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LIFE AND WORK OF THE COLONY.

CITY SWISS CLUB. *The Annual Banquet and Ball*, which after an interval of six eventful years was again celebrated at the Cecil Hotel (Grand Hall), marked, as of old, the great event of the whole Colony's social life. It was a remarkable gathering and a very successful evening which does its organisers great credit. It will long be remembered by those three hundred members and friends of the C.S.C. who were present.

Mr. P. F. Boehringer, the president of the Club, in proposing a toast to Switzerland, reviewed the various historic events which since 1913 have filled our hearts with anxiety and emotion when the tide of the war beat wilder and higher against the foundations of that island of peace and charity in the centre of the battle field. He outlined briefly the Club's activities and had a word of sincere gratitude and loyalty towards the country whose generous hospitality we enjoy. *Mr. Boehringer* paid a special tribute of thanks to the Legation, head and staff, who have always most readily given us their help, advice and protection.

Mr. G. Laemlé, the vice-president, welcomed the guests, and *Mr. E. Werner*, the ladies.

Our Minister, *Monsieur Ch. R. Paravicini*, honorary president of the Club, addressed to his countrymen words of encouragement. When bad news is pouring in from all sides and pessimism is rampant in business and politics, let us hold firm to the faith and ideals for which Switzerland has longest stood amongst the nations. Those ideals now shine out from Geneva to the ends of the world: *Post tenebras lux!*

The Minister, as well as the speakers of the Club, had chosen the occasion for a little demonstration of gratitude towards *Mr. X. Castelli*, the general manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, and *Mr. Palliser*, formerly director of the London office of the S.S.S., now technical adviser to the Legation on important economic problems.

Mr. G. Dimier, made a special appeal for contributions towards the pension fund (Fondation Carlin) of the Fonds de Secours. We are told that over £520 were collected.

If space permits we propose to publish in our next issue, some extracts from the speeches. A. L.

FONDS DE SECOURS (Swiss Benevolent Society). This Society is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its foundation. On this occasion it has published a short account of its patriotic and charitable work. Everyone who can make his own living ought to read this excellent booklet—and contribute according to his means towards the expenses of the Society; they all go to our unfortunate countrymen who through ill health, misfortune or old age, have fallen into poverty. A special appeal being made this year in favour of the Pension Fund we reproduce here an extract from *Mr. Dimier's* report:

"We have at present 21 pensioners who receive annually about £400. We consider that this amount ought to be guaranteed by the income of our invested funds, in order to guard against the danger of a fall in our subscriptions. Unfortunately, our capital brings in only £168, thus leaving an uncovered balance of £232 per annum. *Mr. Carlin* realised this, and on his departure for Holland he generously gave us £200 to start a special Pension Fund (now called "Fondation Carlin").

"This assistance given to our aged countrymen forms the most gratifying branch of our activity. These poor people, rendered helpless by their age (the eldest is now 89 years of age), left our native country so long ago that most of them have lost their friends there and have long since made hospitable England their home. After a life of toil they have fallen on evil days—illness, the sad companion of old age, has gradually exhausted their meagre earnings and at last, distressed and penniless they come to our Society. We welcome them, and after a careful study of their circumstances we grant them a pension which, though very small, enables them to live. When we state that the largest amount we can give at present is 15/- a week, it will be understood why we should wish to make this 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of our Institution the occasion for rendering our Pension Fund worthy of our Swiss Colony, and for bringing into the lives of our dear old Swiss Pensioners, always so grateful for what we do for them, a trifle of the comfort which falls to our daily lot."

A. L.

LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: None of our lectures ever drew a bigger audience to Steinway Hall than *Mr. G. Dimier* with his "*Beauties of Switzerland and Ascents in the Alps*" on Friday, 19th November. All the seats were taken, all the gangways crowded, and we are told that numerous members and friends could not get in at all. It was a long evening, but it passed far too quickly for all of us—the lecturer included. Alpine climbing is a most comfortable and most delightful sport under *Mr. Dimier's* spiritual guidance. This man of over sixty has an indomitable élan and drags his audience along over peaks, passes and glaciers, ever ready to give them a lift with his rope, a good joke or an anecdote; over crests and crevices, down ravines and up perpendicular mountain sides he leads you all over the Bernese, Valaisian and Grisons Alps and round Mont Blanc. You rest with him in the huts of the Alpine Club, on a lofty summit or on a wide snowfield; before you are spread out the endless chains of ice and rocks, and, if you turn round, you stand aghast over the abyss which beckons to you as a future victim. It makes you hold your breath and cling to your seat only to be thus shown round.

Mr. Dimier never commanded a more enthusiastic "ban cantonal et ban fédéral" than the one we beat for him that evening. "Monsieur le lecteur attention! un ban cantonal! . . ."

Our next lecturer will be *Professor E. Bovet*, of Zürich University, who will be the guest of London University on the 9th and of Cambridge University on the 13th December. He will address the London Group on the 10th December, 8 p.m., at Steinway Hall, W. 1, on: "*L'Evolution de la Suisse.*" The groups of Manchester and Liverpool will have his visit between December 14th and 17th. A.L.

La N.S.H. fait un appel à tous les amateurs de chants populaires suisses en vue de la formation d'une chorale. Jusqu'ici le chant de section a été trop négligé dans la Colonie, si l'on songe aux innombrables sociétés de chant en Suisse et à la place prépondérante qu'elles occupent dans notre vie nationale.

Des efforts fort appréciables ont été faits par nos amis de Gerrard Place et Charlotte Street pour faire revivre le culte du chant populaire chez eux; malheureusement des exigences professionnelles ne permettent d'avoir les répétitions que tard dans la soirée. La Chorale à créer sous les auspices de la N.S.H. pourrait se réunir à une heure convenant généralement mieux aux Suisses de la Cité. On y chanterait dans les trois langues, se valant surtout aussi du riche répertoire de ravissantes chansons en patois romand, probablement inconnues de la majorité des Suisses de Londres.

S'annoncer au Secrétariat de la N.S.H., 28, Red Lion Square, W.C. 1. A. DESPOND.

FOIRE SUISSE D'ÉCHANTILLONS À BÂLE.

La cinquième Foire se tiendra du 16 au 26 avril 1920. Elle a un caractère exclusivement national. Ne sont admises à la Foire que les Maisons suisses avec des produits fabriqués en Suisse. La Direction de la Foire, avec la collaboration des Comités cantonaux, applique strictement ces prescriptions et soumet toutes les inscriptions à un examen attentif. Les premières adhésions prises en considération seront celles des Sociétaires; viendront ensuite, suivant les emplacements restés disponibles, les inscriptions de tous les intéressés qui répondront aux conditions d'admission. La Foire est destinée tout d'abord aux fabricants et aux artisans qui y participent avec les produits de leur propre fabrication. Y seront accueillis, en outre, les grossistes avec des articles suisses qui ne sont pas exposés par les producteurs eux-mêmes. Les agents et les représentants devront présenter une déclaration écrite les autorisant à exposer les produits du fabricant.

Un contrôle rigoureux sera exercé pour qu'il ne soit exposé que des marchandises suisses et que les commandes prises en Foire ne se rapportent qu'à ces dernières. Les participants qui essaieraient d'exposer ou de vendre clandestinement des marchandises étrangères seraient immédiatement, et sans qu'ils puissent prétendre à aucune indemnité, exclus de la Foire. Des commissions de contrôle spéciales examineront les marchandises exposées sous le rapport de leur provenance.

Les adhésions pour la participation à la Foire de 1921 doivent être envoyées au moyen du formulaire officiel d'inscription, à la Direction de la Foire Suisse d'Échantillons à Bâle, au plus tard jusqu'au 15 Décembre 1920.