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SWISS SPORTS.

"Where are you going to, my pretty maid?"
"A'Sporting, at Herne Hill, Sir," she said.

(With respectful apologies to Swiss Milk interests.)

Such and other similar questions and answers were but the logical outcome of the flaming headlines in the *Swiss Observer* of recent dates "inciting all and sundry to action" on the occasion of the Annual Swiss Sports held on Saturday last.

Gratifying indeed must it have been to the "Comité d'Organisation" to watch the never-ending stream of brother and sister citizens arriving at the sports ground to participate in the festivities, either as active performers in the arena or merely as interested onlookers on the grand stand. Never before in the history of these sports gatherings has it happened that all the programmes were turned into hard cash, and the genial smile of the Hon. Treasurer was ample testimony to the satisfaction he had derived from the amount of the gate money. Was it possible that the load of chocolate boxes with which we saw him struggle was in a measure responsible—popular as he already is without any sweet inducements—for the splendid exertions on the part of the fair sellers?

The most striking feature of the patriotic gathering was, however, the truly amazing array of "Benzinkraftluxuswagen" (some rather "Kleino" and others more "Grossio") all of them being at rest at the side of each other in complete harmony, irrespective of race, religion, or worldly possession of their respective owners, a picture demonstrating in convincing manner the democratic spirit—not "R.O.P." brand—which permeates the London Swiss Colony. But these democratic and patriotic sentiments manifested themselves still more strikingly, when on the arrival of H.E. the Swiss Minister, as Hon. President of the Sports Meeting, the Military Band on the ground struck up the first few bars of our cherished national hymn: "Rufst du mich, so hoer ich dich."

Assuredly among the "rosted" gentlemen (we must have counted some 200 of them even before we 'saw double'), there must have been a special "favori" of the Weather Clerk, for a more glorious day in point of azure sky, radiant sunshine and cooling breeze one could hardly desire. Indeed, henceforth the traditional "Queen's weather" may have to give way to the now repeatedly proved term of "Swiss Sports weather," implying the best available.

But let us make the acquaintanceship of some of the competitors, since the Comité have once more succeeded in placing before us a most attractive "Menu" of Events:

The 1926 record in the 100 yds. Flat Handicap for men was equalled on this occasion by Mr. Jaeggli, of the Swiss Federal Railways—a Department that should, of course, be noted for speed on all tracks.

While Mr. S. Studer completed a run of 206 yards net in 23 2/5ths seconds in the 220 yds. Handicap for Swiss only, Mr. C. Havery, of the Swiss Bank Corporation, managed 203yds. net in a similar race for competitors employed by subscribing firms, etc.

The Swiss Mercantile Society have reason to be proud this year of their member, Mr. D. Zollinger, who gained premier position as regards "Putting the weight" (36yds. 4in.), High Jump 5ft. 2in., and Long Jump (19ft. 1in.). Hear ye congratulations! (We understand that this formidable athlete is of docile nature, so the 'Pewers that be' at the S.M.S. need not become alarmed over these remarkable performances!)

As on all similar occasions, the Tug-of-War proved the *pièce de résistance*, and a huge crowd of spectators, young and old, watched the 12 pairs of sinewy arms displaying their muscular strength *pro* and *contra* on the ship's hawser. The most interesting contest was undoubtedly fought out between the Cercle Valaisan and the team of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Mr. Dellaloie's Maître d'Hôtel tactics: "Now boys, are you ready? Then serve it up right hot" were unquestionably responsible for the ultimate defeat of their gallant opponents, the Swiss Bank team. Let it be stated that for a long time the 'Valaisan' could 'get no change' out of the "Bankers," but eventually the 'security' (of legs) the former were able to put up was deemed to offer an 'adequate margin' for yielding. It was a noteworthy defence, and we are glad the Bankers ultimately secured a second prize, whereas the Cercle Valaisan is now the proud owner of the *Swiss Observer* Challenge Cup.

Of all people on the ground at 3.15 p.m., none was more pleased that the 8th event was over than Mr. J. Haesler, who for the second time has won the Veterans' Walking Handicap Cup. We understand that for the last 366 days (1928 unfortunately prolonged the agony by 24 hours) the successful competitor had starved and exercised himself into a 'prime condition of fitness' and now, *bataille gagnée*, relished himself for the first time with a savoury 'Knagi,' firmly resolving that once more would he 'make up his mind and ankles' to win the Cup for the third and last time next year.

While No. 2 of the Veterans' may possibly have escaped an award, we think from the point of view of entertaining the onlookers, his performance fully

deserved a prize, for we are sure even the great Charlie himself would have applauded our sportsman's efforts.

The Relay Race was won by the Swiss Mercantile Society in splendid style and time.

Mr. Jacquenoud proved the winner in the Wrestling bouts.

Of the "fancy" competitions, the Thread and Needle Race as the latest addition was much enjoyed, but the 'feathers' belong undoubtedly to the Pillow Fight, which created high merriment in all quarters (face in particular). We understand that several of our easygoing compatriots fetched their auto cushions to replenish supplies, when the competitors ranged on the perch looked like fowls in the course of being plucked. The winner, Mr. Torrent, would appear to be responsible for the 'abundance' of laughter produced around this poultry market square.

While this merriment proceeded on the sun-baked field, a good many of the patrons sought the protecting shade of their cars, where very quickly lively contests between "tea-caddies and corkscrews," "Serwulas" and "Landjegers," Lyons' cake and home made flans" (we take off our hat to Mrs. Haesler's production) were in full progress—and be it mentioned our English friends in blue showed a fine understanding for this category of our Sports.

Casting our roving eye over the scene of athletic activities, now clothed in the dazzling beauty of the sinking sun, alas! what do we behold? The *Daily Mail* push ball that had been invited to participate in our festivities, wildly rushed at the Referee and Honorary Acting President, who, being wholly unprepared for so much political antagonism, makes a profound—pardon us—profound obeisance, happily without, however, losing prestige or any avoirdupois. The judges took the lenient view that this incident was merely due to 'inflated ideas,' and that there had been no evil intent. The presence also on the field of a much liked and prominent diplomat speedily allayed the fear that any international complications might arise from this somewhat painful incident. The push ball was afterwards, no doubt in a spirit of justified revenge, severely handled by the many teams at war, and victory was gained by the Cercle Valaisan. The decision of the Board of Management that all teams should be given a fair chance to lose did not greatly appeal to the stalwart members defending the honour of the Swiss Rifle Association, but in a sportsmanlike spirit they, nevertheless, desisted in aggravating the ball any further.

The Georges Dimier Challenge Cup was won by the Swiss Mercantile Society with 34 points, more than twice the points gained by the runners-up, the Cercle Valaisan (with 16 points)—a very creditable result.

The sporting events being at last over at a late hour, the Acting President closed the official part of the programme with a few well-chosen words, sympathetically received, and in the regretted absence of Mme. Paravicini, due to indisposition, Mme. De Cintra and the indefatigable Hon. Sec. proceeded with the distribution of the prizes, of which, as usual, there was a huge array, whetting everybody's appetite.

Thus ended a most successful Swiss Sports Day. Great thanks are due to all the willing helpers. Be it hoped that on future occasions they will all come forward again to lend their support to an annual gathering that should go a long way to weave together closer friendship and better understanding between the many Swiss compatriots scattered in this great metropolis.

Having now attempted to write the history of a red letter day in the annals of our Colony, may we be permitted to make a few general remarks? After twelve successful meetings the time would seem to be ripe to introduce a few novelties, such, for instance, as the true Swiss "Kantönleigst," for in our opinion the glorious traditions of the "Schabziegerland," "Mostindien," "Les fils de Vache," "Aargauer-Rüblizuchtverband," "St. Galler Schüblig Kantonalverein," "Baasler Peppies," "Zürcher-Mundorgan-Zunft" and "Berner 'nume nid g'sprengt' Schnellfeuer Klub (not to prolong the agony) should at last come into their own at our social meetings abroad.

We have accidentally learnt that the year of grace 1928 has given birth to an entirely new idea—to celebrate the First of August in a manner fitting the patriotism and love we bear our country, and the above suggestions are therefore respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Rt. Hon. the "Bundesfest-Präsident" officiating at the Hendon ground at our forthcoming Fête Nationale.

STOP PRESS NEWS.—The Editor of: the *Swiss Observer*, being touched by the simplicity of the above report by our Honorary Correspondent, and recognising that, in order to make future back numbers of the *Swiss Observer* worth 4d. they must contain "the goods," he has decided to procure some "mugs" for next year's Reporters' Competition. As the entries for this contest, and the valuable prizes attached thereto, are likely to be heavy, early application is recommended. D.E.B.

RESULTS.

100-yds. Flat Handicap, Men.—1st, E. Jaeggli (6-yds.), Swiss Federal Railways, time 10 2/5 secs; 2nd, S. E. Studer, Swiss Mercantile Soc.; 3rd, M. Studer, Swiss Bank.

100-yds. Flat Handicap, Boys.—1st, F. Heuer (2-yds.); 2nd, A. Deubelbeiss; 3rd, R. Nydegger.

100-yds. Flat Handicap, Ladies.—1st, L. G. Clamp; 2nd, D. L. Newman; 3rd, E. Y. Grinye.

220-yds. Flat Handicap (Swiss).—1st, S. Studer, 14-yds., Swiss Mercantile Soc.; 2nd, W. Casada, Unione Ticinese; 3rd, M. Studer, Swiss Bank.

220-yds. Flat Handicap (Staffs).—1st, C. Havery (17-yds.); 2nd, O. Grob; 3rd, R. G. Heasman.

Putting the Weight.—D. Zollinger, Swiss Mercantile Soc., 36-yds. 4-ft.; 2nd, M. Studer.

High Jump.—1st, D. Zollinger, Swiss Mercantile Soc., 5ft. 2in.; 2nd, L. Ruckli, Swiss Mercantile Soc.; 3rd, J. Hunziker, Swiss Gymnastic Soc.

Long Jump.—1st, D. Zollinger, Swiss Mercantile Soc., 19ft. 1in.; 2nd, E. Müller, Swiss Mercantile Soc.; 3rd, H. Keller, Swiss Mercantile Soc.

Tug of War.—Winners, Cercle Valaisan; runners-up, Swiss Bank.

440-yds. Veterans' Walk.—1st, J. Haesler (47 yrs.), Unione Helvetia; 2nd, C. Filliez, Cercle Valaisan; 3rd, M. Paschoud, Swiss Mercantile Soc.; 4th, G. Riederer; 5th, J. Oltramare; 6th, F. Riederer.

120-yds. Veterans' Race.—1st, A. Notzli, Melbourne Athletic Club (6yds.); 2nd, F. Pont, Cercle Valaisan; 3rd, E. Oggier, Cercle Valaisan.

Relay Race.—1st, Swiss Mercantile Soc.; 2nd, Unione Ticinese, 4.122/.

Wrestling.—Jacquenoud beat Michel in 45 secs. and 15 secs.

100-yds. Ladies' Handicap in Town Dress.—Heat 1: 1st, Miss C. Bossard; 2nd, Miss M. Williams; 3rd, Miss G. Baker. Heat 2: 1st, Miss M. Fletcher; 2nd, Mrs. A. Suter; 3rd, Miss B. Knopf.

60-yds. Girls' Handicap.—Heat 1: 1st, A. Linder; 2nd, M. Paschoud; 3rd, F. Petit; 4th, A. Charmaux. Heat 2: 1st, L. Lachat; 2nd, R. Hollinger; 3rd, I. Torrent; 4th, M. Weber. Heat 3: 1st, d.h. M. Henderson and L. Jaeggli; 2nd, Julia Pavilick; 3rd, R. Linder; 4th, J. Saunders.

80-yds. Boys' Handicap.—Heat 1: 1st, E. Volkan; 2nd, L. Jaeggli; 3rd, A. Gerig; 4th, A. Wernli. Heat 2: 1st, M. Bandattine; 2nd, G. Holliger; 3rd, A. Schmid; 4th, E. Berti. Heat 3: 1st, R. Moyer; 2nd, F. Pavilick; 3rd, O. Boehringer; 4th, G. Burger.

Thread and Needle Race.—Heat 1: 1st, Miss A. Steuli; 2nd, Miss K. Dallenbach; 3rd, Miss V. Gurney. Heat 2: 1st, Miss Williams; 2nd, Miss Bandattine; 3rd, Miss Hibbins. Heat 3: 1st, Miss Brewerton; 2nd, Madame Paschoud; 3rd, Miss Haultcour.

Egg and Spoon Race.—Heat 1: 1st, Miss Mabie Stockman; 2nd, Miss E. Dupraz; 3rd, Miss Nina Morag. Heat 2: 1st, Miss R. Linder; 2nd, Miss Joan Phillips; 3rd, Miss Mimi Buchi. Heat 3: 1st, Miss M. A. Smith; 2nd, Miss A. Harris; 3rd, Miss J. R. Trigg.

Wheelbarrow Race.—1st Pair, Messrs. Weber and Havery; 2nd, Messrs. Christen and Boog; 3rd, Messrs. Paschoud and Lampert.

Pillow Fight.—1st, Mr. Torrent; 2nd, Mr. C. Krebs; 3rd, Mr. Hartman.

Three Legged Race.—Heat 1: 1st, Rosina Linder and E. Pavilick; 2nd, M. Buchi and O. Boehringer; 3rd, —. Hauserwort and —. Bianca. Heat 2: 1st, M. Williams and G. Portman; 2nd, Miss Smith and —. Heritier; 3rd, E. Grinyer and —. Lucas.

Pushball.—1st, Cercle Valaisan; 2nd, City Swiss Club.

The Georges Dimier Challenge Cup was won by the Swiss Mercantile Society with 34 points; 2nd, Cercle Valaisan, with 16 points; 3rd, Swiss Federal Railways, Swiss Bank, Union Helvetia, all with 7 points.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The gathering at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon, on Tuesday, 5th June, was unquestionably a great success and was probably a record for attendance.

The popularity of these summer meetings was further proved by the record attendance of 105 members and friends, and it was most pleasing to see such a rally of old friends and members who do not usually attend the regular meetings.

The company sat down to an excellent dinner, at the close of which the President, Mr. M. Gerig, after proposing the usual Loyal Toasts, welcomed the numerous ladies and thanked them for their presence, and extended a very cordial welcome to the guests. He made particular mention of the following:—Dr. and Mme. Pettavel, late Swiss Consul General in Johannesburg and now an eminent resident of Harley Street; Messrs. W. A. de Boirg and C. Rezzonico, representing the