

# Swiss Benevolent Society

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1926)**

Heft 275

PDF erstellt am: **21.07.2024**

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*Zürcher Zeitung*, et Monsieur Raymond, correspondant de la *Gazette de Lausanne*, qui avec Monsieur Eochringer, l'éditeur et propriétaire du *Swiss Observer*, accompagné de Madame Boehringer, ont bien voulu accepter notre invitation.

Je crois oser mentionner Monsieur Eochringer peut se vanter d'avoir des lecteurs accommodants vu qu'ils pourraient faire paraître dans son numéro du commencement de septembre un petit entrefilet de ce genre :

Chers lecteurs, Je pars en vacances, la suite au prochain numéro qui paraîtra probablement au commencement d'octobre et ceci sans s'attirer les reproches de ses abonnés qui lui payent sa souscription d'une année, à l'avance.

Je suis heureux et fier de saluer notre doyen, Monsieur Geilinger, qui a fêté cette année le 60<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire, donc le "Diamond Jubilee" de son entrée dans le City Swiss Club.

Il me reste avant de conclure le plus agréable des devoirs qui est de souhaiter la bienvenue aux dames qui nous honorent ce soir de leur compagnie et j'espère que notre soirée leur procurera tout le plaisir qu'elles en attendent.

Je demande maintenant aux membres du City Swiss Club de bien vouloir se lever et boire à la santé de leurs invités.

Ce discours fut reçu comme les précédents avec vifs applaudissements et le toast aux invités honoré avec ferveur.

Monsieur le Dr. Dent, Président de l'Association des membres britanniques du Club Alpin Suisse, remercie le City Swiss Club au nom des invités en les termes suivants :—

"My friends, I venture to address you in this unorthodox and familiar manner because this is the fourth consecutive occasion on which I have had the great honour of replying to this toast, and I do not feel a bit like a visitor; in fact, I feel like one of yourselves. Although not a brother to you by blood, I am in spirit, and I look upon myself as a sort of godchild to your beautiful father and motherland. Having spent thirty summer holidays in climbing your Alps, I look upon Switzerland as my spiritual home; the very word "Switzerland" brings back many memories—memories I would not sell for a million—memories of the woods, green alps and blue lakes, foaming waterfalls and laughing brooklets, even the butterflies and flowers, the stupendous precipices with the dark forest at their feet, the rocky pinnacles piercing the blue of heaven, the snowy domes kissed by the cloudlets, the shining snowfields with their glittering iccfalls—all this I have known and loved from the time when the mighty Hunter of the East has caught the "foremost summit in a noose of light," when the same sun at noonday shines through the sparkling, crystalline atmosphere with its blue, violet and purple distances, and when, at eventide, he sinks to rest in a turquoise, amethyst, daffodil, gold and crimson sky. "Breathes there a man with heart so cold, who would not fight for such a land?"

On this note I will conclude, and on behalf of the visitors thank Monsieur Jobin, the proposer of this toast, and you for the manner in which you have received it, and also for your splendid hospitality this evening. Personally, I have also to thank you for affording me this opportunity for giving expression to my love for your beautiful country and my admiration—my profound admiration—for its people. I raise my glass and drink to the health, happiness, glory and prosperity of Switzerland."

La lourde tache de l'appel à la générosité des présents en faveur de cette oeuvre si méritoire, le Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses Pauvres à Londres, échoit de nouveau cette année au Président de cette Société, Monsieur R. Dupraz, qui s'en décharge avec beaucoup de succès, la collecte ayant rapporté la jolie somme de £162, Monsieur Dupraz adressa l'assemblée comme suit :—

Like our faithful London fog I am turning up again and if I did not know that you look upon me as an old established and unavoidable nuisance I should not dare to get up. I even think that some of you having already drawn your cheques and made the necessary arrangements for same to be met, would be sadly disappointed if you had to take them home again owing to no appeal having been made at this dinner on behalf of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Well, things are not any better this year, in fact they are worse, the unrest in the labour world having deprived many of our countrymen of their regular employment. This has resulted in a further increase of our expenses which for the first nine months of this year amount to the fresh record of £1,822 against £1,772 for the corresponding period of 1925, whereas our ordinary receipts at £625 are £64 down on last year, so that we show a net deficit on 1925 of £114. Had it not been for the timely subsidies of the Swiss Authorities, which have amounted so far this year to £991, our position would be a very serious one. As it is we have spent considerably more than we have received, but just think where

we should be without this official support from Switzerland. It is therefore all the more regrettable that we should have been notified last week that for 1927 we shall only receive 60 per cent. of the amount allowed us in 1926 from that quarter, the sum voted for the Swiss abroad having been considerably reduced. We have protested, but in vain, I fear, and the difference will have to be made up from our own budget as we cannot possibly give less than we do now without allowing our people to starve. In this connection our gratitude is due to M. Paravicini and the Swiss Legation for the way in which they intervene for us with our Government, and it is largely due to them that we have obtained from Berne such substantial help in the past.

You can see from all this that we are pretty busy and that the Monday night beehive is buzzing hard. That we are doing healthy work is confirmed by the fact that one of our leading bees, our Vice-President, Mr. George Forrer, has completed last month his fifty years of active membership of our Committee. Unfortunately he is no longer very keen on late nights and could not be here, but I am sure that you all wish him many more years of health and happiness among our Swiss Colony. My modest colleagues have begged of me not to mention them individually to-night, but you know all these enthusiasts of the Fonds de Secours, who for years have regularly devoted their Monday evenings to carry out in a businesslike and sympathetic manner the growing work of our Society. It affords me much pleasure to thank them all here to-night on your behalf, and to tell them how deeply their devotion is appreciated by our Colony in general.

But for all this, ladies and gentlemen, the whole basis of our Institution and the factor which dictates our policy throughout the year are, we fully realise, your individual contributions to our funds. For various reasons you cannot all take personally an active part in distributing assistance to our less fortunate countrymen, but what you can all do is, by your generosity, to enable those in charge to do things as you would like them to be done. Thanks to you we are able to do a lot, but it is far from enough. Through lack of funds we have to restrict ourselves to assisting only those who are in dire circumstances. We have a Fonds Dimier which should enable our old pensioners to leave their garrets for a bright and sunny Home somewhere in the country, but this will never be, judging by the miserable amount collected so far for this purpose. We know, also, of dozens of children who are sadly in need of a short stay in the country to rebuild their weak constitutions, but we cannot afford to send them there. Worst of all, this year especially, we hear of people (these do not come to us) who, though quite recently in good circumstances, are fighting with all their might against adversity. Their income has dwindled down to a mere nothing, but there is a chance that if they can hold out a few more months, or perhaps weeks, things will righten themselves. Here a discreet monetary gift—even an anonymous one—would make all the difference in the world. We have done it, and we know all the good it has done, but how can we carry on when our resources are barely sufficient for those of whom we are the last and only support?

I am afraid I am not equal to the task of putting all these needs before you, but why not come, some of you, on one of our Monday evenings and see for yourselves where your contributions go? When I ask you to come I mean it, and I promise you that you will be very welcome there. It will be a revelation to you, and when many of those present to-night have availed themselves of my hearty invitation, they will have the needs of the Fonds de Secours so well before them that we shall not have to worry any more about our financial position. In the meantime I can sincerely assure you that we need your help more than ever before. We know where there is a lot of misery; help us to relieve it by giving generously to-night. We can do nothing without your support; therefore give us all you can, ladies and gentlemen, and the thanks of all these unfortunate families will ring in your ears and you will have the satisfaction of having gladdened the heart of some poor fellow-creature.

On ne manqua pas de remarquer et surtout d'apprécier la brièveté des discours et ceci sans que la qualité en souffre. Depuis quelques années, dans son adresse le Président a abandonné les longues listes de statistiques et renseignements de tous genres sur la marche des affaires de la Suisse qui naturellement, n'étaient plus écoutés qu'avec résignation par une grande partie des participants. Le C.S.C. peut se féliciter de ce changement qui abrège la partie officielle et permet au bal qui suit de commencer peu après 10 heures.

Tous ceux qui prirent part à cette magnifique soirée sont unanimes à reconnaître que le Comité du C.S.C. a droit à leurs vifs remerciements pour la manière parfaite dont chaque détail avait été arrangé.

Le bal qui dura jusqu'à 2 heures fut également très réussi et, grâce aux arrangements fait par le Comité d'organisation, le nombre des danses fut augmenté sensiblement par le fait qu'un seul "encore" très court n'était admis par l'orchestre.

Monsieur Devegney, Manager de l'Hotel Victoria, a également droit aux remerciements de tous pour avoir secondé le Comité si efficacement par ses conseils et son concours si appropriés.

L'excellent Banquet fut servi avec une promptitude exemplaire.

Comme d'habitude cette belle soirée fut agrémentée par la présence de nombreux de nos Compatriotes éminents de la Cité, mais naturellement la première place pour la parfaite réussite est due aux nombreuses dames qui y participèrent.

Ce fut avec regrets qu'on remarqua l'absence des représentants des Consuls de Liverpool, Hull, Manchester et Glasgow, ainsi que celle de notre ami dévoué Monsieur de Bourg, 1<sup>er</sup> Secrétaire de la Légation, dont la présence fut empêchée au dernier moment pour cause de maladie.

Cette belle soirée est sûrement digne des hautes traditions du City Swiss Club, et le 70<sup>ème</sup> Anniversaire de la fondation de la Société restera sans aucun doute gravé dans la mémoire de tous ceux qui eurent le privilège d'y assister.

Parmi les présents on distinguait les suivants :

Mr. and Mrs. Hangartner, Mr. and Mrs. Buser, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Gattiker, Mr. A. Schmid, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, Miss Sophie Wyss, Captain Gyde, Mr. G. Jenne, Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Pfirter, Mr. and Mrs. Ibbotson, Mr. and Mrs. Haag, Mr. Meschini and friends, Dr. Montuschi, Mr. Chiappa Sinclair, Mr. Huber, Mr. and Mrs. Sommer, Mr. Monastier, Mr. L'Hardy, Mr. Laemlé, Mr. and Mrs. Schuppach and family, Mr. Maeder, Mr. and Mrs. L. Chapuis, Mr. Delacour, Miss M. L. Perret, Mr. P. Bessire, Mr. and Mrs. R. Marchand, Mr. R. Bessire, Mr. A. Corbat, Mr. and Mrs. C. Chapuis, Miss Campart, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Martin, Mr. M. Perret, Miss Tusher, Miss Suter, Mr. and Miss Geilinger, Mr. and Mrs. de Cintra, Mr. and Mrs. Charton, Dr. Devegney, Miss Devegney, Mr. and Mrs. L. Jobin, Mr. Devegney, Mr. and Mrs. Frey, Mr. Neuschwander, Mr. and Mrs. Victor, Mr. and Miss Lorsignol, Mr. Dapples, Mr. and Mrs. Roost and family, The Misses Barbezat, Mr. Neuschwander, Mrs. Goetzlof, Mr. and Mrs. Ultramare, Mr. Gerig, Mr. and Mrs. Saager, Mr. and Mrs. Koch, Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Miss Trost, Mr. Senn, Miss Iseley, Miss Schaebeli, Mr. and Mrs. Rohr and family, Mr. and Mrs. Zogg, Mr. and Mrs. Foreman, Mr. Hilfiker, Miss Kricke, Lieut. L. Boord, Miss Falliser, Miss Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. Freund, Mr. and Mrs. Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. Werner, Mr. Despond, Mr. Brunner, Mr. Widtman, Mrs. Boubyr, Mr. and Mrs. Froidevaux, Mr. and Mrs. Vandendries, Mr. Schaffner, Mr. Conrad, Mr. de Wolf, Mr. Laucheimer, Mr. Vieland, Mr. and Mrs. Schorno, Mr. Strelbel, Mr. F. Huber, Miss Muller, Miss Moita, Mr. Eckenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Gamper, Mr. and Mrs. Siegrist, Mr. and Mrs. Couzyn, Mr. Sprenger, Mr. A. Muller, Miss Muller, Mr. C. Valon, Mr. and Mrs. Schobinger, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Baume, Mr. and Mrs. Chatelain, Mr. Bon, Mrs. Eckenstein, Mr. Defrenne, Mr. Ritter, Mr. Wuthrich, Mr. Gamper, Miss Buhler, Mr. Minder, Mrs. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. Boehringer, Mr. de Maillardoz, Mr. and Mrs. Siegrist, Mr. Zurcher, Mr. and Mrs. Honegger, Mr. and Mrs. Obrist.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

#### CINDERELLA DANCE

at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, on  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 15th, at 6.30.

Tickets at 10/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from  
Members of the Committee.

#### SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

We are informed that an amount of £9 5s. has been handed to the Treasurer of the Swiss Benevolent Society by Messrs. J. Manzoni and E. Bommer of the Swiss Choral Society, in reference to the Swiss Yodel Concert recently arranged by them.

#### ECHO ANSWERS "WHERE?"

Scene:—A Swiss Funicular Railway.

Dear Old Lady: "What would happen if the engine began to run backwards?"

Official: "The brakes would be immediately applied."

D.O.L.: "But if the brakes failed to act—?"

Off.: "Then the emergency brakes would come into operation."

D.O.L.: "But if the emergency brakes failed, where would we be?"

Off.: "That would depend on the kind of life you have led!"

(*Heard at suburban lecture on Switzerland*).