

Appeal on behalf of destitute Swiss abroad

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4. The following Committees were constituted for 1924:—Entr' Aide Committee: Mr. Bertschinger, Mr. J. Pfendler (Chairman), Mr. A. Renou, the Rev. H. Urner; Propaganda and Entertainment: Mr. J. H. Bächli, Mr. C. Kiefer (Chairman), Mr. Neuschwander, Mr. A. Schmid, Mr. Theo. Weber; Press Committee: Dr. F. Bodmer, Mr. H. Büchi, Miss A. H. Reutiner, Dr. W. Weibel (Chairman), Dr. E. Zehnder. Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

UNION HELVETIA.

It looks as if the Edward VII Rooms at the Hotel Victoria were likely to become the official venue for the large social gatherings of the Swiss Colony. Following the example of the City Swiss Club, the "Union Helvetia" held its annual Banquet and Ball in this commodious hall on Thursday, February 21st. The company consisted of about 160 members and friends. Monsieur J. Borsinger, 1st Secretary of the Swiss Legation, presided. No time was lost in despatching the excellent dinner, and the few speeches were brief and to the point.

The loyal toast having been duly honoured, Mr. J. Emmenegger proceeded to propose the "Union Helvetia," of which society he is the devoted president. This being the 38th anniversary, he reviewed the development and activity of the central society. As regards the work done in London, he thought progress was best illustrated by quoting a few figures. In 1910 their employment bureau had filled 600 vacancies—in 1923 just over 2,000 permanent staff were placed, in addition to 3,000 temporary staff, i.e., in all about 5,000. The offices in Lucerne, Lausanne, Paris and New York were having similarly satisfactory records.

Mr. A. Schmid proposed "The Guests," the only notable guest being the Chairman, Monsieur J. Borsinger. Whilst regretting the unavoidable absence of the Swiss Minister, the speaker extended a very hearty welcome to his distinguished colleague, whose presence abundantly testified to the good relations that existed between the Swiss Legation and their society. Monsieur Borsinger replied, stating that he was very proud to-night to represent the Swiss Minister, who was deeply impressed with the valuable work which the Union Helvetia—so closely identified with one of our most important industries at home—was carrying on in this country for the benefit of our compatriots. He mentioned that the Minister was at present negotiating with the British Ministry of Labour and the Foreign Office with reference to the exchange of hotel employees; it was gratifying to state that the representations made were being considered sympathetically. Monsieur Borsinger terminated by drinking the health of the representatives of the Press and to the continuance of the good relations between the two countries, to foster which was to such a large extent in the hands of our journalistic friends. Mr. P. F. Boehringer, on behalf of "The Swiss Observer," "Daily Telegraph," "Daily Chronicle" and "Catering Trade," returned thanks, remarking that the cordial relations, which were now traditional, were brought about by the unobstructed goodwill between the two countries and, in a large measure, by the frank and engaging behaviour of our compatriots pursuing their calling in this country.

Mr. F. Isler, in proposing "The Ladies," wondered why this privilege was always reserved for a bachelor. Was it because he was supposed to be ignorant of the ways and charms of the fair sex and less liable to lose himself in fantastic visions and assertions? If he were to judge by his very restricted experience, he would say that the modern Venus preferred the sinner to the saint. In view of its being leap-year he was reluctant to say much for fear that some of his fair friends present might wrongly interpret his peroration.

During the dinner an orchestra, under the direction of Mr. R. F. W. Ebert, rendered popular music. Dancing commenced at an early hour; classic and modern dances, from the cotillon and lancers to the "Blues," found enthusiastic exponents. Mr. F. Schneeberger acted as M.C., but his popularity was such that his attention was mostly devoted to less exigent duties. Nobody worried about the last trains, and the number of grey-haired veterans who stayed till the final, was astonishing. Perhaps they also had an inkling of the little surprise in store for them and provided so discreetly by the considerate Mr. Wyss in the form of the national "soupe à l'Onion."

Amongst those present were the following:—E. Neuschwander, G. DeBrunner, H. LeForestier, Dr. Montuschi, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Schroeter, Dr. Devegney, Chiappa-Sinclair, A. Schmid (Glendower Hotel), C. Schorno (Wellington Hotel), J. Daepfen (Craven Hotel), O. Brullhardt (Goring Hotel), G. Burger (Scott's Restaurant), L. Budry (Cadogan Hotel), Goth (Midland Hotel), A. Schmid (Coburg Hotel), A. Schorno, H. Moser, C. Bonvin, A. Haller, A. Wyss, etc.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

SOCIAL EVENING, HELD ON FEB. 22nd, 1924.

This year's Social Evening proved a far bigger success, as compared with last year's smaller homely gathering.

A party of 140, nearly all students of the Day and Evening Classes, with their teacher, assembled at 8 p.m. in the large hall at the Union Helvetia Club.

The Hon. Chef de Cours, Mr. B. Bretscher, in the Chair, after the usual toasts to "The King" and "La Patrie," made brief reference to the current year's activities, and expressed hearty thanks to M. Henri Martin, Commercial Attaché to the Swiss Legation, for his untiring interest and help in our work.

M. Martin, in his much appreciated reply, encouraged the students to make the best of their limited stay in this country, so as to derive sufficient benefit to prove helpful in their career on their return to the home country. He added that the good impression gained on the occasion of one of his visits to the Day School made him regret that he was no longer a student.

The two principal Professors, Mr. A. Levy and Mr. O. Ph. Masterman Smith, M.A. Cantab., followed with humorous speeches and paid compliments to the students to the effect that in all their teaching career they had never had such a good ensemble of industrious "good boys and girls" anxious to learn and make progress. Mr. Levy recorded that at last year's examination of the National Union of Teachers the only two medals in the category "English to Foreigners" were awarded to our students. Mr. Masterman recalled that when he started the classes on January 1st of last year, he waited for a few days for the first student to turn up, but by November last the attendance had increased to over 150 students, with a total to date of 850 students who have passed through the various monthly classes.

In conclusion, the Hon. Secretary asked the assembly to express their appreciation to Mr. Bretscher for the evening's arrangements, which were entirely in his hands, and for his great zeal in connection with the administration of the Evening Classes, whereupon the students replied by vociferous applause.

Thereupon followed an enjoyable evening, with dancing and a musical programme, also a play in two acts, cleverly acted by Mr. Kamber and the Misses Duenner, whose accomplishments were heartily applauded.

The Education Committee tenders sincere thanks to these artistes, the members who made up the dance band, the lady student who proved an excellent accordion player, and to Mr. and Mrs. Wyss, the club steward and stewardess, all of whom contributed to the success of the evening. We are all looking forward eagerly to the next function of a similar nature. X.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The ordinary Monthly Meeting was held on Feb. 20th at the Union Helvetia. Before commencing with the business of the evening, the president, Mr. G. DeBrunner, regretted to have to announce that since our last meeting we had to deplore the loss of our Honorary Member, Mr. G. Dimier, who was a well-known and highly esteemed personality, not only in the S.M.S., but amongst the whole Swiss Colony. His loss was severely felt by all who knew the deceased. As an expression of sympathy the assembly rose in silence.

After the minutes of the previous Monthly Meeting had been read and adopted, 12 applications for membership and 13 resignations were dealt with, all of which were accepted.

The President stated that a Smoking Concert would take place on the 14th of next month in the large hall of the Union Helvetia, and expressed the hope that all members would appear with their friends. A large gathering is anticipated, and the Entertainment Committee has been very active in producing a most enjoyable programme.

Various letters were read, which, however, referred to less important matters, and the meeting, which had been attended by approximately 25 members, closed at 10.15 p.m.

Appeal on Behalf of Destitute Swiss Abroad.

Every year, on the occasion of the 1st of August celebrations, a special fund is collected—by the sale of postcards and badges—and is devoted to a philanthropic object at the discretion and choice of the Federal Council. In this way a considerable amount was handed over last year to the several institutions benefiting the Blind, and it has been noted that a good many Swiss Clubs and Societies abroad have officially joined this movement, obtaining valuable financial contributions. This year the Federal Council has earmarked this relief fund for the benefit of destitute Swiss living abroad, of whom there are unfortunately, chiefly due to the still abnormal conditions, such a large number that their relief is often beyond the resources of local organisations. It is confidently hoped that this year's object will appeal to every Swiss abroad who can spare anything, no matter how little, for this very worthy purpose.

Particulars as to postcards and badges (the latter are sold at one franc) can be obtained from the "Schweiz. Nationalkomitee zur Feier des 1. August," 6, Höggerstrasse, Zürich, who will also be pleased to acknowledge any donations.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

43, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

By arrangement with the Swiss Postal Authorities, TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES, which can be cashed at any Post Office in Switzerland, are obtainable at the Offices of the Bank.

The WEST END BRANCH open Savings Bank Accounts on terms which can be ascertained on application.

UNION HELVETIA CLUB,

1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.
(Opposite Shaftesbury Theatre.)

30 Bedrooms. 45 Beds.

Luncheons & Suppers à prix fixe or à la carte at Moderate Prices.

Private and Wedding Parties Catered for.

SWISS CUISINE AND WINES.

BILLIARDS AND SKITTLES.

Dances every Saturday and Sunday Evening from 9 till 11.45. Tea Dansant and Concert every Sunday Afternoon from 4 till 6.

Membership Fee: One Guinea per annum.

New Members welcome.

The Clubhouse Committee.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 4 MARS au Restaurant GATTI et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 6.45 h. (sh. 5/- par couvert).

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.

Démissions.
Divers.

UNION HELVETIA,

1, GERRARD PLACE, SHAFTESBURY AVE., W.

Bockbierfest

mit Würstessen und Tanz,

ON
Wednesday, March 5th, 1924,

From 8 till 1.30.

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

Dimanche, Mars 2, 11h.—Mr. Niklaus.
6.30.—Pfr. H. Urner.

MARIAGES.

Louis STEINGRUBER, de Hermsdorf (Allemagne) et Alice HUSTACHE, de Paris—le 15 Fév. 1924.

Arthur MARFURT, de Meiringen, et May DEN-NORD, de Hythe—le 25 Fév. 1924.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, March 1st, at 6.30.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at Midland Hotel.

Tuesday, March 4th, at 6.45.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Tuesday, March 11th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS: Delegates' Meeting at Union Helvetia, 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.

Tuesday, March 11th, at 8 p.m.—CONCERT by Rod. Gaillard's pupils, assisted by Swiss Choral Society, at Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1.

Friday, March 14.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Smoking Concert.

Saturday, March 15th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

Thursday, March 20, at 7.30.—UNION HELVETIA: Charity Concert for the benefit of London hospitals, at Steinway Hall.

Saturday, Apr. 5.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball.

Every Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Miniature Rifle Shooting Practice at Regent Street Polytechnic, W. 1.

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