiting them.

The debate was lively enough, but led to no particular decision on forthcoming arrangements with other societies. An idea brought forward by Mr. B. Jaeggi to publish a list of members and their addresses found acceptance. The communication thus afforded could foster greater attendances.

(PMB)

THE VALAIS ON AN ASSAULT OF THE BRITISH TOURIST MARKET

A party of twelve tourist personalities from the Valais left for London at their own expense, where they stayed for three days and met over 180 travel agents. They showed them films and brochures on the possibilities of their canton and invited them to Raclette parties and receptions at the Swiss Centre every evening. They launched a competition consisting of wording an appropriate slogan on the Valais. Most of our London readers received the competition slip in their last copy of the S.O. It was a mock Swissair ticket-cover with a wonderful two weeks for two in the Valais on offer as a first prize.

The party consisted of the President of the Valais Tourist Office, its Director and Public Relations Manager, the Director of the Publicity Office for Agricultural Products of the Valais, and representatives from the individual resorts. Those who had their man in London were Crans-sur-Sierre, Evolène, Goms, Leukerbad, Martigny, Montana-Vermala, Saas-Fee, Sion, Zermatt and Arolla. The Furka-Ober-

alp Railway was furthermore represented by its Chairman. These people (many of them hotel owners) had already organised similar campaigns in Cologne and Paris with great success. They found that there was a regain of British tourism in the Valais but that potential was far from exhausted.

THE UNIONE TICINESE AFTERNOON BALL

The Unione Ticinese held its No. 1 annual event, the Afternoon Dance, on Saturday, 2nd May. The Dorchester's ballroom was full of young and old, obviously not all from Ticino. In fact guests made up the majority of the lively attendance, and as long as the Ticinesi of London remain as generous the Annual Dance of the "Unione" will be bound to thrive.

The most charming aspect of this unique Swiss event was the abundance of children on the dance floor and the informality of the atmosphere. The festivities lasted from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Our Consul, Mr. F. Adams, was guest of honour, as well as the Ticino representative at the Embassy, Mr. C. Jagmetti. Both were accompanied by their ladies. A tombola was organised. It raised enough to balance the cost of the afternoon and bring a little extra to Unione Ticinese funds.

HARVESTING IN THE NORTH . . .

As in every year past there comes a time for our Swiss communities to assemble their Annual General Meetings and cast back a look on the year's activities much depending on the drive of the respective committees and the support received by the members, making thus the final point. It is also the time when the finances of the clubs are discussed; plans for the future laid down; the time when any member may voice his or her approval or disapproval of any aspect of the club's life and activities and have a say in the election of the new committees. This year's delay in convening such meetings were unavoidable and due to the unreasonable and long drawn-out postal strike, but we can derive some satisfaction to think how well we were able to out-ride this unnecessary storm.

It was for the *Yorkshire Swiss Club* to start this policy-making period by assembling on Tuesday, 6th April, 1971 at the British Council House in Leeds. This club is known for their informality when holding this type of function and the agenda not containing any controversial matter, was quickly dealt with. Our President, Prof. Inebnit, started by welcoming everybody present, in particular our long standing friend Dr. H. R. Bolliger our representative at the "Auslandschweizersekretariat" and we shall refer to him further on. He invited stronger support for our two papers, the "Swiss Observer" for the Swiss resident in the United Kingdom and the "Echo" which is the mouth-piece of the Swiss world

wide. He touched very briefly on such matters as the solidarity fund and other problems we are confronted with, followed by the election procedures for the year 1971-1972. Past President Richard Mueller proposed the re-election of the old committee and this was unanimously accepted, which shortened quite considerably the time allotted to this part of our programme. Our Annual Social Report was circulated and its reading gave us the confirmation of an unusually happy and busy club life and it is to be hoped that by the effort of everyone this favourable trend may continue. Our Hon. Treasurer Mr. Karl Kagi then explained the financial situation which shows a marked improvement on the previous year and this augurs well also for the future.

The official part having been completed our President asked Dr. Bolliger to address us and the way he did it fully justified our expectations and certainly opened the door for a "next time". Almost immediately we found ourselves in the midst of the whirlpool of Swiss politics and confronted with the many problems facing our compatriots at home, problems which eventually may well affect the citizen of the "Fifth Switzerland". Dr. Bolliger was able, in his own clear and analytical way to explain to us the situation which both materially and morally affects every one of us. The world is an ever changing chess board of values and priorities. He mentioned that in a country like France a change in the attitude towards their foreign population has taken place, a cooling down. In Switzerland with their millions of foreign workers, almost 20% of the population, grave problems are posed, problems gnawing at the very roots of our national identity and tradition which may be damaging to the economical and ethical foundations of our country. We must hope and pray that our national leaders may soon find a way to steer our ship through this greatly troubled waters and reach safe moorings. A hopeful beginning has already been made by introducing stricter controls on foreign labour,

compatible with a sound and progressive economical growth.

He then continued by explaining to us the "Questionnaire" which deals with the particular position of the Swiss abroad and the very special problem they have to face in matters of split loyalties. This theme stands under the heading of "Die Ausland-Schweizer im Einflussbereich zweier Laender" and will come up for discussion at the 49th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Brunnen on the 27th, 28th and 29th August, 1971. Dr. Bolliger appealed for more support and physical attendance from us. The Questionnaire can be completed individually or in groups and it is most desirable that everybody brings his contribution towards it.

This most interesting expose was concluded with a thought for the happy conclusion of the "women vote" in Switzerland, a development which was hardly ever discussed. The writer himself, although welcoming it, hopes that no serious draw backs will follow in its wake which might adversely affect the structure and harmony within the typical Swiss family and the community in general. Dr. Bolliger was warmly applauded for his well given address, leaving us with much food for thought. A warm cup of coffee and other refreshments concluded most happily a well filled evening.

Three weeks later it was the turn of Manchester to meet for their general assemblies. It started with the Annual General Meeting of the *Swiss Relief Society Manchester* which opened punctually at 18.00 hours in the Halle Room of the Grand Hotel in Aytoun Street, Manchester on Monday, 26th April. The President Mr. E. Berner welcomed everybody most cordially and especially Mr. Abegglen, Vice Consul in London, who represented our Consul Mr. R. Born, absent in Switzerland. He expressed his thanks to the Swiss Club Manchester for the hospitality given to us also on this occasion. He continued then by stating that 1970 was again a peaceful, agreeable and fairly active year but we regretted the passing away of one of

our recipients, an old Swiss gentleman who appreciated the modest support he had received from this Society over a number of years.

The overall financial position maintained its healthy character and both our Hon. Treasurer and our Hon. Secretary were able to enlarge on it. The President would have liked more members to have joined the covenant scheme which created additional income without extra expense to the subscribers and he appealed to those compatriots not yet members to join. The aims are still to be generous towards old age, assist any other cases in need of help and to be always ready to support any worthwhile causes complying with the Charity Act.

Thanks were expressed to the Consul Mr. R. Born and his organisation for their ready help and advice and particularly to Mr. Banderet and Dr. Bolliger for their many generousities not always known by the people at large. A special warm and sincere thanks was extended to the members of the Committee for their hard and very devoted work.

The election procedure took place in a most cordial and informal way and the proposal of a member to re-appoint the old committee for a further year was unanimously accepted, the Hon. Auditors being Mr. B. Simon and Mrs. E. H. Brereton and the deputy ones Mr. W. Berner and Mrs. O. Scheiwiller. Looking at the new overall structure of our Society we can observe that almost 40% of its effectives are ladies, showing their increasing importance, interest and active participation in public affairs.

It was a short but good meeting and having concluded the official part of it, members and their friends were able to move to another part of the lovely Halle Room. There an excellent and well stocked bar was awaiting them and small tables well prepared and laid on for the cold buffet which was served at 19.00 hours. It must be said that the refreshments were not only abundant but also of a high standard and great variety. It was indeed

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a welcome break and a real booster for the Annual General Meeting of the *Swiss Club Manchester*, which started punctually at 20.15 hours and proved eventually to be one of the busiest in the history of the Club.

The President Mr. B. Simon brought the apologies of the Ambassador, the Consul and Dr. Bolliger, absent abroad, and welcomed Mr. Abegglen, Vice Consul in London, the President of the Swiss Relief Society and Mrs. M. Serra who regardless of her 90 years wanted to be of the party.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted after which the President informed the members that the "Lady Section" had made a successful start, and what about the men? He was somewhat disappointed with the activities of the young ones, as things were not working out as he had hoped. The only young compatriot at our meeting, Mr. Alexander Kubli, contributed later on quite substantially to the general discussion covering his particular topic. He complained that as far as he knew the young did not want to be separated from the main body, but that they could put their heads together and submit proposals to the club and he believed that reasonable financial support for any healthy effort would be forthcoming. He also stressed the point that older members should mix more freely and more often with the younger ones and of course also vice-versa: in stating this he spoke evidently to the already converted. Some of the trouble may lie in the fact that the club does not have any more a home or proper meeting place, as it used to have, and that on the more general functions during the year there is just not sufficient time to get to know each other better. Furthermore I remember that private homes were quite often open to our young passing visitors. On the whole it was quite a refreshing and constructive intermezzo.

A resolution was then put forward to the effect to amend Rule 10 in such a way as to create an additional office of "Immediate Past President" for a period of one year and of two additional Vice Presidents who will act if and when required beside the "First Vice President". The decision to create the office of an "Immediate Past President" was both timely and desirable and most certainly a vindication for all those Presidents who in the past, after long years of devoted and successful service, were dropped and all they got, sometimes, was a stone without inscription.

After the presentation of the Annual Report by the Club's Secretary and the safe keeping of the Inventory, Mr. K. Messmer was invited to take the chair for the election of the new

Committee and no controversial points being raised this was done in a most expeditious and satisfactory way, and for this Mr. Messmer was warmly thanked. The new President as foreseen is Dr. H. R. Bolliger, the representative of the Swiss in the North at the A.S.K., Mr. B. Simon continuing for another 12 months as the Immediate Past President. A particularly happy move was the appointment of Mr. P. A. Senn as "First Vice President", a continuity of name, because his father, the late Mr. Gustav Senn, the Centenary President, is still very much alive in the memory of a great many members. The Hon. Treasurer, in the person of Mrs. Martha Themans was re-elected and the remainder of the new committee will be designated later on in the usual way. Under the Budget proposals nothing special emerged. Mrs. M. Themans was complimented for the excellent results and she assured the members that the club shall carry on as before. The annual subscription stays at £2 for the gentlemen and £1 for the ladies: what about "equal rights, equal duties"?

Dealing with point 8, any other business, Vice Consul Mr. Abegglen brushed again very shortly on the problem of age, sex and other segregations within a club, of the little interest generally shown by the young Swiss for the established clubs abroad, all factors which may well account for our ills. This problem does not only confront Swiss clubs abroad for well over 20 years but exists even in Switzerland in their "Saenger-Verbande", their "Turner-Vereine" and in many other organisations and activities. In our particular case, on this very evening, although the meeting had been amply circularised, only one of the young compatriots, as mentioned before turned up, a most laudable exception but which unfortunately proves once more the case.

The President then gave information on some activities of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the U.K. in London, its general meeting on Friday, 30th April, 1971, the difficulties encountered with a possible realisation of their plan for a "Forum" in the Swiss Centre; some move by the Swiss Churches in London is foreseen. He also appealed for greater support for the *Ausland-Schweizer-Tage*, this year in Brunnen and next year, a very important one, in Berne.

There has never been lack of points for discussion, but time has evidently gone on and it was with some regret that everybody had to leave, but quite happy to have passed some interesting and invigorating hours in a truly congenial company.

(E. Berner)

THE SCHWEIZERBUND

The Schweizerbund held its AGM at the beginning of May. It was a very informal AGM in which its President, Mr. V. Berti, and its Auditor, Mr. E. P. G. Gruhn, were unanimously re-elected. Mr. Berti took the opportunity to inform members of the outcome of the meeting of the Federation of Swiss Societies, and in particular, to disclose the new idea of a centre to replace the almost defunct Forum. Dinner took place after a short reception in the cosy party room of the Orpheus Luncheon Club. Mr. Gluck took very good care of us and offered us an excellent and cheap meal. As usual, Schweizerbund after dinner activities consist of community singing. When our President had warmly and affectionately welcomed us all, we got started. It began with a few classics such as "Là Haut sur La Montagne" and "Fa mal i pe" for which Mr. Jürg Schmid had brought SNTD booklets. However, we were not to use them much. Under the vigorous leadership of Mr. Fernand Delaloye, we set out on an entirely different repertoire, which ranged from the musicals of the thirties to "Roulez Tambours". It was indeed a hilarious and spontaneous sing-song which ended with everybody in a vibrant and exuberant mood.

(PMB)

THE INSTITUTE OF SWISS TRADE PROMOTION

Readers may have been surprised at not receiving any more "supplements" from the Institute of Swiss Trade Promotion with their *Swiss Observers*. The first supplement was sent out just over a year ago and received the blessing of an Ambassadorial message. It was a quarterly publication and the *Swiss Observer* contained a second supplement three months later. However, this was the last time that we were to treat our readers with a (non-coloured) supplement as the Swiss Economic Council decided on grounds of economy to stop distributing the quarterly publication of the Institute of Swiss Trade Promotion through the *Swiss Observer*. Now

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