

Forthcoming events

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1924)**

Heft 166

PDF erstellt am: **21.07.2024**

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may safely estimate that a sum amounting to two-thirds of the expenditure on board and lodging will be spent by the visitors on railway fares and sundry expenses, so that a rough estimate of the amount of money brought into our country by these English tourists is Frs. 50,000,000. These are the figures for the summer 1923 and winter 1923-24, and although no figures are, of course, yet available for this summer and the coming winter season, it is anticipated by experts that there will be an increase of 20-25 per cent. on last year's figures. When it is realised that the presence of three-quarters of these English visitors in Switzerland is due to the canvassing of tourist agencies and the Swiss Federal Railways in London, the importance of their work will be readily admitted. They are unsparing in their efforts to make the journey as agreeable as possible for the traveller, they have established special trains with through carriages from Boulogne or Calais to Chur and Interlaken, and have made arrangements for obtaining special tickets at a considerable reduction on the ordinary fare if they are issued in connection with at least four days' accommodation in Switzerland. In order to obtain their large clientèle, English tourist agencies always begin their canvassing half-a-year ahead, they have tourist offices all over Switzerland and employ a large staff of interpreters, couriers and people who take the visitors round on excursions and make it their business to see that the beauty spots of our country are seen and appreciated. To find board and lodging for 150,000 people is not always an easy task, as anybody who has done military service will understand, and any amount of work and tact are often required in dealing with the strange requests of these people, many of whom are of the uneducated classes. At home we very often laugh about these English tourists, who are driven round like a flock of sheep, drinking in the words of their guide, who often tells them any sort of yarn to satisfy their curiosity. The other day the 8-year-old son of a hotel proprietor accompanied his father on a motor-charabanc trip which had been arranged for a party of tourists. As usual they worried his life out with a stream of unnecessary questions. The young boy, who just understood English, listened attentively for some time, then suddenly plucked his father's sleeve and said, "Daddy, tell them that is a goat!" Another amusing incident occurred at the station at Interlaken, where a middle-aged and rather dignified looking traveller was heard reproaching the representative of the tourist agency through which he had booked his tour because they had brought him to a country where there was nothing but mountains, when, since his infancy, he had been a lover of plains! An occasion which called for a demonstration of tact and the ability to find a ready answer was that on which a guide at Grindelwald was asked by two elderly ladies who had just arrived to show them Mt. Everest, on which, they had heard, "two lovely young men had been killed"; and it requires a certain amount of self-control to refrain from smiling when you are asked by a timid young thing of over 60 summers if she needs a "vis-à-vis" for Switzerland. But, apart from the amusement derived from these little incidents, the work of couriers and representatives is often tiresome and dull. It is not every man who finds he can realise his ambition by spending his life meeting trains, waiting on platforms and living in hotels, and yet all these tourist agents help to bring thousands of English visitors and their money into our country, thus providing a livelihood for many of our countrymen. It is worth while remembering these facts when you grumble that you cannot get a cup of coffee when you arrive at Basle.

E. M. B.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Annual Report, just published, deals chiefly with the success of the traditional banquet last November, when over three hundred members and friends were present; reference is made to the valuable services rendered by the late Mr. Dimier, both as president and treasurer. With 283 members a slight increase against the number of a year ago is recorded. About £235 have been devoted to charitable purposes, including £202 collected at the annual banquet. The amount standing to the credit of the special "Club House" fund is increasing annually at the rate of about £160 and, including recent donations, is now in the neighbourhood of £2,000.

Col. Eug. Borel is this year's president, and Monsieur A. L. Despond the secretary. The members' list contains many names well known in our colony, a few of them having 50 years' membership to their credit; our compatriot, Mr. J. Geilinger, easily heads the list, having joined in 1866.

Le 1er Août à Johannesburg.

Les Suisses de Johannesburg savent bien faire les choses. Non contents de célébrer notre Fête Nationale par un Banquet et Bal, il y eut le Dimanche suivant un Concours de Tir.

Voici quelques détails que nous venons de recevoir de Mr. Charles Chapuis, qui est en ce moment en Afrique du Sud.

La Société Suisse "Helvetia" a fêté le 1er Août par un Banquet suivi d'un Bal, sous la Présidence d'honneur de Mr. le Dr. P. Pettavel, Consul Suisse.

Le Critérium Hall était gaiement décoré aux couleurs fédérales et une soixantaine de confédérés et amis étaient présents.

Un menu excellent et quelques bonnes bouteilles eurent bientôt mis de l'entrain et le brouhaha de langues diverses était tout-à-fait remarquable: Français, Anglais, Schwyzerdütsch, et Afrikander tout se parlait en même temps.

Mr. H. Hofmann, Président de la Société, porta le "Toast au Roi." Dr. P. Pettavel prit ensuite la parole; dans un discours fort apprécié, il rappela le Pacte du 1er Août 1291 sur lequel fut fondé la Confédération Suisse, il appuya aussi sur le sentiment idéal qui réunit sous le même drapeau des mentalités si complexes.

Mr. le Dr. Garin proposa "The Land we live in," et M. Biderman "The Ladies." Un bal plein d'entrain ainsi que des productions diverses terminèrent une soirée très réussie, qui fit reporter nos pensées à notre chère patrie, hélas si loin!

Dimanche, 3 Août, grand Concours de Tir dans la charmante propriété du Président. Le champ de tir est fort bien combiné, distance 30 mètres, et carabines B.S.A. dernier modèle.

Plusieurs prix offerts par la Société et par des particuliers attendent les tireurs.

Le Roi du tir fut M. Hans Hofmann, fils aîné du Président, un jeune homme de 18 ans, qui fit 75 points, le maximum possible, en trois cartons. (Attention, Messieurs les membres du Swiss Rifle Association de Londres! Votre représentant ayant tout de même fait assez bonne figure a remporté une cuillère en argent, l'honneur est sauve...)

Ce fut une journée dont chacun gardera un bon souvenir, y compris les dames et les enfants pour qui, eux aussi, divers concours avaient été arrangés.

La Société "Helvetia," est redevable de beaucoup à son Président et tout particulièrement à Mme. Hofmann dont le patriotisme égale le dévouement.

Les Suisses d'Afrique du Sud, qu'ils vivent!
C. L. C.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Councillor Sir Henry Jackson, M.A., M.B., J.P., Mayor of Wandsworth and Chairman of the Metropolitan Boroughs Rifle Association, has sent an official invitation to the President and Committee of the S.R.A. to be present at the final shoot for the Cup of the Inter-Borough Miniature Rifle Shooting Competition, which takes place on Saturday afternoon, September 13th, at the Range near the Ham and Twickenham Ferry.

Three preliminary rounds have resulted in the following four clubs having to compete in the above final: the Boroughs of Wandsworth, Kensington, Richmond, and Shoreditch.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Ernest Wetter, the chief of the Division du Commerce of the Département Fédéral de l'Economie Publique, is at present staying in London for a short time; he will be the guest of the City Swiss Club at the Monthly Dinner to be held next Tuesday at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

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UNION HELVETIA CLUB,

1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Ave., W. 1.

FAREWELL DINNER

in honour of

Mr. & Mrs. AUG. WYSS,

Wednesday, September 11th.

Dinner at 8.30 sharp. Dancing till 2 a.m.

TICKETS 5/- from Steward or Committee Members.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la
prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 9 SEPTEMBRE au Brent
Bridge Hotel, Hendon. Cette assemblée sera
précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h. précises (6/6 par
couvert) et suivi d'une danse.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: City 4603).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Dmissions. Divers.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 7 Sept., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 79, Endell Street, W.C. 2.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutsch-Schweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C. 2.

Sonntag, 7. Sept., 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.

Pfr. W. Dietsche.

6.30 abends (79, Endell Street).—Bibelstunde,
Amos in Beth-El. Pfr. W. Dietsche.

TRAUNGEN.

Robert BRAND, von Bellach (Solothurn), und Nelly BRÜDER, von Lauperswil (Bern)—getraut am 2. Aug.
Eugen WEBER, von Menziken (Aargau), und Maria HELFER, von Lurtigen (Fribourg)—getraut am 25. August.

Requests for Pastor's visits, Baptisms, Weddings, etc., can be made on Sunday morning after the service, or to the Treasurer, C. Bertschinger, 114, Fore St., London, E.C. 2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Sept. 9th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See advert.)

Wednesday, Sept. 10th, at 8.30.—UNION HELVETIA CLUB: Farewell Dinner in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Wyss (See adv.)

Wednesday, Sept. 17th, at 8.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Monthly Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, W. 1.

Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting).—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice at Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp).

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOHRINGER, by THE FREDRICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 21, GARLICK HILL, LONDON, E.C.