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Annual Banquet & Ball of the CITY SWISS CLUB on

Friday, 25th November 1938, at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

LOUIS CHAPUIS, President.



The City Swiss Club held its 82nd Annual Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1, on Friday, November 25th.

As mentioned on a previous occasion, the Club this year curtailed somewhat the list of its official guests, as owing to the recent crisis, adequate arrangements could not be made in proper time, this however, I am glad to say, did not prevent a large number of members, and their friends attending, and the company numbered just on three hundred. —

Eighty-two years is quite a respectable age for a Society, and one might rightly expect that "the old lady" should show by now some symptoms of old age, but nothing of the sort, she was just as "frisky" as ever, and as light hearted as a young flapper.

Great animation reigned in the spacious Foyer, where Monsieur Ch. de Jenner, Chargé d'Affaires de Suisse, accompanied by Madame de Jenner, M. Louis Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, and Mme. Chapuis, received the company.

One had there an opportunity to see many friendly faces, perhaps not encountered for many months, and many a hearty handshake cemented old friendships, which not even a freezing "Martini" could cool down. As we are talking of cocktails, I wish to thank all those who were so kind to offer me a drink, had I accepted them all, I should have had to be either "carried in or out."

One member of the Diplomatic Corps offered me a "White Lady" — which is, of course, a beverage, — I refused, saying that I was already suited, whilst another Gentleman, "high up" in the City insisted that I should have a "sidecar" with him, but as I prefer motor-cars, I also politely declined, but when a medical man offered me "The perfect Lady," I "fell" and oh, how perfect she "tasted."

The large crystal chandeliers competed with the hundreds of sparkling eyes of the Ladies, and the array of beautiful dresses, in all the colours of the rainbow, it must have made even a confirmed bachelor's heart beat quicker.

In one corner, one could hear the eloquent French being spoken, whilst in another a group of brethren from the Ticino conversed in their melodious language, "Schwizerdütsch" and even our latest official language "Romantsch" found expression everywhere. It reminded me somehow of a League of Nations meeting.

Then, suddenly, the red coated toast master announced with a stentorian voice that dinner was about to be served, and all and sundry wended their way to the lovely banqueting-hall. The Menu-Programmes in our National colours provided a striking table decoration together with red and white carnations.

Then, the Chairman and the President of the City Swiss Club, accompanied by their charming wives, carrying beautiful Bouquets, which had been previously presented to them by the Vice-President, made their entries, whilst the Swiss National Anthem was played. Behind them when they were seated the City Swiss Club banner together with the Union Jack was exhibited.

Grace was said by Pastor C. Th. Hahn, and the company sat down to enjoy an excellent Menu.

Choice vintages were served, amongst them I noticed such fine beverages coming from the "old country" as "Dôle de Sion, Pendant du Valais," "Dezaley" and "Neuchâtel."

The musical programme during the dinner was executed by Colombo's excellent band, a band which has now for many years played at the Banquets of the Club. The orchestra quite appropriately played a number of popular Swiss tunes, which many of us have sung in the days of our youth, and thus a real Swiss atmosphere was perhaps unconsciously, created.

During the dinner, the toastmaster claimed silence for the customary toasts, and Monsieur de Jenner, in his capacity as Chairman, 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.

Towards the end of the dinner, the speech-making was announced, and I am glad to say that they were all excellent and short.

The first speech of the evening was delivered by Monsieur de Jenner, who received a hearty ovation on rising from his "Fauteuil présidentiel."

Through some mishap, the microphone at first refused its collaboration, but with the aid of a "plumber," the mishap was corrected, and M. de Jenner could be heard saying:

I do not think I shall be long in apologizing that I am to-day in this Chair. Your President, M. Chapuis, will do it in a more convincing way than I can do, nor am I intimidated by having to face such a big and distinguished gathering. Being a Berner, not only by birth but by conviction and tradition, an inferiority complex is the least of my shortcomings. I am on the contrary very glad to speak to you to-day as a Swiss to Swiss about things which are uppermost in our hearts.

When I attended your first Dinner some seven years ago, we were in this country in the thick of an economic crisis, commonly called "The Crisis." We have just passed through a very dangerous political crisis and to-day we again call it "The Crisis." Between those two principal crises we had a series of minor crisis, the Abyssinian crisis, the Spanish crisis, the Rheinland crisis and what not. So I sometimes wonder whether "The Crisis" is still to come and whether not all the crises we have already had are merely symptoms of a general disease from which the world has still to recover.

But, I know you do not wish me to talk to you to-day about world affairs in general. You would like to hear how our own little country has fared, and is getting on in these difficult times. Do not be afraid of another gloomy speech. We have heard and read enough about those dark clouds gathering on the horizon with more or less silver linings.

On the contrary, I am going to talk to you about sunshine, and quite a number of bright spots.



CENTRE VIEW OF THE BANQUETING HALL.

(Top table left to right.)

Mr. and Mrs. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Meier, Mr. and Mrs. Kessler, Dr. Egli, Mr. Wildbolz, Mr. Brun, Pasteur and Mrs. Pradervand, Mlle Meyrat, Pastor and Mrs. Hahn, M. de Rham, Mr. Frank Fehr, C.B.E., Mme. im Thurn, Vice-Admiral im Thurn, Mme. L. Chapuis, M. de Jenner (Chairman), Mr. L. Chapuis (President), M. Girardet, Mlle. Lehmann, Mr. Lehmann, Dr. Rast, M. Hilfiker, Mr. Campart.

First of all, Switzerland is still alive and very much so. That is more than one can say of other small nations, which have passed away, or have been "peaced" away, if I may coin this word.

Another bright spot:—The Swiss Government, through the skill of its Foreign Minister, M. Molta, has regained for our country the benefit of the full and integral neutrality.

You may remember that when Switzerland entered the League of Nations, she did it under the condition that our old and permanent neutrality should be safeguarded. In the so-called London Declaration of 1920 she obtained the military neutrality, but she had to assume the obligation to impose together with the other members of the League financial and economic sanctions, if such an action should be decided upon by the League, against another State. When Switzerland took this obligation, she did it in the hope that the League might be an universal one, comprising all the countries in the world. She did it in the hope, that disarmament, which at this moment seemed to be well on the way, would become a fact. Well, you know which way things have developed. Everywhere, there is rearmament. Several great powers, two being amongst the three neighbours of Switzerland, have left the League, and Europe has more or less come back to the old system of Alliances, of which one system still adheres to the League, and the other is not only outside it, but even despises it.

This situation made it imperative for Switzerland to regain her former integral neutrality, if she did not want to be dragged into a War between one system of great powers against the other. It is quite obvious that not only military, but economic actions against other powers might be declared by them as a warlike action.

The difficulty was to find a way to regain this integral neutrality, and to remain at the same time a member of the League.

After difficult negotiations we obtained everything we wanted, and I am especially glad to state that in our endeavours we enjoyed the full understanding and support of the Government of the United Kingdom, for which we are very grateful indeed.

It may well be worth while to dwell a little longer on this subject, and to examine why this permanent neutrality is such a vital question for Switzerland, and I can do no better than to read to you a small passage of the Memorandum which the Swiss Government tendered to the Council of the League on the occasion of the London Declaration:—

"La neutralité de la Suisse a un caractère propre qui la distingue de toutes les autres. Elle est une des conditions essentielles de la paix intérieure, de l'union et, par suite, de l'indépendance d'une nation formée d'éléments divergents par la langue et par la culture. Et la Suisse tient à cette diversité qui est pour elle, malgré l'exiguïté de son territoire, la source d'une vie nationale intense."

Moreover Switzerland has a historic Mission. She is, and she will be the bridge between the surrounding nations. She will also be the play and sports ground of Europe, if you like, but with one exception, she will never be the ring where the European Heavy-weight Championships will be fought out. In other words, Switzerland will no more be the battle field of Europe as she has been in the past.

Furthermore what obligations does this neutrality entail for us? It entails that the Swiss Government undertakes not to join any system of powers directed against another system, and that in case of a War, Switzerland will not favour by any direct or indirect action one or the other of the belligerent States.

In order to safeguard our neutrality, we have to take effective measures to protect our

territory against anyone who intends to violate it.

If to-day we are told that neutrality means more than this, we are not prepared to agree to it. We are certainly not prepared to agree that neutrality means abolishing the freedom of the press, or the freedom of individuals to have their proper judgment about things which are happening elsewhere and concern us in one way or another.

It does certainly not mean that we have to curtail our liberty in general, if such liberty displeases one neighbour or another. It is not our concern to criticise the institutions of our neighbours, and it is not their concern to criticise ours.

So much about our neutrality, and now I have to speak about another event which made a very deep and lasting impression on the Swiss people.

It is the loss of Austria's independence, an event which has been brought about, literally speaking in one afternoon. The Swiss people, who have been somewhat spoilt by a long spell of peaceful developments, and who started to take this state of affairs for granted were startled. Might the fate of Austria not one day be our own? and so I come to another bright spot in my speech.

The Swiss people have learned their lesson. They have learnt, that it is not only material wealth which makes them happy. They have learnt that there are other and much more important assets which are worth defending.

A new spirit has come into our hearts. It is the old fighting spirit which has formed our country, and the character of the nation. We are aware of the fact, that we can only go on if we are willing to fight, not only for our existence, but for everything which is dear to every Swiss. We have learnt that everyone of us has to make sacrifices for the common cause. It is a spirit which has seized everybody from the man at the top to the most modest labourer, no matter to which party he belongs. This, Ladies and gentlemen, is the best safeguard against the fate with which Austria and another small and brave nation has met.

Furthermore, there is a big difference between Switzerland and those nations. There are not many Swiss outside a Mental Asylum, and perhaps not many in it, who wish to join another country. We are told that the danger of being attacked by a great neighbour is very small. It may be so indeed, and we will hope for the best. But there is another danger, almost as great as an attack by force. It is the danger of subversive propaganda may it come from the right or the left. All of you who are still in the habit of reading Swiss newspapers are aware of the fact that Switzerland is going to face this danger too.

The times to come will ask much from us. The Swiss Government had already to lay a heavy burden on the shoulder of our people.

This burden will be heavier in the future. It will be heavier because the people themselves went to the Government and told them that what was done, and much has been done, was not enough, and that they were willing to do, not only the minimum but the maximum of what is necessary to safeguard our independence and our national life.

Do not listen to anybody who tells you that all this money is thrown away and that we are much too small to resist any attack of a great power; not even the toughest fellow can swallow a chestnut in its prickly shell or a hedge-hog in its hide.

If you ask me what you can do for your own country, I can tell you, you can do different things. You can not only pay your military tax punctually and with a smile, but you can raise your voice and help that this new spirit does not disappear again. Then you can do one more thing:—

Your children, who were born in this country, have received in their cradle the precious gift of being citizens of two countries which have both a common ideal. By bringing them up to be loyal citizens of this country, and teaching them devotion to the country of their fathers, they will be a most valuable asset, and most effective Ambassadors of Switzerland in England.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am afraid that after what I have told you, some of you, especially you my fair ladies, who are the champions of peace outside your own premises, may think I am a War monger, or at least a fighter by inclination. I can assure you, this is not the case. My umbrella is as dear to me as his to the rightly popular and rightly beloved Prime Minister of this country.

And now I come to the end. I am under the impression that you have listened to me long enough. Let us be optimists, by remaining prepared for the worst. Let us hope for the best, and lift up our eyes unto the Mountains from whence cometh our help.

Long and sincere applause greeted the oration of the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires.

The microphone then changed places, and this time the toast-master asked for silence to hear the speech of M. Louis Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club. If ever the President should have nourished any doubts that he was not popular, he should now be convinced to the contrary. From all parts of the large Banqueting Hall loud applause greeted him, and only after making strenuous efforts with both arms, which reminded me of my army days, during signalling exercises, he managed to commence his oration, he said:

By a gradual evolution, during the 82 years of its existence, the City Swiss Club has progressed in many ways, but, above all, it has made the task of its President much easier at our Banquets.

Many of you still remember those awful economic surveys, in which the President had to make our guests swallow tons of Swiss cheese and chocolate, hundreds of thousands of watches, miles of lace and embroideries, not to mention heavy machinery. Fortunately for us all, those days are over, and I now have only a most pleasant privilege left — that of extending to you all, on behalf of the City Swiss Club, a warm and hearty welcome.

I have the very great honour and pleasure of proposing to you the health of our distinguished official guests, but I do so with the regret — which I am sure you all share with me — that, for the first time, our greatly esteemed and beloved Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, is not with us to-night. After fourteen months of constant attendance to his strenuous duties at the Legation, he is now taking a much needed and well deserved rest in Switzerland. We all wish him a beneficial and happy holiday.

We are delighted to have the Swiss Minister represented in the Chair to-night by Monsieur Ch. de Jenner, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, whose courtesy, genial personality, and, above all, his lively interest in all the activities of the Swiss colony, make him a most welcome friend among us.

To Madame de Jenner, I offer our grateful thanks for the grace and charm with which she has greeted us to-night.

With particular pride and pleasure, I now welcome our very distinguished guest, Vice-Admiral John Konrad im Thurn, whose grandfather, John Konrad im Thurn, gave to his native town of Schaffhausen, in 1864, 240,000 gold francs, to be applied to the creation of a cultural and scientific institute for young people, which in time became the town's School of Music and its Theatre, with the famous concert hall named after him Im Thurneum.

We are happy to have again with us to-night another eminent Swiss descendant, Mr.

SEE THE SWISS N at Z

Frank Fehr, the Governing director of the well-known firm of underwriters which bears his father's name. He is the President of the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange.

I heartily greet the collaborators of our Minister at the Swiss Legation, M. Girardet, M. de Rham, and M. Hiliker — as well as M. Hofstetter, Swiss Consular agent in Scotland, who is accompanied by Mrs. Hofstetter.

We are fortunate to have as our guest Mr. Lehmann, a Swiss who is the President of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club: every member of that great Association is a booster for Switzerland.

I also welcome Mr. Gilbert Carr, the President of the American Society in London, and Mr. Gordon, Managing Director of Olympia.

To represent the world of music, we have a gracious lady as our guest, Madame Stella Andrevá, the brilliant and delightful Prima Donna of Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera, New York, Royal Opera, Stockholm, and Radio star.

Our other official guests are friends of long standing, without whom no banquet could be held. They are the Rev. Hahn, and Mrs. Hahn, the Rev. Pradervand and Mrs. Pradervand, the shepherds of our Swiss churches. All the representatives of our sister Societies in London are also here, and to all we extend a hearty welcome among us.

Our national Press is represented by Melle. Denise Du Bois, London correspondent of "La Suisse," of Geneva, Dr. Egli, of the "Bund," Dr. Kessler, of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," and Mr. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer.

In conclusion, I am sure that all you Ladies and Gentlemen, our Guests, are here to demonstrate that you have for us a friendship which, apart from its human value, is the proof that Anglo-Swiss friendship and community of ideals, which have existed for centuries, will last for ever.

After the conclusion of this short and excellently rendered speech, we witnessed a repetition of the enthusiasm which had marked the start of his address.

Before I go any further, I venture to publish a complete list of all the guests, as time did not allow the President to mention the names of everyone present. Here they are:

Monsieur Ch. de Jenner, Chargé d'Affaires de Suisse, and Mme. de Jenner, Vice-Admiral im Thurn and Mrs. im Thurn, Frank E. Fehr, C.B.E., Esq., President of the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange, and Mrs. Fehr, Monsieur A. Girardet, Counsellor of Legation, M. J. de Rham, Secretary of Legation, Monsieur Paul Hiliker, Vice-Consul, Monsieur and Madame E. Hofstetter, Swiss Consular Agent in Scotland, Mr. and Miss Lehmann, President of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club, Madame Stella Andrevá, Prima Donna, Pastor and Mrs. C. Th. Hahn, "Schweizerkirche," Pastore and Mrs. M. Pradervand, "Eglise Suisse," Mr. Gilbert Carr, President of the American Society in London, Mr. Gordon, Managing Director of Olympia, Mr. C. Campart, President Secours Mutuels, Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier, Vice-President, Swiss Mercantile Society, Mr. G. Eusebio, President Unione Ticinese, Mr. P. De Maria, Unione Ticinese, Mr. F. Suter, accompanied by Mrs. Suter, President Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mr. E. P. Dick, accompanied by Mrs. Dick, Swiss Orchestral Society, Mr. F. M. Gamper, Vice-President, Fonds de Secours, Mr. P. Brun, President Swiss Club Birmingham, and Mr. Brun, jun., Mr. Ls. Rey, President Union Helvetia, Mr. Hediger, President Swiss Club (Schweizerbund), Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor Swiss Observer, Dr. E. Kessler, accompanied by Mrs. Kessler, London correspondent "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," Dr. H. W. Egli, London correspondent "Der Bund," Mlle. Denyse Du Bois, London correspondent "La Suisse."

The President then read out a telegram received from the Swiss Minister, at present in Switzerland, it said:

Président City Swiss Club,

Londres.

"Ma famille et moi très déçu de manquer pour la première fois au Banquet Annuel envoyons messages cordiaux aux Membres City Swiss Club et vous prions Monsieur le Président ainsi que Mme. Chapuis de croire à notre présence en pensée."

PARAVICINI."

The response to the President's toast was entrusted to Mr. Frank Fehr, it was not the first time that members of the Club had had the pleasure to hear Mr. Fehr, and the hearty reception which he received on rising, was a sure proof that we consider the speaker as a good friend, and almost as "one of us" especially as his ancestors were countrymen of ours.

Mr. Fehr paid a compliment to the previous speakers, and in referring to the occupation of Austria, he said, that there is one vital difference, namely that he is convinced that Switzerland is prepared to hold its own against anyone who threatens its independence, he continued, amongst loud applause, "Switzerland would do what it has done in the past and therefore deserves its independence; it does not interfere with the affairs of other countries, nor does it interfere with the liberties of its people, every Swiss citizen has his full say, which can hardly be said from totalitarian States."

The speaker then referred to the differences in the Anglo-Italian relations deploring the facts that such misunderstanding should have arisen between two countries which were hitherto friends. "It is not our business," he said, "to dictate to other countries, and every country can learn from Switzerland how to mind its own business." He expressed the hope that Italy will become in the near future a good friend again of this country and thus give a good guarantee for future peace and goodwill.

Mr. Fehr also shortly referred to the persecution of the Jews in Germany, and to the restriction of religious liberty in that country, which do not profit a country. In conclusion he said: "Those countries which stand for Democracy, stand together for the service of humanity."

Mr. Fehr's exposé was greatly cheered by the entire company.

Vice-Admiral im Thurn thanked the President for the honour bestowed on him and his family by being invited as a guest to the Annual Banquet. "We have always been proud of our Swiss ancestors," he continued amongst applause "and it is always a pleasure for us to visit your country."

The gallant Admiral then said that Swiss neutrality was a vital factor for the peace of Europe, and if this neutrality would not exist there would be no stability in Central Europe.

He concluded his speech with the words:

"Should it ever come to happen, that this neutrality should be challenged, then, I am sure, you would prove to be just as good soldiers, as you always have been."

Vice-Admiral im Thurn received a hearty ovation on resuming his seat.

Finally, Mr. F. M. Gamper, Vice-President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, (Fonds de Secours) rose to address the gathering, he said:

Owing to the absence abroad of our President, Mr. Nussbaumer, which we all regret, the task of appealing to you on behalf of our poor and destitute compatriots has fallen upon me.

I do not propose to weary you with a speech or present you with an array of figures. I know that you all, and particularly the ladies would like to begin with the dancing. I assure you that you have my full sympathy, because I am feeling quite a little bit that way myself.

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But I am sure that you will bear with me for a few minutes and allow me to put before you a few salient facts in connection with our work, the most salient being that we are every year faced with the anxious problem of having to raise the appalling amount of over £4,000 to carry on our work. Our activities are many-sided.

We are taking care of 91 pensioners, all over the age of 60 who are permanently looking to us for their maintenance. 15 of these old people are hospitalised in our own comfortable Home for aged Swiss.

We are distributing casual relief. This comprises all temporary assistance apart from pensions.

We are in contact with our poor compatriots in Hospitals and Asylums and are even assisting them occasionally in Police Courts when they are in trouble.

These are just a very few of the things we are doing and of which we could write many pages.

Our society has distributed since its inception in 1870 the enormous sum of over £70,000 — and I could think of no finer tribute to our Swiss Colony than stating that they were in a large measure responsible in raising an amount of such magnitude.

Nor have we any reason to think — in spite of the difficult times we are living in — that the Swiss Colony is less mindful of, or less generously disposed towards their fellow countrymen who have fallen on evil days and whom we are helping irrespective of race, creed or language based on our ancient tradition of humanity and tolerance.

I am gladly taking this opportunity of thanking all those, who have in some way or other helped us in our heavy work: especially the Swiss authorities and the Legation, the Swiss business community and societies and last, but not least, all our good friends of the Swiss Colony.

But I think I would be lacking in courtesy and gratitude if I did not also thank my colleagues on our various committees for their unselfish devotion in the service of the poor.

Thank God we are living in this wonderful country, this England where decency and personal freedom is still a cherished ideal.

Our little collection bags will now be circulated and I would ask you to give as much as you can.

Please do not forget that I am standing here on behalf of people who suffer, people who are ill and old and whom fate has very cruelly treated.

On their behalf I am saying to you, in anticipation, from the bottom of my heart

THANK YOU!

The appeal so sincerely made earned a deserved response and yielded the highly satisfactory sum of £130.

The company then adjourned to the Foyer, so that the Hall could be made ready for dancing.

Dancing started shortly after ten, and Colombo's Band proved to be very efficient, and untiring in their endeavours to lure young and old to waltz round in either quick or slow tempo.

During one of the intervals Mr. W. Mathyer, a countryman of ours, gave us a few "yodles" accompanied on his accordion, which provided a homely touch and which was greatly appreciated.

Much appreciated was the now so fashionable "Lambeth Walk." I noticed that not everybody was familiar with the steps, but when it came to the "Oy" and "thumbs up" they were "all there."

The "Paul Jones" were as popular as ever, and it gave everybody a chance to dance with an unexpected partner.

After I had very intelligently repeated about four to five times, that "it was quite a nice evening" and "that the Hall was very pleasant" some saucy little, and bewitching young Lady, said to me that she thought I had more brain than to talk such "piffle." I made up my mind to talk more intelligently the next time, and when I happened to dance soon after with a more "matured" lady I asked her whether she had become a grandmother yet, she told me "not to be rude." So thereafter, I gave up making "polite" ball room conversation, and the rest of my dancing was executed in grim silence, which got me into more trouble, because my partner asked me whether I was tongue tied, which goes to prove that one cannot please everybody.

As a last hope, I presented some of the lovely carnations which adorned the tables to a Lady, who promptly refused saying that she hated carnations, and that it was rather a mean thing to present flowers to a Lady for which I had not paid.

After that, I drowned my sorrows in Scotch Whisky, for which I also had not paid, which again was also mean.

Then came the *clou* of the evening, my good friend Carlo Chapuis, who acted throughout the

evening as a most efficient announcer, informed the company, that Madame Stella Andrevia would sing to us.

A mighty cheer was raised, when this charming artiste appeared, she sang the Aria "A Fors é Lui" from Verdi's "La Traviata." What a voice, and how we enjoyed it, no wonder Madame Andrevia has had engagements from all the principal Opera houses on the Continent and America.

After an almost riotous applause Madame Andrevia gracefully consented to sing the song "Mein Herr Marquis" from the opera "Die Fledermaus." Again she earned such an applause that after some persuasion of the President she consented to sing "Musetta's Waltz Song" from Puccini's "La Bohème."

When the applause died down the Secretary of the Club, smiling and blushing like a young bride, advanced and presented to the charming Lady a wonderful Bouquet of flowers, and at the same time kissed her dainty hand, I went green with envy, had I not been asked some few months ago to take the post of Secretary of the Club, which I declined at the time, thus missing the chance of a life time, to kiss, even if it was only the hand, of a famous Prima Donna!!!

Back I went, and had another drink for which my neighbour paid, the only satisfaction he may have is, that on Saturday morning I woke up with a headache for which, this time, I paid myself.

At two o'clock a.m. the orchestra played "Auld lang syne" and everybody sang:

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And days of auld lang syne?"

whilst the President and his charming Lady stood happily smiling and bowing in the circle.

Thus ended another very successful Annual Banquet of the City Swiss Club, and the torrential downpour which greeted us on leaving Grosvenor House did not cool our enthusiasm for a really fine and enjoyable evening.

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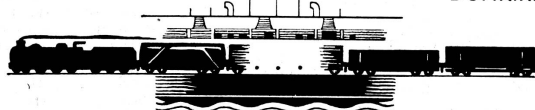
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