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UNIONE TICINESE. National Day Celebration.

Our "Confederati" from the sunny south, after having taken part in the 1st of August celebration at Central Hall, Westminster, met again, a few hours later at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W. 1., to celebrate *en famille* the birthday anniversary of our country.

The Ticinesi are past masters at entertaining; all their functions are devoid of any stiffness or formality, they simply meet to enjoy themselves and be happy, and judging from their smiling faces they revelled in every moment of that successful evening.

Shortly before 8 o'clock, the music of Harry Vardon's dance band, lured both young and old on to the ball room floor and henceforth all was as merry as a wedding bell. Many of the revellers wore the becoming costume of the canton of Ticino, which added colour to the festive gathering.

Previous to an interval for refreshments, the President, Mr. P. De Maria, had officially received the representative of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur P. Clottu, Social Counsellor, accompanied by Madame Clottu. (Monsieur H. de Torrenté was unfortunately unable to attend owing to a family bereavement).

Mr. De Maria extended a hearty welcome to Monsieur and Madame Clottu expressing his pleasure at seeing them, for the first time, in the midst of a Unione Ticinese gathering.

He also greeted the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Sommer, President of the 1st of August Committee, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gandon, Hon. Secretary of

the said committee; Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer", Father A. Lanfranchi and Frau Vreni Kneubühl, who had so successfully performed at the Central Hall celebration that same afternoon. (Frau Kneubühl has recently obtained 1st prize at the Yodling Festival at St. Gall and has been declared Champion Yodlerin of Switzerland). Mr. De Maria shortly referred to the significance of the National Day and concluded by wishing all a very happy evening.

This concluded the official portion of the evening, and after more dancing, Frau Vreni Kneubühl entertained the company with a number of yodelling songs. As in the afternoon, she was enthusiastically cheered for her splendid performance. She had chosen from her large *repertoire* songs which went straight to the heart of her audience.

She was followed by the Swiss Accordeon Club, who, under the always breezy and competent conductorship of Mr. A. Gandon played with untiring energy a number of Ländler's and Waltzes.

This most pleasant evening came to a close shortly before 1 a.m. and the organisers, amongst them Mr. C. Berti, a former President of the Unione Ticinese, are heartily to be congratulated for their efforts which were so eminently successful. *ST.*

OLYMPIC GAMES AT HELSINKI.

Of the 42 countries which competed at the Olympiade at Helsinki, our sportsmen obtained 11th rank and have been awarded two gold, six silver and six bronze medals.

Looking Ahead...

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