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## IL TIRO FEDERALE A BELLINZONA.

Per ben diciassette giorni Bellinzona fu in tripudio di gioia la cittadina dai vetusti castelli, di solito così calma, si è trasformata completamente e dopo lungo arduo lavoro di preparazione, di organizzazione si presentò bella e serena, superba nella sua splendida nuova veste, alle migliaia di persone che qui accorsero in occasione del tiro federale. Avvenimento grandioso e storico—che imprime e rafforza negli animi l'amore per la patria libera e forte. Avvenimento pieno di sublime allegoria.

A Bellinzona vennero i rappresentanti d'ogni cantone nostro, quivi convennero famosi tiratori, e sul campo di tiro, di una meravigliosa imponenza, vastissimo e comodo, sorto come per incanto piccolo villaggio in miniatura, per diciassette giorni di patriottico fervore i confederati delle nostre tre stirpi. Nella Cantina, capace di ben 4,000 persone sedute, quasi ogni sera si dava, da 600 artisti tra coristi, a soli e musicisti (e tutti quanti semplici dilettanti) lo spettacolo della Festa "Vita nostra"—grazioso gioiello musicale che tante acclamazioni suscitò e raccolse. Accanto, la Birreria—capace di 2,000

persone—poi il simpatico grotto ticinese dove il nostro nullo veniva servito da graziose forosette dal tipico costume paesano; il Tempio dei Premi: ricca raccolta di splendidi premi tra i quali una coppa di argento pesante, foggia appositamente a guisa di castello, con l'orlo merlato, ed il biscione bellinzonese—omaggio geniale della Swiss Rifle Association di Londra. Lo stand del tiro al fucile lungo ben 210 metri, quello per tiro alla pistola; le zampillanti fontane; i giardinetti ameni; gli uffici della posta e telegrafo; del quarto potere: la stampa; l'infimeria; il parco dei divertimenti; i chioschi caratteristici.

La giornata di sabato, 27 luglio, fu dedicata agli svizzeri all'estero, agli "svizzeri emigrati nei paesi del continente ed oltre gli oceani, i validi affermatore della nostra civiltà, i divulgatori dei nostri principi di democrazia, gli esponenti di una magnifica attività economica, i missionari delle nostre idealità e della nostra cultura"—come parlò l'on. Cons. di Stato Galli a questi figli d'Elvezia che vivono lontani dalla terra natia ma che sempre ricordano e amano—Ben tredici sezioni qui vennero dall'estero: da Parigi, da Milano, da Bruxelles, dagli Stati Uniti, dalla lontana Buenos Aires e il gruppo londinese della Swiss Rifle Association—forte di ben 27 membri tra tiratori e amici, con la sua sfolorante bandiera splendida per disegno e colori—accompagnato da un tipico John Bull recante la bandiera britannica—e sfoggianti tutti quanti caratteristici berretti militari inglesi—gruppo che tanto si fece ammirare ed acclamare e che si classificò sesto nell'ardua gara di tiro, guadagnandosi una graziosa coppa d'argento, una medaglia di bronzo (per ogni tiratore questa) e una corona d'alloro che cinse e battezzò di gloria la bandiera.

Bellinzona riserbo, per questi suoi ospiti, una calorosa, spontanea accoglienza.

Bellinzona è rientrata ora nella sua solita calma, di città laboriosa, ma gli echi del tiro federale a lungo volteggiarono per l'aria limpida, per i vetusti castelli, nelle case e per le vie. —E.L.

### The New Flying Record.

The Curtiss engine of the plane "St. Louis Robin" piloted by the flyers Jackson and O'Brien, which has just established a new world's endurance record by remaining in the air for 17 days, 12 h. 21 m. was equipped with "Scintilla" magnetos.

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## SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

VISIT TO THE "TIR FEDERAL" BELLINZONA.

A party of about 30 members and friends left London in the afternoon of July 24th, for the direct route to Basle. The rail journey was very comfortable and the dining car proved a great attraction, having been requisitioned by a merry family for extra happy hours.

On arrival at Basle a most up-to-date "Transalpine" car was already waiting to take us across our Switzerland and thus accomplished the saying, "Chum Buebli, hieg Dis Ländli a." The first stop was made at Eiken, in the prosperous Fricktal, the home-village of our member Mr. Adolph Schmid, where breakfast was served. We continued our route to Zofingen, where a short halt was made (for the benefit of the driver) this being also the native town of three of our members present. Passing through beautiful Lucerne we arrived at Brunnen for lunch and hence without further calls travelled up the Reuss valley via Göschenen, Andermatt, over St. Gotthard and again down south to Airolo. Having partaken of a quick supper, we continued for the final stage of



THE S.R.A. PARTY AT BELLINZONA.

our ride and arrived at Bellinzona shortly after Midnight.

Friday the 27th was reserved for practice shooting for the various competitions and after the close of the range the party left by coach for Lugano, where a most enjoyable evening was spent. On Saturday the 28th, being the official day for the Swiss from abroad, we were received at the Town Hall by the Town—Cantonal—and Federal Authorities. Excellent speeches were delivered in the three national tongues and many a compliment paid to the "fourth Switzerland."

After having been refreshed by a cooling drink of Nostrano offered by 22 Dames d'Honneur, daintily garbed in the colours of the respective Cantons, a procession was formed. Our happy party led by "John Bull" carrying the Union Jack and followed by our own banner was greatly applauded and the shower of flowers from the balconies along the route gave testimony that we had won the hearts of our dear compatriots at home. The prize distribution followed during the afternoon and all sections from abroad were presented with a laurel and a silver cup.

The result of the competition as far as the Swiss from abroad are concerned, is: 1—Société de Tir Paris, 2—Milan, 3—Sté Carabinier Paris, 4—Lyon, 5—Cologne, 6—London, 7—Berlin, 8—Luino, 9—Strasbourg, 10—Bruxelles, 11—Cairo, 12—Madrid, 13—Hudson County, U.S.A.

Merry hours in the Festhütte amongst friends of old and new ended this successful and unregretted excursion; some of our members returned with the transalpine coach via St. Gotthard, Furka, Grimsel, Bern-Basle, a few going by Express; others—more lucky ones—completed their annual holidays on native soil, but all are united to enlist again for the next Tir Fédéral.

C.S.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, September 4th, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ  
DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at  
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