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ANNUAL BANQUET & BALL

of the

CITY SWISS CLUB

on Friday, 27th November 1936, at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1

P. F. BOEHRINGER, *President of the CITY SWISS CLUB.*

The Eightieth Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club, which took place on Friday last, November 27th, at the Grosvenor House, was one of the most brilliant functions the Club has held since the post war period.

Heralding in a new, and may it be hoped, a more prosperous era, the Committee had this year decided to revert to one of its former customs, namely to bid to their feast a number of distinguished guests, who have in one way or another been in intimate touch with our country, or have rendered service to Switzerland.

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, who is the Honorary President of the City Swiss Club, had kindly consented, as on former occasions, to preside over the gathering.

Shortly after 7 o'clock, the Minister, who was accompanied by Madame Paravicini, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, President of the City Swiss Club, and Mrs. Boehringer, received the numerous company on their arrival.

The majority of the English guests wore their decorations, which gave additional colour to the assembly which foregathered in the Foyer, where attendants in their powdered wigs, blue and gold coats and white breeches served cocktails. The ladies in their beautiful and becoming dresses completed a picture which was a pleasure to behold. —

Some of the Swiss guests at the City Swiss Club Dinner have wondered, and quite rightly, how the Swiss Minister and the Counsellors of Legation came to be wearing a medal, considering that the Laws of Switzerland expressly forbid the acceptance of any Decoration by citizens of the Swiss Confederation.

The Jubilee Medal is, however, neither an Order nor a Decoration, but merely a souvenir presented by the late King to members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited at the time to the Court of St. James's and others.

The Federal Council, in accordance with precedence, ruled that the non-acceptance of this souvenir would have been ungracious, and therefore authorised its representatives to accept it and to wear it at official and private functions in the British Empire whenever, according to rules or customs, His Majesty's subjects would be wearing Decorations.

As at this year's City Swiss Club Dinner the English guests wore their Orders, the members of the Legation complied with the custom.

As precedence there may be quoted the Diamond Jubilee Medal of 1897 and the Coronation Medals of 1902 and 1911, accepted by special order of the Federal Council by the respective Swiss Ministers of those periods. —

The reception, as was mentioned on the invitation, lasted exactly half-an-hour, and for once, those who have been accustomed, owing to former experiences, to arrive late, missed the pleasure of taking part in the opening part of the evening. —

At 7.45 punctually the red-coated toast-master announced that dinner was about to be served, inviting the company to adjourn to the Banqueting Hall.

No sooner had everyone found their allotted seats and tables the entry of the Chairman and President accompanied by their Ladies and the distinguished guests was announced. The guests, who looked most distinguished indeed, received an extremely cordial welcome, and the clapping increased to almost a tornado when M. and Mme. Paravicini and the President and Mme. Boehringer, who formed the rear guard of the procession, descended the steps which led into the Banqueting Hall. A sure testimony of the regard in which they are held in the Colony.

The Swiss Anthem was then played and after grace was said by the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, the company sat down to enjoy an excellent meal; a meal which was served with the utmost expediency. This is not a complaint, because I have heard that orders had been given to speed up things as much as possible, in order not to deprive the Ladies of dancing.

It was rather a bit hard on those of my countrymen, who hail from the same canton as myself, (Berne) as no sooner had the soup gone to those "inner regions," the "filet de sole bonne

femme" arrived, to be followed instantaneously by the excellent "Selle d'agneau rôti à la Broche," before one could count ten, this tasty dish was frozen with a sorbet "Neige des Alpes," to unfreeze at once the attendants hurried along the "Suprême de Volaille Valaisane," and with bewildering speed this dish underwent a second freezing process with a "Parfait Glace au Praliné" to be shortly "undone" with hot black café. If ever a Banquet was served in record time, this one stands out as a shining example, and the stress on some of the digestive organs must have been tremendous.

In fact very little time was available to have a glance at the top table, where one would have liked to have studied some of the faces, especially those of the distinguished English guests, who have played such distinguished rôles in the history of the British Empire.

I noticed, however, that Mme. Paravicini was carrying a bag, which was offered to her by a member of the Club, Mr. Krucker. It was made from an old Swiss Staff Officer's "epaulette" and the combination of silver and gold brocade studded with pearls was most original and was generally admired.

The President, in his address, as will be noticed, said that the Swiss are a "modest race," and this rather handicaps me in my narrative as I, in order not to belie his statement, must assume that modesty which I have, I must admit, not previously noticed. It was perhaps a little unkind, that the English born "Swiss" ladies, greeted this statement with a sarcastic laugh; still they ought to know.

The musical numbers, during the dinner, were played by Newman's Band, and quite appropriately they played many popular tunes which many of us have sung in the days of our youth, and thus a real Swiss atmosphere was, perhaps unconsciously, created.

Towards the end of the dinner, the toast-master claimed silence for the customary toasts, and Monsieur Paravicini, in the capacity of "Président d'Honneur" first gave the toast to "The King," immediately followed by the one "The President of the Swiss Confederation and the Federal Council," both toasts were accorded musical honours.

And now the time came to listen to the speeches, and although the list of speakers was larger than on former occasions, the official part did not exceed the allotted time. Some of the speeches contained very weighty matter, and were very neatly phrased and delivered. I could certainly not detect on the faces of the audience, during the various speeches, any trace of that boredom which, according to some critics, is liable to be produced by lengthy after-dinner speeches. After all, a short respite between a lavish meal and dancing partly filled by a little intellectual exercise and reflection, does no harm to the young, while some of the more mature minds probably enjoy it more than any part of the evening.

The first speech of the evening was delivered by Mr. P. F. Boehringer, President of the City Swiss Club, who in proposing the toast to "La Patrie" said:

May I begin by welcoming, with the Swiss Minister, Mme. Paravicini, who delights us with her presence this evening after having, to our loss, so unfortunately been prevented from attending the Annual Banquet of the City Swiss Club on more than one occasion during the last few years.

Will she accept the expression of our real pleasure at seeing her amongst us again. (Applause).

In accordance with the tradition of this Club, I desire to give you a brief survey of its activities during the year of my Presidency and in connection with the life of the Swiss Colony as a whole.

Before doing so, however, I would like, if I may, to emphasize the co-incidence, most pleasing to me, in the present Banquet taking place, practically to a day, sixteen years following the first Club Banquet after the Great War. This was celebrated on November 26th, 1920, after an interval of six years. In the history of our Club, that Banquet marked the

end of an interregnum which had been forced upon us by circumstances which we all hope will never occur again in our time.

On that occasion, in my presidential address, I ventured to predict that, after all those years of anxiety and uncertainty, we were on the threshold of a new era, with a prospect of future prosperity and consequent happiness.

May I again indulge in a similar prophecy and express the hope that, though the horizon presents a somewhat squally aspect, brighter rays will shine in the near future, and reflect the silver linings of the dark clouds.

We are being honoured to-night by an exceptional number of English guests, and perhaps they will allow me to say, at this juncture, how we consider ourselves greatly privileged by their presence. I do not wish to encroach upon the province of my friend, M. de Cintra, who will presently have the honour of proposing the Toast of "Our Guests," but I cannot but express to them, with these few words, the cordial welcome extended to them by the Committee and members of this Club. (Applause).

And if I now venture to sketch in a few short sentences the history of the Swiss in England, it may perhaps not be without interest to our guests.

We Swiss are a modest and quiet people, or at least we like to think so, (laughter) and thus I hope I shall not be considered boastful if I say that we form one of the oldest foreign communities in this country.

At the present time, let me hasten to say, the existing Swiss societies and institutions, of which there are over a dozen, cannot put forward a very remote ancestry; one of them the Secours Mutuels, dates back to 1703 and is probably one of the oldest foreign institutions of this kind in London.

But Swiss history in England goes back far beyond that. It sounds extraordinary, but documents and records at the British Museum and elsewhere show that countrymen of ours played no mean part in the development of this mighty Kingdom from the time of the Norman Conquest, and the Colony can therefore, in a manner of speaking, boast of a thousand years of history.

At this point I cannot resist mentioning one particular event, but before doing so I wish to state very clearly that I will not use it as a claim to perform services at His Majesty's forthcoming Coronation, (Laughter). It is nevertheless a fact that, on the authority of reliable historians, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England at Winchester by our countryman, the Bishop Ermenfrid of Sitten.

The Swiss have also contributed in some way to make the English good and pious, for in appreciation for having been turned into Christians by British monks, we continually sent our own ecclesiastics to England, and in the sixteenth century the first English version of the Bible was printed at Zurich.

In the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI Swiss citizens, amongst whom Hans Holbein was an outstanding figure, began to have regular meetings in this country. After that epoch we encounter Swiss names in practically every sphere of English life.

Amongst the numerous Swiss generals, who distinguished themselves with the British armies in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries is to be found the name of de Watteville of whom Mme. Paravicini is a direct descendant. (Applause).

General de Watteville's own Swiss regiment was one of those Swiss units which fought for His Britannic Majesty during the Napoleonic wars in Sicily, Egypt, the Peninsula War and Canada, all the names of which were embroidered on the flag of this particular regiment.

I hope you will agree with me when I say that the British and Swiss characters have much in common. In any case, appearance and my own personal experience prove that Anglo-Swiss marriages are the cradle of domestic

felicity. (Laughter). The registers of His Majesty's subjects contain a great number of old Swiss names, with an Allemannic, French or Italian sound, and there are a good few amongst them, who, in spite of generations spent in this country, still retain the affection for their old home.

May I take this opportunity of referring to the recent marriage of M. Vincent Paravicini, on the occasion of which every member of the Colony rejoiced with you, Sir.

Now one more word about our Colony and its various activities during the past year.

The Clubs and Societies have flourished as in the past, although in certain cases the Acts and Regulations referring to the immigration and employment of foreigners have adversely affected their members who follow particular trades. For the same reason our three national pastimes; rifle shooting, gymnastics and glee singing, are causing their respective organisers some anxiety on account of the absence of new blood.

The active interest which is taken in the problems of our Motherland is amply proved by the subscriptions to the Swiss Defence Loan, a magnificent response which is equalled by the striking success of the issue in Switzerland.

The London Colony expressed its sympathy with the sufferings of our unfortunate compatriots in Spain in a tangible manner, and the large amount collected was much commented upon in Switzerland.

But all these sacrifices have in no way affected the financial support so liberally given to our Benevolent Institutions in London. In all these activities the City Swiss Club took a leading part, and I would like to express our sincere appreciation of their invaluable co-operation to the other Societies, whose official delegates I heartily welcome amongst us this evening.

It was with no little pride that our Club witnessed the success of the Zurich Rowing Club, who took first class honours in the three classic events at the last Henley Regatta. And I am particularly happy to recall that this unique success was partly due to the subscription which our members so generously made towards the heavy expenses of the visiting Club.

Before I submit the toast of our own beloved country, it is my duty as well as my privilege to express to the Authorities of the country of which we are the guests our humble appreciation and sincere gratitude for the generous hospitality and protection ever extended towards us, and which we never fail to enjoy.

Monsieur le Ministre, Your Excellencies, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now have the honour of asking you to rise and drink to the further prosperity of *Switzerland*.

Mr. Boehringer, on resuming his seat received hearty applause, and his reference to the history of the Colony was undoubtedly greatly appreciated not only by the English guests but also by the "modest" Swiss.

The microphone then changed places and this time the toast-master asked for silence to hear the speech of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister.

The Minister then rose and thanked the President for the tribute he had paid him and his

family. He congratulated the President on his address and on his summary of the Colony's historical and present position, and said that it was in great part owing to his term of Presidency that the City Swiss Club was that evening celebrating its 80th anniversary in conditions of such well-being and prosperity.

M. Paravicini then went on to say that when last the President had presided over such a gathering, in 1920, the World had stood at the greatest turning-point in History. In the words of the great Frenchman: "Il y avait tout un monde à refaire."

He said: "In 1920, Governments and peoples were full of hope and good intentions, hope for a speedy repairing of the wrongs and damages that had been wrought, hope of establishing new foundations for a decent existence, good intentions for the creating of mutual understanding."

"We all know the course which events actually took during that decade between 1920 and 1930. The history of that period makes no pleasant reading."

The last weeks of that decade brought about the great World Crisis which has ever since been weighing upon the nations of Europe both materially and psychologically.

Little or nothing of what took place during those first ten years contributed to the improvement of the world situation. However, amongst the muddled mass of events and currents we find at least two occurrences which show as light spots in the confusion. Both are to the credit of Great Britain, and it would be unfair — and indeed ungrateful — not to recognise them as they deserve. They were Locarno and Disarmament.

By Locarno, England gave Europe its one definite asset towards peace and security.

As to Disarmament, England has tried — once more — to save Europe by her example.

Had these two achievements borne the fruit which the world was entitled to expect of them, how different would the face of the earth look to-day. They could have become the two corner-stones of international agreement, the one as it did away with the principal war danger-point in Europe, the other as it was to do away generally with the means for attack by force of arms.

It was not to be; although we had at our disposal that already well-equipped piece of machinery, a League of more than 50 nations, the very instrument to carry out such work successfully, and in spite of the fact that we could also rely on the indisputable point that the peoples of every one of these nations had a true wish for peace and a true horror of war.

And I am saying nothing new when I state that at this moment, instead of Locarno there is the re-opening of the whole question under difficulties far greater than those of 1925, instead of disarmament there is re-armament, instead of agreement there are differences of opinion everywhere, instead of goodwill there is more distrust than ever. All this, with the result that the League of Nations, which should be the rock of the promised world system, is shaken to its very foundations.

Or in other words, what the world hoped for when you, Sir, presided over our Club in 1920, has not only not come true, but it is exactly the reverse which has come true.

Well then, what about our own country, Switzerland?

There she is, in the centre of Europe, right in the middle of three of the most powerful nations of the world, with something like a zone of uncertain possibilities on her eastern frontier.

A magnificent situation! A magnificent situation — as long as all goes well.

But nowadays, all does not go well.

And the air is full of reports, rumours, dangers, or at least the fear of dangers.

At no time since 1911, or 1914, has one heard so much about war threatening Europe as one does to-day.

At no time, not only since 1914 but within living memory, has one heard so much about the danger to Switzerland herself.

And therefore, as things are now, every nation whether great or small, must be as strong as she possibly can, in her economics, her military system, her external politics and, above all, in her internal politics.

Perhaps, to follow Mr. Baldwin's manner, we might proceed to a little stock-taking, in order to see what Switzerland's assets are in the present uncertain state of European affairs and also, which God forbid, in a case of real emergency.

As I just said, the fundamental condition for the strength of a nation is order and unity in its own house.

Let us first take the order.

The Swiss are a democratic people. Not because they have chosen at one time or another to try, or apply, the system of democracy, but because democracy has been the very heart-blood of their life from the first day of their existence, nearly seven centuries ago.

It is unimaginable that any other form of public life could ever take root in our mountains, for without the ideals of individual liberty, how could there be a Switzerland at all.

Therefore whatever forms of Government may spring up around us, these need not disturb us. And those of us, who are getting anxious lest the current of foreign conceptions might overcome our land and our old institutions, have only to glance at our history to find that Switzerland has, for centuries, lived and governed herself as she thought best, as a Republic and Democracy, at times when there was no other such thing anywhere, near or far.

There is no reason to fear that the Swiss of to-day has changed, or can ever change, his mind on that subject.

And if, some short time ago, a few spirited youths thought fit to start a sort of "Frontist" stunt, its speedy collapse is, if anything, a not unwelcome confirmation of the truth. So much for order.

Now take the unity.

Their natural, inborn sense of unity has hitherto brought our country through many dangers and threats from within and from without. Different as may be the views and ideals amongst our citizens, they know and believe that in the end they will come together. When public order is at stake, the overwhelming majority will see to it that the disturbing elements are brought to reason. Even during these last months and weeks we have had striking examples of this, by the measures taken against the subversive and disquieting activities of proselytes of a doctrine foreign to our Swiss nature.



CENTRE VIEW OF THE BANQUETING HALL.

(Top table left to right.)

Mr. and Mrs. Suter, Mr. Steinmann, Mr. Grob, the Rev. and Mrs. Hahn, Mr. Montag, Dr. Schodler, Mr. Roberts, Sir Kynaston Studd, Sir Claud Russel, Captain Palliser, Lord Conway, Viscount Templetown, Mrs. Boehringer, the Swiss Minister (Chairman), Mr. Boehringer (President), Mme. Paravicini, Lord Rennel of Rodd, Sir Odo Russell, Sir Stephen Demetriadi, Mr. Tschiffely, the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme.

United we are and united we mean to remain, every man and every inch of our territory.!

I have often been asked: "Might not your different nationalities one day become a problem for you. Are you sure that your minorities are not likely to cause trouble?"

The answer is simple: we have no minorities. We only have Swiss.

They all take their part in the life of the nation, German-Swiss, French-Swiss, Italian-Swiss: whether they are many or few, is of no consequence.

Now, if we are confident that we shall maintain order and unity at home, how do we stand with respect of the outside world?

That world is arming, arming alarmingly.

I do not know how many millions of bayonets are all around us. I am only told that on our southern frontier there are eight million of them. But what I *do* know, is that deep down in the heart of every Swiss is something which reminds him of the wisdom of being prepared for the unexpected. That feeling he has preserved, in spite of the fact that since the French Revolution no foreign foe has attacked his frontiers.

Whenever his Parliament asks him to increase his country's army, he never thinks twice about it. In 1925 the people readily voted the new Law for a stronger defence force, and each citizen thus accepted, still more onerous duties in the service of his country, for himself and for his sons.

A few weeks ago the Swiss was asked to furnish the Federal Treasury with 85 millions for the Army; he brought four times that amount within a few days.

And yet, you may say: what is that all for? Are you not a neutral country? What can you fear? Have all the Powers recognised your neutrality?

The answer is this: We have reason to fear that, unless it has the proper weapon in our own hands behind it, our neutrality might one day turn out to be, let me say, a mere piece of parchment which might be consumed by fire in any conflagration around us.

Backed by the will and equipment to defend it, however, that neutrality is an invaluable asset for our safety.

It is not always quite clear what this neutrality really is. To begin with, it is not, as some may think, a product of modern times, originated some time during the nineteenth century or later. Actually, that neutrality has existed for four hundred years and was acknowledged in a certain measure as a standing principle by the Powers of Europe as early as the Congress of Münster, long before the Congress of Vienna.

In 1515 the Diet of the Swiss Federal States decided that Charles of Spain, of the House of Hapsburg, and no other, should be placed upon the throne of the German Empire.

And so powerful was then the Swiss influence on European affairs that Charles had to be elected.

A few months later, the Swiss Army retreated into the Alps from the battlefield of Marignano, and as a result Swiss Statesmen came to the conclusion that mixing themselves up in European quarrels was no job for the Swiss and that from then onwards the principle of non-interference in foreign conflicts should for ever guide Swiss policy.

To their salvation, the Swiss have stuck to this wisdom ever since, right to the present day.

And so the Swiss neutrality has from the start been an expedient chosen by us of our own free will. It has not been imposed upon us by others; others have merely recognised it and undertaken to respect it.

And that recognition may well be called an important factor in European affairs. It shows that our neutrality is not only in the interest of Switzerland but also in that of Europe.

You remember the remark which Talleyrand made at Vienna: "S'il n'avait pas la Suisse, il faudrait la créer!"

The recognition also shows that the Powers have confidence in us; that no one thinks we might thereby try to evade our obligations to the community of States, that we might try to profit by other people's conflicts under cover of our neutrality. It shows their conviction that, though neutral, we will do our bit faithfully and conscientiously in the common work of peoples.

That is why Switzerland was received into the League of Nations, as the one remarkable exception, with the solemn declaration that she would maintain her traditional international status.

If we think that at the time of our entry into the League, the world was firmly believing in the future permanence of European peace, and if we look at the present state of affairs, how grateful we must be for the wisdom and foresight of our people, who then insisted on keeping that old possession, and on either joining the League as a neutral Switzerland, or not joining it at all.

Neither we, nor anyone else, have reason to regret it. We have, I think, kept all our old friendships and have also acquired new ones. At a time when it is said so frequently of many other countries that they have no friends left, we must consider ourselves fortunate to enjoy a better lot.

And amongst all our friends there is no friendship more steadfast, more true, more valued by us than the friendship of Great Britain."

Long and sincere applause greeted the oration of the head of our Colony, and I am glad to be able to record, that the Minister's prophesy which he made, twelve months ago on the same occasion, that he hoped to give us a more hopeful forecast twelve months hence, has become true, even if only in part.

The task of giving the toast to "Our Guests" was entrusted to the jovial keeper of the purse, of the City Swiss Club; being of an independent nature, Mr. de Cintra dispensed with the microphone, no doubt, partly through being the owner of a pleasant and rich voice, and partly through sheer "modesty."

Before I relate his able speech, I venture to publish a complete list of all the guests, as time did not allow the speaker to mention the names of everyone present. Here they are:

The Viscount Templeton, J.P., D.L.
The Lord Conway of Allington, Hon. Litt. D., M.A., F.S.A., F.R.G.S.

His Excellency The Right Hon. Lord Rennell of Redd, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., C.B.

His Excellency The Right Hon. Sir Claud Russell, K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S.

His Excellency The Hon. Sir Odo Russell, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., C.V.O.

Sir Kynaston Studd, Bart. M.A., LL.D., O.B.E.

Sir Stephen Demetriadi, K.B.E., President of the London Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Edward Burgin, LL.D., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade.

Captain R. F. E. Palliser, D.S.C., R.N.

Mr. W. M. Roberts, O.B.E., Vice-President of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club.

Mlle. Ella Maillard.

M. A. F. Tschiffely.

M. Charles Gos.

M. E. Montag, Swiss Consul, Liverpool.

Dr. A. Schedler, Swiss Consul, Manchester.

Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Eglise Suisse.

Pasteur and Mrs. C. Th. Hahn, Schweizerkirche.

Mr. C. Campart, accompanied by Mrs. Campart, President, Secours Mutuels.

Mr. A. Steinmann, President Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. Grob, S.M.S.

Mr. O. Gambazzi, President Unione Ticinese, Mr. Eusebio, U. T.

Mr. A. F. Suter, accompanied by Mrs. Suter, President Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Mr. E. Dick, accompanied by Mrs. Dick, Swiss Orchestral Society.

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Mr. Hediger, President, Swiss Club (Schweizerbund).

Mr. R. Dupraz, accompanied by Mrs. Dupraz, President, Fonds de Secours.

Mr. P. Brun, President, Swiss Club, Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor "Swiss Observer."

Dr. E. Kessler, accompanied by Mrs. Kessler, London correspondent "Neue Zürcher Zeitung."

Dr. Egli, accompanied by Mrs. Egli, London correspondent "Der Bund."

Mr. Popoff, London correspondent "Basler Nachrichten."

Mrs. West-Furlan, Zürcher Illustrierte.

Mr. M. Gerig, St. Galler Tagblatt, Representative, City Press.

Representative, Press Association.

The members of the Legation, this year asked especially not to be included in the guests list, as they were anxious to entertain some of their personal friends.

Mr. de Cintra said:

It is my privilege to-night to extend to our Guests, a very cordial welcome.

I will not repeat the words of our President, which so ably and sincerely expressed our pleasure at seeing your Excellency, Madame Paravicini and their family with us.

We are honoured by the presence at our Banquet of Viscount Templeton. We all know the keen interest he has taken in Switzerland, especially during the war period when the economic difficulties were so great for our beloved country. He has since kept in touch with Swiss Economic interests and has repeatedly been their champion at Westminster. I hope I am allowed here to refer to his friendship with that great friend of ours, the regretted Arthur Palliser, for years a regular Guest at our Dinners.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Lord Conway of Allington, the distinguished Traveller, Scientist and Politician, whose success as a conciliator of people is so widely appreciated. His intimate knowledge of historical and artistic treasures is famous and well recognised by the responsible trusts he holds in the world of art. We Swiss, however, like to look upon him especially as a great lover of Nature — of the Alps and their flowers and their unsurpassed scenery. There are indeed few summits in our mountains which have not seen him in his climbs.

Another of our distinguished Guests is His Excellency, Lord Rennell, who, as you all know, falls in the class of the great Ambassadors of this country. Italy has been the special sphere of his diplomatic activities, and we Swiss can no doubt be permitted to think that his rich knowledge and eager studies of Italian culture have touched to some extent the South-Eastern part of our own country which faithfully preserves our special Swiss characteristics whilst keeping the culture and language of our Southern neighbours. We are grateful for his personal untiring efforts for international understanding — sometimes at Geneva — often at Westminster and in other places, which have been greatly beneficial to Anglo-Foreign, and therefore Anglo-Swiss relations.

If Switzerland has never had the good fortune to receive at the Federal Palace Lord Rennell of Rodd during his diplomatic career, we are happy on the other hand to have with us to-night, two other distinguished British Ambassadors — I refer to His Excellency Sir Claud Russell, and His Excellency Sir Odo Russell.

Everybody who has come into contact with them knows that they count amongst the most popular figures in Swiss Diplomatic Circles of the post-war period. Sir Odo was His Majesty's Representative in Switzerland immediately after the Armistice, and Sir Claude towards the end of the twenties before going as His Majesty's Ambassador to Portugal. I can safely say that both Sir Claude and Sir Odo know our country and our Institutions better than many of us, and I hope that the atmosphere of to-night's gathering will bring back to them happy memories of their stay in Switzerland.

I wish to extend a special welcome to Sir Kynaston Studd, who is undoubtedly one of Switzerland's very good friends. As head of the Polytechnic his activities have been most beneficial to the Tourist Industry — BUT — let me say, without wishing to be boastful, that if Switzerland owes him gratitude, this should be shared by the thousands of British Visitors who have thus been able to come into close contact with our beautiful country.

In many other spheres, Sir Kynaston has also shown his very friendly feelings towards our country and I trust he will accept our appreciation of his unflinching courtesy to our compatriots.

It is a real pleasure for us to see Sir Stephen Demetriadi, President of the London Chamber of Commerce, this model of organisation, whose services many of us business men and members have learned to value. The London Chamber of Commerce is of great assistance and I feel that I am not giving any secrets away in referring to the close contact maintained by the Commercial Section of the Legation with Sir Stephen's administration.

I now come to one of our Guests, who hardly deserves this name! Please do not misunderstand me! Part of his education was made in Switzerland, his perfect knowledge of French — or better I should say, "Neuchâtelois" and "Vaudois" even to the delightful accent, almost entitles us to regard him as one of ourselves. I refer to Dr. E. Burgin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. Mr. Burgin is too well-known a figure for me to mention any of his activities. I only hope that to-night he will feel as though once again he is on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel and I daresay Dr. Burgin will appreciate the sparkling effect that good name has on us Swiss, it really makes us bubble with joy and see "a Star."

In welcoming you, Captain Palliser, the son of an old friend, I feel also that we can count you as half-Swiss in view of your very friendly, almost affectionate attachment to our country. In your case it is all the more remarkable as you are *in the Navy*, a calling where Switzerland is not able to give you the many opportunities which we know you have found in the British Navy, by your brilliant career.

I am happy to see to-night Mr. Roberts. Not only can we count you Sir, as an old and witty friend, but as representative of the A.B.M. of the S.A.C., you are doubly welcome in view of the friendly relations we have with your Society and its members.

It is a matter of pride for us to greet here two of our distinguished compatriots in the world of travels. Mlle. Maillard and Mr. Tschiffely.

Mlle. Maillard has too prominent a name in London for it to be necessary for me to emphasize her merits. She has been received with honours by the Royal Geographical Society and is at present on a tour, giving lectures on her famous expedition from Shanghai through the best part of Asia into India.

Mr. Tschiffely, on the other hand, is, as you all know, the hero of that well-nigh historic ride from Buenos-Aires to Washington and his fame as a traveller is perhaps only surpassed by the fame of "Mancha" and "Gato," his two unbeatable four-legged companions.

We are also very happy to greet on this occasion M. Charles Gos, who is certainly known to everybody in the mountaineering world. He is not only one of our greatest alpinists, but is also well-known to us all by his delightful novels and poems about the Alps.

It is, of course, a great pleasure to us to see the Minister accompanied to-night as usual, by his Counsellors of Legation, Secretary and Chancellor, and we wish to thank the Consuls of Manchester and Liverpool for attending our Function.

I extend a most cordial welcome to all the delegates of our sister Societies and hope they will have a pleasant evening amongst friends.

Last, but not least, can you imagine what such a function would be without the Ladies who, by their presence, have added so much charm and prettiness to our gathering.

Members of the City Swiss Club, kindly rise and drink the health of our Guests and the Ladies.


The cordial acknowledgment which was accorded to the speaker on the conclusion of his speech was an unmistakable proof of how much the company appreciated the presence of so many guests. — Having previously forgotten to include the Press, in the toast, M. de Cintra rectified this unintentionable error, later in the evening, thus enabling the numerous representatives of both the English and Swiss Press, to look everybody straight in the face again. —

Lord Conway of Allington responded to the previous toast. In a very witty speech, he thanked the City Swiss Club for the invitation accorded to him and to his fellow guests.

Amongst great applause he declared that some of the happiest hours of his life were spent in the mountain parts of Switzerland and amongst Swiss people. "Through the mountains" he said, "I have become to know and admire your people."

Lord Conway continued by mentioning that although he had climbed many a peak in the Himalaya region, he had again and again wended his way back to the Swiss mountains, where he

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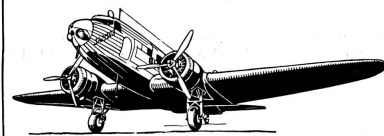
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always met with such a friendly reception. The speaker compared himself to a spent volcano, and he made some members of the company look rather younger than they might have felt, when he said that he was climbing peak after peak in our home country, some fifty odd years ago. Many of those present were, either not thought of at that time, or the only climbing they indulged in, was into their perambulator.

I must leave it to the noble Lord to estimate to what extent the "volcano" has extinguished itself, but I was glad to notice, that even one of the last "flickers" shed a light of warmth over the gathering, and I felt sure that no heart was beating warmer for our beloved country than that of this great friend of Switzerland.

This short, sincere and witty oration was received with tremendous applause.

Sir Kynaston Studd, another great and esteemed friend of our country associated himself with the previous speaker, saying how much he valued the invitation to dine amongst the Swiss whom he had always considered a kindly people.

He paid an enthusiastic tribute to the beauty of our land, saying that many of the Swiss living here must at one time or another think back with a sigh to the towering mountains, and the lovely lakes.

The speaker's generous compliment to our country and to the City Swiss Club was received with great applause.

Finally, Mr. A. Dupraz, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, spoke very eloquently on behalf of the Funds of the organisation he represents.

The appeal so sincerely and cleverly made earned a deserved response and yielded the satisfactory sum of £126.

Before the adjournment of the company to the Foyer in order to get the Banqueting Hall ready for dancing, Lord Rennell of Rodd thanked the Chairman, whom he called "the most popular Swiss Minister who has ever been accredited to the Court of St. James," and the President of the City Swiss Club, Mr. P. F. Boehringer, on behalf of the other guests for the enjoyable evening.

Dancing started shortly after eleven: and soon after the cabaret made its appearance, which was a welcome diversion for those, who for some reason or other did not wish to dance.

It may be mentioned here that Newman's dance band proved to be very efficient and untiring in their endeavours to lure young and old to valse round in either quick or slow tempo.

One or two "Paul-Jones" greatly added to the gaiety and mirth which was such a happy feature throughout the whole evening.

At 2 o'clock a.m. the orchestra intimated that "Auld Lang Syne" should be sung, and so another Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club came to an end.

There remains only for me, to voice the opinion of all those who were fortunate enough to attend this function, an opinion which unanimously agreed that it was a great success in every direction. There reigned throughout the evening a most genial atmosphere, and if one complaint could be made, it would be the one, that the time passed much too quickly.

Long after I left the luxurious precincts of the Grosvenor House, I could still hear the happy laughter of many of the charming ladies, and could one ask for a better memory to take away from a gathering where every activity in the Colony was so splendidly represented.

The Committee of the City Swiss Club, and especially the untiring Hon. Secretary, M. G. Marchand, who arranged this splendid function in such a masterful way, truly deserve the thanks of all those present.

It was an evening which will be remembered by many of the nearly four hundred present, with lasting pleasure.

ST.

Apart from those already mentioned, the following were present:

Mr. Amann, Mr. and Mrs. Aeschlimann, Dr. and Mrs. Avery Jones, Mr. Akeret, Dr. Apelbaum, Mlle. Bunge, Mr. and Mrs. Bruggisser, Mr. and Mrs. Bernheim, Mr. and Mrs. Billetter, Mr. and Mrs. Beyli, Misses Beyli, Mr. and Mrs. Baume, Mr. O. Boehringer, Miss Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. Bleiker, Mr. Bruggler, Mr. and Mrs. Bonesi, Mr. Beuz, Mr. and Mrs. Bessire, Mr. and Mrs. Bartholdi, Mr. and Mrs. Bucher, Mr. and Mrs. O. Brullhard, Mr. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Boos, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Bindschedler, Mr. and Mrs. Baumgartner, Count Borch, Mr. and Mrs. Campart, Mr. and Mrs. Charton, Mr. and Mrs. Craddock, Mr. Cecil, Mr. and Mrs. L. Chapuis, Mr. and Mrs. C. Chapuis, Mr. and Mrs. Cramerie, Mr. and Mrs. Dick and Party, Mr. de Bourg, Mr. Dunant, Mr. and Mrs. de Jenner, Mr. and Mrs. Donat, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Dupraz, Mr. de Cintra, Miss Debson, Mr. and Mrs. R. de Wattville, Miss de Margnac, Mr. de Meuron, Dr. D. Edwards, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Epprecht, Mr. and Mrs. Frost, Mrs. Plateau, Dr. and Mrs. Ferrière, Mr. and Mrs. O. Frei, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Fankhauser and Party, Mr. and Mrs. Fischer, Mr. and Mrs.

France, Mr. and Mrs. Flory and Party, Mr. Gamper, Mr. and Mrs. Gyde, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Gattiker, Mr. C. Gattiker, Mr. and Mrs. Ceresole, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gamper, Mr. J. Gamper, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Grau, Mr. and Mrs. Gysin, Mr. and Mrs. Glauser, Missis Girsberger, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Haffter, Mrs. Haller, Mr. and Mrs. Hungerbühler, Mrs. Heizenmann, Mr. Th. Heizenmann, Mr. P. Hiliker, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Haussauer, Mr. and Mrs. Haberstick, Mr. G. Jenne, and Party, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. Jobin, Mr. Jucker, Mr. Jenny, Mlle. Kricke, Miss Kilby, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Koch, Mr. Koch, Mr. and Mrs. Krucker and Party, Mr. and Mrs. Kunzler, Mr. and Mrs. Klag, Mrs. Lawrence Gilbert, Dr. Lansel, Mrs. Lansel, Mr. G. Laemlé, Mr. Loggett, Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bruce, Mrs. Liebi, Mr. Liebi, Mr. G. Marchand, Mr. and Mrs. Moehr and Party, Mr. Merz, Mr. Meschini and Party, Miss Muller, Mr. and Mrs. Mayr, Mr. and Mrs. Matthey, Mr. and Mrs. R. Marchand, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Mauch-Modica, Mr. Maillard, Mr. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. Meier, Mr. Newman and Party, Mr. and Mrs. Northcote, Mr. and Mrs. Noles, Mr. and Mrs. Oboussier, Mr. and Mrs. Oggier, Mr. and Mrs. Oerthli, Mr. and Mrs. Ochs, Mr. V. Paravicini, M. Pictet, Mlle. Palliser, Mrs. L. Paull, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Pfirter, Mr. D. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Perret, Mr. and Mrs. Pape, Dr. Pflüss, Mrs. Rutherford, Mr. Ritter, Mr. Roethlisberger, Mr. Rezzonico, Mr. and Mrs. Ryl, Mr. L. Rueff, Mr. and Mrs. Rowley, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rueff, Dr. Rast, Mrs. Rossier, Swiss Minister's Guests, Mr. E. Schmid, Miss Steiger, Mr. Speich, M. and Mrs. Seinet, Mr. Stoll, Mr. and Mrs. B. Sigerist and Guest, Mr. and Mrs. Schubeler and Party, Miss Simmen, Mr. and Mrs. Schobinger, Mr. H. Senn, Mr. and Mrs. Schmid, Mr. and Mrs. Sandilands, Mr. and Mrs. Sanger, Mr. J. J. Schneider, Miss Sutcliffe, Mr. Simon and Guest, Mr. Stutzenegger, Miss P. Suter, Mr. and Mrs. Strahl, Mr. and Mrs. Stähelin, Mr. and Mrs. Schorno, Mr. and Mrs. Sterchi, Mme. Schupbach, Miss Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. R. Uhlmann, Mr. and Mrs. Uhlmann and Party, Mr. and Mrs. Valette, Miss Vonzun, Mlle. Vernet, Mr. and Mrs. Wildi, Mr. Wythrich, Mr. and Mrs. Wetzol, Mr. W. Weber, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wetter, Mr. J. Wetter, Mr. and Mrs. E. Werner, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Willi, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. Youngman, Mr. and Mrs. Zimmermann, Mr. J. Zimmermann, Mr. and Mrs. Zogg, Mr. Zürcher.

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The Zurich museum is probably the most complete and interesting in Switzerland. Here the visitor finds collections dating far back to the beginning of history. There are relics discovered in the rocky regions of the mountains—evidence of cave-dwellers in the Stone Age. Even more important in early history were the lake-dwellers, who long ago lived on the shores of the lakes in central Switzerland. Marvellously complete is the absorbing interpretation of their primitive civilization during the Stone and Bronze Ages. An excellent new arrangement has been introduced in the museum, through which the visitor finds all the most interesting objects of these early times groups together; the rest of the material is placed in other collections primarily for the more serious students of history.

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