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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

"Grümpelschiessen" Dinner at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, on Friday, Nov. 25th, 1955.

Amongst the many festivals in the Swiss Colony, I like none better, than the "Grümpelschiessen" dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association, it is there that one gets not only an excellent dinner, good wine, but also jolly company and good sportsmanship, which is not surprising when one considers that rifle shooting is perhaps the most popular sport in Switzerland, and all those, who attended at one time or another, one of the famous Federal Shooting Competitions in our country, will have witnessed with what enthusiasm the entire population takes part.

* * *

After the company had been duly "lubricated" with a variety of cocktails, the members and guests, altogether 65, sat down to a sumptuous dinner, consisting of fish, "Metzgete" (choucrouste, Schwynigs, Blutwurst), followed by roast chicken and sweets, a really royal fare, good enough even for mere republicans.

On completion of the customary Toast given by the President of the Association, Mr. Alfred Schmid, the latter extended a hearty welcome to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, and the following official guests: Colonel G. B. Chetwynde Staplyton, O.B.E., President of the Surrey Rifle Association, Major Talbot Smith, and Mr. G. W. Goodridge, also of the Surrey Rifle Association, Major W. Koch, Swiss Military and Air Attaché, Monsieur A. Albertini, of the Swiss Legation, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer". Mr. Schmid then gave a short resumé of the activities of the Society during the last twelve months. He was followed by the Swiss Minister, who very humouresly expressed his pleasure at having been bidden, for the first time since his arrival, to take part at this famous dinner.

Colonel Chetwynde Staplyton, on behalf of the guests and his Association, thanked the President and the members for their invitation, and briefly referred to the cordial relations which exist between the two Associations. He was followed by Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President of the Swiss Rifle Association, who very ably expressed the appreciation of the members to the President for the excellent dinner, he also paid a warm tribute to Mr. Willy Fischer, Chief Range Officer, and to Mr. F. Magnin, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for the good services they have rendered to the Society.

When the speechmaking was concluded, Mr. Magnin announced that the Society, as is customary, would like to present the official and other guests with a little gift, and amidst great acclamation he handed over to the Swiss Minister, a substantial hamper, whilst other guests received bottles of wine.

The Hon. Secretary then proceeded with the distribution of prizes, announcing the following results: *Best average of the year*, Mr. M. Bucherer, 52.6 points; *Highest score*: Messrs. J. Hess and M. Bucherer, 57 pts. (out of 60); *Challenge Cup Winner*: Mr. M. Bucherer, 310 pts.; *Runners-up*: Mr. J. Hess 307 pts., and Mr. J. C. Wetter, 295 pts.; *Other result*: Mr. P. Fischer, 292 pts.; "Grümpelschiessen": Mr. J. C. Wetter, and Mr. M. Bucherer, 54 pts., Mr. W. Fischer, 52 pts., Mr. J. Wetter, 49 pts. *Handicap*

Competition: Mr. P. Odermatt, 59 pts., Mr. Alfred Schmid, 57 pts., Mr. F. Suter, 56 pts., and Mr. Adolf Schmid, 56 pts.

This really enjoyable evening, where good comradeship was so much in evidence, came to a close soon after 11 o'clock, and may I, to conclude, say thank you to the Colony's "Scharfschützen" for this fine and memorable evening.

ST.

THE 37th SWISS CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY.

The Christmas Tree Party for all Swiss children will be on Saturday, January 7th, at the Victoria Halls, Bloomsbury Place, W.C.1, at 2.15 as usual.

Owing to the generosity of the Colony this is always a very happy party. There is an entertainment and tea, and Father Christmas talks to the children and brings them all presents.

Mr. R. Dupraz, 27, Tamworth Road, Croydon, Surrey, is the Hon. Treasurer of the organizing committee and he will be glad to receive donations. "The little black book" is going round, but it does not reach all those who would like to give something towards the cost of the party.

Miss I. Matthey, 11, Haslemere Road, N.S., does her best to see that every Swiss child receives an invitation. If, however, there are any children who were not invited last year, she would be glad to have their names, ages, and addresses, so that she can put them on her list.

A.B.

Lindt

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