

Unione Ticinese

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happy party was off — only to find that on the outbreak of war there was no way of returning for the main body of the party for something like five weeks after the appointed date. The costs accruing to the Group through this delay were frightening, especially as most parents of the children sent to Switzerland were not in the position to take any further expenses upon themselves. Had it not been for the splendid help of the Pro Juventute, in particular, the generous and compassionate action of the Southern and the French State Railways in refunding to us the cost of the unuseable return tickets, we could never have hoped to square the accounts at all. Yet this organisation — the “Sorgenkind” of the year — was really well worth undertaking, giving health and happiness to about 40 London children, most of whom might otherwise never have seen the land of their fathers. Interesting and gratifying observations on the conduct and the reactions of the children have been received from their holiday centre in Switzerland. — On the other hand, we have failed to obtain a licence early enough for the importation of the usual 1,000 Swiss calendars.

The weight of this onerous administration of the affairs of our Group has been taken and carried to an astonishing extent by one member, Madame A. C. Muller. Her unflinching energy, her outstanding organising capacity, her unselfish spirit of goodwill and help are qualities which the London Group could ill afford to lose or miss. She has undertaken this heavy task and is continuing it so successfully in a voluntary capacity after her own busy day's work; our admiration and gratitude, therefore, have to be very sincere in order to form anything like a just reward for her patriotic activity.

The accounts for the year will be discussed and passed elsewhere. The membership has risen from 142 on January 1st, 1939, to 161 to-day; the movements being rather considerable. There was an accession of 27 new members while the loss was 8, consisting of 1 decease, 1 resignation, 2 repatriations, 2 departures to other Foreign countries and 2 names taken off the register for non-payment of subscriptions.

As your President I now take a particular pleasure in expressing the thanks of the Group to all those who have in the course of the year assisted us actively in one way or another. In the first place these thanks go out to our Minister in Retirement, M. C. R. Paravicini, whose friendship and appreciation of our efforts have been particularly encouraging to us. I am glad that I have been able to express in my Farewell speech our deep feelings of gratitude. The Staff of the Swiss Legation have shown us by their frequent presence and assistance that they are in sympathy with our work; our sister societies in London have gladly and willingly co-operated with us in various matters, and I would here make a special mention of their generosity in the matter of the Childrens' holiday fund. The genial editor of the Swiss Observer has never refused us space when space was wanted; the Foyer makes us welcome and feeds us well, while the Swiss Mercantile Society is still the best landlord we could have. The Swiss Colony in London at large, I believe, is not unmindful of the services we render to our compatriots, and we are happy to feel that they approve wholeheartedly of our continued efforts. To-day, as in 1914, our

responsibility is growing again in relation to the needs of the Colony; the greater its need, the greater our *raison d'être*.

With the Secretariat in Berne — an institution which is constantly extending in efficiency and influence — we stand in the most intimate relationship. We cannot sufficiently express to them our thanks here for their constant desire to fulfil everyone of our wishes; but I will also repeat what I have said before that they look upon us as “a model group in a model colony of model Swiss,” and that they expect performance accordingly. Our special thanks are due to our lecturers who have enriched the value of our activity, to those members of the Group who have taken an active interest in any of the problems ever before us, to our Hon. Secretary, and, again, to Madame Muller, the “indispensable.”

In conclusion I would refer once more to the statement I made at the beginning of this report that with the outbreak of war Switzerland had lost a large number of citizens in the persons of the English born sons of Swiss who had hitherto been regarded as Swiss themselves. No doubt this is a shock to many of us, but it is a fact which we have to accept with fortitude. It is clearer to me than ever since the end of the last war that the colonies of the Swiss Abroad can only be kept alive by the older generation of Swiss born in Switzerland, and their responsibility in this direction is a serious one. They are now the sole guardians of our national patrimony in preserving the Swiss spirit in many Foreign lands until such times as peace may reign once more and the free exchange of men, goods and ideas may be re-established between the nations. It will not be until then that the permanent emigration of a part of the young manhood of Switzerland — a tradition which will persist — can be again effective, and we must look to these future emigrants settling in Great Britain to take over from us the guardianship of the Swiss Spirit Abroad.

Unione Ticinese.

Scialba e sbrigativa si è svolta la prima Assemblée Generale ordinaria di quest'anno dell' *Unione Ticinese* — Sezione Autonoma *Pro Ticino* — in Londra, al locale sociale in Charlotte Street, Domenica scorsa, 22 Gennaio, col concorso di soltanto una ventina di soci. Senza dubbio il freddo intenso di questi giorni, nonché un insistente quanto impertinente nevischio, devono aver fatto a gara a sbaragliare il tenue coraggio di altri pur bene intenzionati. Forse anche le gravi questioni dell'ora saranno la causa della stasi nella vita del sodalizio.

Apprendo la seduta il Presidente, Sig. Giuseppe Eusebio, ebbe parole di ammonimento ed incoraggiamento. La gravità del momento in cui viviamo non dovrebbe essere di scusa per star lontano dalle nostre adunate, bensì dovrebbe servire di sprone a prendere una parte più attiva alla vita sociale della Colonia, già ridotta per se stessa. Inoltre se la guerra che attualmente divampa in questa vecchia Europa si può additare come un'ulteriore prova dell'eterno contrasto fra autorità ed individuo, dovrebbe essere nostro

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dovere di ticinesi e svizzeri di destare nella gente della Nazione che ci ospita interesse nella nostra Patria, eterno monumento di concordia sociale e che è perciò brillante esempio come tale contrasto può essere, se non interamente abolito, almeno attutito.

Dopo la lettura e l'approvazione del verbale dell'ultima assemblea generale, il Socio Benemerito, Sig. Oscar Gambazzi, fa da relatore per la Commissione della Revisione Conti, in sostituzione del Socio Giuseppe Delmuè, presente ma ancora convalescente da seria malattia. Mentre le uscite mostrano una certa regolarità da qualche anno in qua, le entrate sono in costante diminuzione e l'anno scorso più che mai; per di più oltre il cinquanta per cento dei soci attivi è caduto in arretrato per la quota 1939. Il relatore pertanto esorta tutti i presenti a voler far opera di persuasione presso i loro amici al fine di regolarizzare la posizione di questi soci, come detto, purtroppo numerosi.

Lo stesso chiodo viene pure battuto dal Segretario, Socio Pietro De Maria, nella sua eccellente rassegna dell'operato della Direzione nel corso del 1939. Il conto finanziario ha chiuso con un deficit e se tale fatto per se stesso non deve destare inquietudine, data la solida posizione finanziaria raggiunta negli scorsi anni, ciò non vuol dire che non si debba correre ai ripari. Dopo aver alluso alla difficoltà di trovare nuove fonti d'introiti, il Sig. De Maria osservò che se il risultato della sottoscrizione, organizzata a favore della Società Svizzera di Beneficienza, non è stato malvagio, lo stesso aveva tuttavia rivelato che soltanto un terzo dei Soci vi aveva preso parte. Circostanza questa poco rassicurante, specialmente in vista del fatto che la citata Società soccorre un buon numero dei nostri conterranei. Di ben quaranta sterline inferiore a quello dell'anno precedente risultò il profitto del banchetto annuale, organizzato come sempre col valido concorso della Casa Pagani.

Alla rinnovazione dei poteri per l'anno in corso, la Direzione rimase pressochè inalterata, come segue:

Presidente:	Giuseppe Eusebio.
Vice Presidente:	Cesare Ferrari.
Segretario:	Pietro De Maria.
Vice Segretario:	Bruno Veglio.
Cassiere:	Carlo Berti.
Esattore:	Arrigo Moresi.

Membri (5): Elvezio Albertolli,
Pietro Bassi,
Giacinto Camozzi,
Ernesto Ferriroli,
Plinio Morosi.

Venne lasciata indefinita la questione di una Festa Sociale per quest'anno, per dar modo alla Direzione di approfittare di qualsiasi occasione propizia. Fu deciso di lasciare inalterati gli ammontari del sussidio ai Soci ammalati ed alle opere di beneficenza da noi appoggiate.

Dietro proposta del Sig. O. Gambazzi, il Presidente promise che la direzione, nel corso dell'anno, cercherà con ogni mezzo di riattivare la vita sociale, con piccoli trattenimenti, conferenze, ed assemblee straordinarie.

Prima di procedere all'elezione della nuova direzione, il Sig. Gambazzi, nella sua qualità di Presidente 'ad interim,' offerse una magnifica scatola di posateria, accompagnandola con una arguta allocuzione, al Presidente uscente e poi rieleto, Sig. Giuseppe Eusebio, in occasione del suo prossimo matrimonio con la Signorina Rina Lunghi. Ringraziò commosso il Sig. Eusebio, osservando che non era degno d'esser fatto segno da tanta generosità da parte della Società, visto che quel poco che aveva fatto era nell'intento di giovare soltanto la causa dei Ticinesi in Gran Bretagna, fine che perseguirà anche per l'avvenire.

"v'un da nun."

CITY SWISS CLUB.

On the recommendation of some friends who were under the impression that too much publicity was being made for the City Swiss Club meetings, the January meeting was allowed to take its old-fashioned course, with the result that only a handful of members turned up. The quantity was not there, but the quality I must say was good.

There was little to discuss at the meeting except a very important point in connection with the investments of the Club, and the discussion has been postponed to a further meeting when we hope to have a more representative gathering.

The dinner was a jolly affair, thanks to Pagani's, who went out of their way to re-start well by giving us a first-class meal, and to our friend, Gandon, who had brought along his accordions and filled the audience with harmony. Everybody joined in patriotic songs and the evening in the end proved one of the most pleasant ever spent at the monthly meetings.

I must admit that since January I have been inundated by complaints from members asking whether the interesting talks and entertainments would cease in 1940. It is a pleasure to be able to reassure everyone that we hope to be able to produce a new surprise for the forthcoming meeting which is to take place on the 6th proximo.

I hope that every member will turn up to give some encouragement to the Committee to continue on the go-ahead policy which has been established for some time. The attendance will give us an opportunity to see whether it is the wish of the Club that the meetings should go on being rendered attractive and interesting, or whether the established activity should once more cease.