

Swiss children in London

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, the 17th November, at 8 p.m., the fourth Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Rifle Association was held at the Union Helvetia, Gerrard Place. About 160 members and their friends and some fifteen guests sat down to an enjoyable dinner, the Swiss Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, being in the chair.

The culinary part of the programme having been done full justice to, the toast "The King," followed by that to Switzerland, was given by M. Paravicini and enthusiastically honoured by the audience, who sang the respective anthems with a full-throated and hearty vigour.

The Swiss Minister, M. Paravicini, then rose and in a humorous little speech in which he referred to a Chinese diplomat who, upon being asked to make a speech, remarked that he was rather a poor hand at the game as after dinner speeches had been abolished in his country 2,000 years ago, wished the Swiss Rifle Association every success and expressed the hope that the speeches following his should not take longer than five minutes. He also extended a welcome to National Councillor Ceglie, who was present.

M. Paravicini was followed by the President of the Swiss R.A., Mr. Chas. Strubin, who gave a short *resumé* of the Association's activities during 1927. He congratulated the successful competitors in this year's matches, and said that they, by their example, had encouraged those who were less fortunate, amongst whom he had, unfortunately, also to count himself. Being limited to a speech of five minutes' duration he was, he remarked, prevented from giving the full results and would therefore content himself with the statement that the Swiss Rifle Association had done very well during the season. He hoped it would continue to do so, and expressed every good wish for its future welfare. He also mentioned that the membership, although slowly, was increasing, and that the interest of members and competitors alike was as keen as ever. The number of competitors for the season's match, as well as for the final "Shoot," was larger than on the two previous occasions and the results everything that could be desired.

Mr. Strubin then thanked M. Paravicini, the Honorary President of the S.R.A., for honouring the banquet with his presence, and alluded in grateful terms to the keen interest M. Paravicini had always taken in the Association's welfare.

He next extended a cordial welcome to the representatives of the Borough of Wandsworth Rifle Club, Alderman Mills, ex-Mayor of the Borough, and Councillor Edwards, whom they were happy to see amongst them on that night. He emphasised that the relations existing between the Wandsworth Rifle Club and the Swiss Rifle Association had always been of the most friendly kind and expressed the hope that they would continue to be so.

He then went on to say that M. Paravicini had kindly presented a Swiss Army Rifle to the Association and that this good example was followed by M. de Bourg, Secretary of Legation, who had given another. Both gifts were highly appreciated and accepted with thanks.

Further gratifying news was heard when Mr. Strubin announced that Mrs. Cusi, in memory of her late husband, had presented the S.R.A. with a considerable sum of money with the wish that it should be placed to the credit of a special loan fund. Incidentally, the President mentioned that it had been Mr. Cusi's dearest wish that the S.R.A. should be present at the Tir Fédéral—which takes place at Bellinzona in 1929—with its own flag, and that he (the President) hoped this might be possible. (It would have been a graceful act of homage to the memory of the donor and late member if those present had then risen for a moment in his honour.)

At this point the Swiss Triple Quartette rendered a few songs under the able conductorship of M. Rod, Gaillard, which were much appreciated. These in turn were followed by a song given by Miss Stella Cavalli and a duet by this lady and M. Rod, Gaillard.

The "Guests" toast was proposed by Mr. J. C. Wetter, who extended the S.R.A.'s welcome to them. Councillor Edwards in his own name and that of Alderman Mills, ex-Mayor of the Borough of Wandsworth, expressed the pleasure it gave them in finding themselves that night amongst the members of the S.R.A., with whom the W.R.C. had on more than one occasion measured its strength in friendly rivalry. He laid emphasis on the feelings of goodwill and respect which existed between their respective rifle teams and which they

in Wandsworth entertained for the Swiss generally. He also conveyed the regrets of Sir Henry Jackson, the Mayor of the Borough of Wandsworth, who, owing to a prior engagement, had found it impossible to be present.

The following guests attended:—Mr. A. de Bourg, First Secretary of Legation; Alderman Mills, Wandsworth Borough Rifle Club, ex-Mayor of Wandsworth; Councillor Edwards, Wandsworth Borough Council; Mr. Jobin, for the City Swiss Club; Mr. A. Stahelin, for the Swiss Mercantile Society; Mr. A. Biuchi, Hon. Secretary Unione Ticinese; Mr. E. Ritzman, Hon. Treas. Swiss Choral Society; E. Block, Swiss Gymnastic Society; Mr. Louis Pache, for the Schweizerbund; Mr. Finger, Union Helvetia; Mr. Domeisen, *Swiss Observer*. I also noticed amongst the guests the Hon. Vice-President of the Swiss Rifle Association, Mr. De Brunner, who has, in former years, been so prominent in that Society.

Mr. Edwards was followed by State Councillor Ceglie, of the Ticino, who, in a speech full of ardent patriotism, thanked the Swiss R.A. and its President for the opportunity they had given him to attend a festive gathering of his countrymen in London, whose moral and spiritual value *vis-à-vis* the Fatherland he extolled. He was particularly moved, he continued, at the flattering and affectionate references which were made to his "engendered Landsmann," M. Giuseppe Motta, the President of the Swiss Confederation, and he would tell the latter when he was next in Bern of the sentiments of esteem and affection in which he was held by the Swiss Colony in London. He lifted his glass to the prosperity of 'La Patrie' and to M. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister.

The Minister replied in a few witty sentences, the gist of which was that, in view of Mr. Ceglie's speech his previous allusion to Chinese customs relating to after-dinner speeches sounded out of place. He was very often credited with good ideas whereas these, if the truth were told, not infrequently originated in the heads of his staff who modestly allowed their "beloved Chief" to take the credit for them. He had, for instance, to admit that the idea of offering a rifle to the Swiss Rifle Association emanated from M. de Bourg, and it was lucky for him that this gentleman did not himself give two for he (the Minister) in order not to be outdone would in that case have had to give three. (Loud laughter.) He complimented Mr. Strubin on the successful evening, but added jocularly that while he was an excellent President he could not shoot.

"The Ladies, God bless them," were proposed by Mr. J. Haesler in a witty speech which evoked a good deal of hilarity—not least amongst the objects of his peroration, which from mere man's point of view, must have been highly gratifying to him.

The rest of the night was given up to Terpsichore and dancing and kept up into the small hours of the morning, thus bringing a highly successful and enviable function to an end.

In all over 180 prizes were distributed, the following being the principal winners:—300-yds. Season Competition.—1st, E. R. Hirt; 2nd, J. C. Wetter; 3rd, E. Brullhard. 100-yds. Season competition.—1st, J. C. Wetter; 2nd, S. De Vincenti; 3rd, A. Lampart. 300-yds. Skill Competition.—1st, A. Lampart; 2nd, C. O. Brullhard; 3rd, P. Hilfiker. 100-yds. Skill Competition.—1st, H. P. Holliger; 2nd, Alfred Schmid; 3rd, P. Hilfiker. 300-yds. Handicap.—1st, G. Burger; 2nd, Alfred Schmid; 3rd, O. Brullhard. 100-yds. Handicap.—1st, H. Holliger; 2nd, G. Burger; 3rd, J. C. Wetter. Ladies' Competition.—Winner, Mrs. Lampart. Boys' Competition.—Master G. Burger.

The catering was in the able hands of M. and Mme. Rossier, who deserve a special word of thanks for looking so well after our material welfare and for the very efficient service they gave us.

If I might make a suggestion it is that functions of this size may in future be held in more spacious places as the hall at the Union Helvetia was uncomfortably overcrowded, which detracted somewhat from an otherwise thoroughly enjoyable and pleasant evening. E.A.D.

SWISS CHILDREN IN LONDON.

We Swiss, in London since many years, all know that there is a peculiar problem which arises fatally in all Swiss families settled long enough in this country—the problem of their children. It is not my intention to examine this difficult question to-day; I simply point out to all our staunch compatriots that there is, at hand a special opportunity of encouraging some of these very Swiss children, a group which for years has endeavoured to keep up a link between themselves, built on a common faith and a common love for Switzerland.

For two and a half years these little ones of the Swiss Sunday School have met together monthly in happy afternoon gatherings. They have worked together, helped by devoted teachers, preparing faithfully, even with enthusiasm, for a far-off opportunity.

And now it has come at last: it will be on Saturday next, Dec. 3rd, at 2 p.m., in the "Foyer

Suisse," 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1., and Madame Paravicini, fully acknowledging the value of such an enterprise, has graciously consented to open the Bazaar.

And if you go there and buy some of the splendid things, some really artistic, many very useful, and others delicious, made by the young generation of London Swiss, or if you come there to have a good tea or enjoy a fine entertainment, all prepared by these youngsters, you will do a good deed. You will not only help materially a worthy cause, but moreover encourage these small brothers and sisters of yours in their love for their parents' Country. They will feel that their elders love them and appreciate their patient efforts, and it will help them to keep alive the flame of love for Switzerland in their hearts. This will be on your part a piece of practical and effective patriotism. H.V.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

On Friday evening, the 18th inst., Mr. Edward Yates entertained us with a lecture on "Tower Hill to Temple Bar," illustrated by a large number of slides giving numerous views of old buildings, churches, porticos, etc. He also explained the history of such places as Crosby Hall, St. Helen's Church, Aldgate Pump, Mediaeval house signs, etc.

An assembly of over 150 listened with great interest to the subject, of which the lecturer possesses a wide knowledge. J.C.

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