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HOME NEWS

The two Houses of the Swiss Parliament assembled last Monday for the 28th legislative period. The present is a short session, terminating on Dec. 23rd. Both Houses promoted their former Vice-president to the chair of President: the National Council is now presided over by Dr. H. Walther (Lucerne) and the States Council by Dr. Wettstein (Liberal, Zurich).

* * *
The voting on the "Kursaal" initiative (which demands a modification in our Constitution with a view of allowing in a restricted form the fashionable hazard games at hotels and casinos) took place over the last week-end and resulted in a small majority of about 20,000 in favour of the re-introduction. The figures for and against recorded in the different cantons are given in the following list, those of the 7½ rejecting cantons being printed in italics:

Canton	Yes	No
Zurich	51790	48020
Berne	44873	33085
Lucerne	16750	1922
Uri	1690	602
Schwyz	3355	1443
Obwalden	1250	370
Nidwalden	1063	249
Glarus	2304	2917
Zug	2276	476
Freiburg	4558	8767
Solothurn	10594	4090
Basel-Stadt	5968	7268
Baselbund	6229	6634
Schaffhausen	5019	4933
Appenzell A.-Rh.	3475	4810
Appenzell L.-Rh.	1060	571
St. Gall	22183	28037
Graubünden	8173	6531
Aargau	26481	25494
Thurgau	11992	12249
Tessin	8673	2532
Vaud	30946	44153
Valais	9882	5860
Neuchâtel	3174	16998
Geneva	8412	8292
Total	291495	270286

Generally speaking, the proposal has not evoked very great interest, only about 52% of the electors recording their opinion. Geneva, perhaps, was in the forefront of the controversy where the leading Press staunchly insisted on a rejection, but the city of Calvin prefers the gaming tables, though the majority is only about 800 against about 4,000 in 1920. A surprise is afforded by the result in the canton Vaud, which turned a complete *volte face*; in 1920 a majority of 4,000 voted for the gaming tables, now a majority of 13,000 has turned them down. Though the churches—especially the Protestant—used their influence against the proposal there is little evidence that the people have followed their advice. Neuchâtel, the two Basles, St. Gall, Thurgau and Glaris have rejected but the Catholic inner cantons, which, after all, are scarcely affected one way or the other, have expressed a decided liking for gambling. Lucerne, Grisons, Berne and Zurich, which, apart from Geneva and Vaud, derive considerable benefit from the re-introduction of the gaming tables, have all accepted.

In the elections for the Grosse Stadtrat in Bienne, which consists of no less than 60 councillors, the Socialists captured three further seats at the expense of the Liberals and have thus increased their strength from 31 to 34.

A lawsuit for defamation of character arising out of the Press campaign during the recent general election was decided against the plaintiff, the Radical National Councillor Zraggen, who sued his political opponent, the National Councillor Schneider, and the *Arbeiterzeitung*, edited by the latter, for damages.

It has now been definitely decided that the next Council meeting of the League of Nations—a week hence—will take place at Lugano. Climatic conditions at Geneva during the winter months would, it is stated, make the attendance of Sir Austen Chamberlain doubtful; the same consideration applies to the French and German delegates.

Slight landslides and cracks in the formation of the western slope of the Kilchenstock, in the Linthal (Glaris) district having become apparent, an official observation service has been instituted: it is stated, however, that the village is in no danger at present.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

A very instructive survey dealing with the characteristics and development of the principal banking institutions in Switzerland is published in *The Statist* (Nov. 17th). We reproduce that part dealing with the

Swiss National Bank.

It will be gathered that in the 20 years of its activity it has returned in dividends to the shareholders practically the whole of the paid-up capital of 25 million francs, whilst the Confederation and cantons have received about 80 million francs in surplus profits.

This institution, which functions as the central bank in Switzerland, was organised under Federal Law on October 6th, 1905, and commenced operations on June 20th, 1907. It has a monopoly of the note issue in Switzerland, its notes carrying full legal tender. This privilege, at present, extends until June 20, 1937, under Federal Law of June 19th, 1925. The legal metallic cover against the note issue at present consists of legal tender coin, gold bullion, foreign gold coin and silver crowns (5-franc pieces with full legal tender) of the other countries in the now defunct Latin Monetary Union. These latter are taken in at their bullion value. At present the Bank pays out Swiss gold coin on demand, though it is not legally obliged to do so. In addition to managing the currency, the Bank regulates the money and exchange markets and exerts, together with the Finance Ministry, a certain surveillance on the export of capital. The success attained in the performance of these duties is conspicuously attested by the rapidity with which the Swiss currency was brought back to gold parity in the midst of the violent currency inflation of the post-war period on the Continent. The Swiss Federal Council appoints the President and Vice-President of the Bank and appoints, in all, 25 out of the 40 members of the Conseil de banque, the remaining 15 members being elected by the shareholders.

In recent years the Bank has had much difficulty in connection with the gravitation to Switzerland, during the post-war years of inflation, of the silver crown pieces minted by the countries of the Latin Monetary Union—France, Italy, Belgium and Greece, besides Switzerland. (The Latin Monetary Union, which was formed in 1865, was denounced by Belgium in 1925 and finally dissolved in 1926.) Under this monetary convention the silver 5-franc coins, carrying full legal tender, of the different nationalities, were given reciprocal legal tender, but the Swiss Government, owing to the depreciation of the currencies of other countries in the Union, had to declare their crown pieces to be non-legal tender in Switzerland. At the same time, the Banque Nationale Suisse was forbidden to hold such pieces as cover for the note issue except at the market value of their silver content, the margin between the nominal and the market value of the coins to constitute a credit for the State. The permission to hold these coins as cover for the note issue was to expire at the end of 1923, but under a convention signed in Paris on December 9, 1921, France, Italy and Belgium undertook to repatriate their crowns over a period of five years, commencing with January 15, 1927, subject to deduction of an amount of Frs. 59,400,000, which is to be remitted into Swiss coins. On representations by the Banque Nationale Suisse the Swiss Federal Council then modified its previous decrees in order to extend the permission previously accorded to the institution to hold foreign crowns, valued at their silver content, beyond the end of 1923, the portion of such cover, however, not to exceed a fifth of the total metallic reserve. The law of September 27, 1923 (under which the above ruling was made), also allowed the Bank to hold Swiss crowns in the metallic reserve at their nominal value instead of at their silver content. A new convention between the Confederation and the Bank was ratified by the Federal Council on November 23, 1923, under which the Confederation engaged to take from the Bank on January 1, 1924, foreign 5-franc pieces at their nominal value up to a maximum of Frs. 59,400,000 (the amount which is to be transformed into Swiss coins). As

in the previous convention also, the Confederation bound itself to hand over to the Bank non-interest bearing Treasury bonds for the balance of the foreign crowns remaining in its hands (Frs. 156,000,000) in so far as these cannot be included as cover for the note issue—*i.e.*, at that time to the amount of Frs. 78,000,000, or 50 per cent. According as the foreign States repatriate their crowns the Confederation is to hand over to the Bank the value received from them in exchange therefor. The amount of the non-interest bonds held in the portfolio of the National Bank on December 31st last was Frs. 71,706,000.

In addition to the silver crowns, the gold coins of the former Latin Union countries have been introduced into Switzerland in large quantities. This movement has been an unwelcome one for the Bank, as the coins were more or less worn. The coins could not be re-exported to the countries where they were minted, since it was the depreciation of the currencies concerned that had led to the export of the gold coins to Switzerland. The coins could not, on the other hand, be reissued in Switzerland, and the National Bank was, therefore, called upon to bear the cost of the loss in weight of the foreign coins, plus the cost of reminting the gold, if Swiss coins were desired by the tenderers of foreign coins. In February, 1927, foreign gold coins of the Latin Union were deprived of their legal tender attribute, and in consequence Frs. 111·3 million were brought to the National Bank. The public was given from February 8 to the end of March in order to exchange these coins at par; thereafter holders of foreign gold coins were only given 99 per cent. of the nominal value of their holdings. Of the total of Frs. 111·3 million brought to the Bank, Frs. 53 million was credited to the accounts of the holders, Frs. 26·5 million was exchanged for Bank notes, and as regards the remaining Frs. 31·8 million the holders demanded Swiss gold coins. The loss sustained by the Bank in respect of short weight and reminting amounted to Frs. 438,000, while the Government shouldered a loss of Frs. 670,000.

At the date of the latest report the Bank was operating through the chief offices at Berne and Zurich, 7 branches and 15 agencies. The Bank does not discount bills or accept drafts unless payable at *places bancables* or *places auxiliaires*. There are 310 points in Switzerland appointed *places bancables* and 158 *places auxiliaires*. At the *places bancables* the Bank is represented by a branch, an agency (which is conducted by another bank) or by a correspondent.

The paid-up capital of the Bank is Frs. 25,000,000 and the reserve funds amount to Frs. 8,441,000. The capital is held by approximately 9,000 shareholders. The net profits are divisible as follows: (1) in adding to the reserve funds an amount not less than 10 per cent. of the net profit in each year and not exceeding 2 per cent. on paid-up capital; (2) in paying a dividend of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital; (3) of the balance remaining, if any, 10 per cent. may be used in payment of an additional dividend not exceeding 1 per cent., and the remainder is to be handed over to the Federal Treasury for distribution between the Confederation and the Cantons. Since 1921 inclusive the maximum dividend of 6 per cent. has been paid in each year. The net profit last year was Frs. 6,753,000, an increase of Frs. 5,000 on the preceding year. A total of Frs. 500,000 was added to reserve, as in each of the preceding eleven years, and Frs. 4,753,000 was paid to the Federal Treasury. Since the Bank commenced business in 1907 it has paid a total of Frs. 24,300,000 in dividends, and about Frs. 82 million to the Federal Treasury.

The proportion of the metallic cover has always been a high one, having varied between an annual average of 57 per cent. (1919) and 78:71 per cent. (1922). Last year's average was 65:06 per cent., following 66:96 per cent. in 1926. The Bank's official discount rate has never been higher than 6 per cent., which was only in operation during the crisis of 1914, for 38 days. Since October 22, 1925, it has been fixed at 3½ per cent.

Last year the Banque Nationale Suisse participated with other central banks in the opening of credits in connection with the stabilisation of the Polish zloty and of the Italian lira. In the case of the latter, the Bank was entrusted with the function of agent.

During 1927 the Bank was able to maintain its official discount rate at the comparatively low figure of 3½ per cent.—a feat that brought a considerable volume of new international financing

business to Switzerland, but not achieved without some difficulty. During the first few months of the year, the Swiss franc weakened to a discount of about 3 per mille in relation to the dollar, and for some months the Banque Nationale was called upon to give periodical support to its currency on the foreign Exchange market, in order to maintain its value above gold export point. Later in the year the pressure eased with the artificially cheap credit conditions that were then created in the United States.

Swiss Artists.

It is always pleasant to note the success of Swiss artists carving their careers in foreign countries. In this connection we quote from a recent issue of the *Surrey Comet* :—

"Mme Sophie Wyss has developed in breadth of tone, and her exceptional capacity for lieder singing was shown in a group of five of Schubert's songs, which were chosen to illustrate his varying moods from the romantic to the dramatic. Her full-toned soprano is of most pleasing quality was perhaps most admired in the sadly romantic "Nachtstück" and "Gretchen," with the more joyous "Die Vögel," but the entire group was marked by musical feeling, pathos and dramatic passion having their place in the much applauded selection. Of different texture, but receiving equally fresh artistic treatment, were three songs by Faure and three by Debussy, examples of the French impressionist school. Mme Wyss was cordially recalled and contributed another French song. Miss Gertrude Rubenstein was a sympathetic accompanist."

The report concerns a Concert given by the Surbiton and Kingston Music Club at which Mme Wyss was assisted by Miss May Muckle, the cellist.

Three days later our compatriot was to be heard at a Concert given by the Thames Valley Orchestra. This consists of fifty musicians, and is certainly the best of its kind between London and Bournemouth. The Director of the orchestra is Mr. F. W. de Massi-Hardman, who is himself a composer of several large orchestral symphonies. A great emotional climax was reached at the Concert. The overture to "Die Zauberflöte" prepared the way with its atmosphere of expectancy and restraint. There followed the Air from Weber's "Der Freischütz," whose haunting melodies reflect so many changing emotions from fear to exultation, served so well by the clear timbre of the singer, and the whole effect was capped by a magnificent rendering of that courageous masterpiece, the Prelude to Act III of Lohengrin. The enthusiasm which marked this accomplishment was quite unusual.

Miss Wyss has been engaged to sing the soprano part of "The Messiah" by the Leicester Philharmonic, a choir of 400 voices, under the direction of Sir Henry Wood, at Leicester on December 14th.

The International Hockey Match.

The match played in London on Saturday, Nov. 24th, resulted in the defeat of the Swiss team by three to two goals. We reproduce the report published in *The Field* (Nov. 29th). The Swiss side was composed as follows: A. Martignoni (goal), M. Andreossi (captain), G. Penchi, O. Schmidt (defences), T. Andreossi, R. Breiter, R. Torriani, C. Torriani (forwards).

"The first of the international matches planned for this season took place at the Ice Club on Saturday evening, between a team sent over by the St. Moritz Ice Hockey Club and a British Ice Hockey Association side. The match was chiefly notable for the evenness of the play, the skill shown by both goalkeepers, and the combination of the Swiss team. The visitors showed more organised team work than the English side. They failed to reap the reward for it partly because they lacked the dash of the home team in driving home their attacks, and partly because of the resourcefulness of the English defence. Developed on more individualistic lines, the English attacks were characterised by both speed and enterprise. It was by a very clever piece of manoeuvring that Cuthbert scored the only goal of the first period. He beat three opponents in the coolest way. In the second period Home increased England's lead with a fine cross shot; but soon afterwards Andreossi scored for Switzerland from a mêlée in front of goal. In the third period Wyld made an ingenious cut through and gave Cuthbert a pass from which he scored. Just before the final gong sounded C. Torriani rushed through and scored for Switzerland."

Doctors in Switzerland.

The medical profession in our country seems to share the prosperity which, with the exception of agriculture, is now evident throughout Switzerland; the number of qualified doctors has increased by nearly 40% in the short time of two years. This is what the British Medical Journal (Nov. 17th) reports :—

"The increase in the number of medical practitioners in Switzerland in 1928 was 33 per cent. over that in 1926, while the increase in the number of inhabitants was only 6 per cent., so that there was 1 doctor to every 1,238 inhabitants. In Austria where, as in this country, there

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is a considerable excess of medical practitioners, there is 1 doctor to every 966 inhabitants. In Germany the proportion is 1 to 1,500, in Holland 1 to 1,550, in France 1 to 1,600, in Denmark 1 to 1,629, and in Spain 1 to 1,222."

The Latest Word in Food.

There is, of course, no connection between the above and the next two cuttings which have come our way. The first is taken from the *Bell's News Letter* (Nov. 17th) :—

"A breakfast dish known as Bircher-Mussli, popularised by Dr. Bircher-Benner, is now widely used in the dietetic hotels and restaurants of Switzerland. Here is a recipe for "Mussli" sufficient for four people:—

Threequarters of a teacupful of rolled oats, soaked overnight, the cup being filled up with water; four medium-sized apples, the grated rind of one lemon and half the juice, one dessert spoonful of brown sugar, one dessert spoonful of thick cream (or condensed milk), and grated nuts.

Grate the whole of the apples, leaving out only stalks and pips. Add the lemon juice and grated rind. Pour off any superfluous water, and add the soaked rolled oats. Lastly, add the sugar and cream, and mix all well together. Grated nuts may be sprinkled over it if wanted—or may be taken with it at table.

This may be made with bananas or other fruit in place of apples."

We have not yet imparted this discovery to the domestic spirit who so efficiently administers to our breakfast table; some other readers not subject to a punctual arrival at their office may possibly be tempted to risk the experiment. The second gleaming refers to what is denominated a "shocking diet" but it is reassuring to learn that this is being tried out at a sanatorium. This diet, which is described as follows in the *Daily News* (Nov. 22nd) is, we believe, not copyrighted and may recommend itself as a novelty to the organisers of the banquets and balls during the coming festive season:—

"I have just heard of a sanatorium in which a Swiss doctor effects wonderful cures by a diet which he calls "Shocks to the Digestive System." Dyspeptics, he claims, associate their malady with certain combinations of foods. Do away with these combinations and you abolish the malady. This does not merely mean serving mint sauce with roast beef or stuffing a chicken with sage and onion. Dr. Blank would be more likely to offer you mint sauce with chocolate éclairs or sage and onion stuffing with treacle tart.

Lady (Hermione) Mallison, who has just completed a six weeks' régime under Dr. Blank's direction is most enthusiastic. Every meal, she tells me, was a constant succession of surprises. I heard of pickled onions as an accompaniment to meringues. Incidentally, I may mention that onions and garlic appear in most of Dr. Blank's menus, as he holds the belief that in the onion is the hope of universal brotherhood. If all men will eat onions at all times, they will come into a universal sympathy.

Tea is quite a different beverage, Lady Hermione asserts, when drunk with slices of onion floating in it. It is always served in this way now in her drawing-room. Monotony is avoided at breakfast by plum cake, accompanied by shrimps with chocolate sauce. Coffee is always well salted, but cabbage water is recommended."

ON VA JOUER DANS LES KURSAALS SUISSES.

Dimanche dernier, le peuple suisse été appelé à se prononcer sur l'initiative des jeux de hasard. Cette campagne, si elle n'a pas fait parler beaucoup d'elle, n'en a pas moins remué profondément les diverses couches de notre population. Car le débat, quittant délibérément le terrain politique, abordait — reconnaissons-le franchement — une question de principe.

L'habilité de ceux qui par tous les moyens ont réussi à réintroduire un article constitutionnel déjà condamné, fut grande. Ils ont spéculé sur des

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

BONDS.	Nov. 26			Dec. 3		
	Fr.	Sfr.	Fr.	Sfr.	Fr.	Sfr.
Confederation 3% 1903	82.15		82.00			
" 5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	101.50		101.75			
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	87.00		87.45			
" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	101.70		102.00			
SHARES.						
	Nom.	Nov. 26	Dec. 3		Nov. 26	Dec. 3
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	840	857			
Crédit Suisse	500	947	977			
Union de Banques Suisses	500	753	765			
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	3273	3315			
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	5217	5320			
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	4200	4287			
S.A. Brown Boveri	500	582	589			
C. F. Bally	1000	1492	1497			
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	943	937			
Entreprises Suizer S.A.	1000	1210	1220			
Comp. de Navig. n. sur le Lac Léman	500	515	515			
Linoleum A.G. Gubinsco	100	318	335			
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	780	805			

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arguments multiples dont les deux principaux sont les suivants :

Ils ont montré que les conditions de la loi actuelle étaient des entraves à la liberté individuelle et des mesures restrictives du droit personnel. Ils ont su jouer habilement de la corde de la "liberté" et se sont écriés jovialement : "Loin des Gessler et autres tyrans !"

C'est en Suisse romande, à Genève surtout, si frondeuse et si craintive des emprises centralisatrices, que cet argument a joué. Je connais nombre d'amis, parmi lesquels des intellectuels, qui se sont refusés à entamer la moindre discussion à ce sujet et ont voté "oui" pour les maisons de jeu simplement pour affirmer leur droit de faire ce que bon leur semble. Ce ne seront malheureusement—ou heureusement—pas eux qui dilapideront leur fortune à la roulette...

La seconde tentative était de considérer l'initiative comme seule susceptible d'assurer dans nos grandes stations internationales le maintien des kursal et le développement du tourisme. Là encore on a hardiment spéculé. On a montré Interlaken comme un endroit désert et prêt à la faillite, Lucerne comme acculée aux bords de l'abîme ! On a prétendu que les étrangers déserteraient la Suisse... parce qu'il n'y pouvait plus perdre leur fortune. Tous ceux qui de près ou de loin—et ils sont plus nombreux qu'on ne se l'imagine—ont quelque chose à faire avec ces centres, leurs industries, leur développement : tous ceux enfin—et ceux là sont innombrables—qui vivent plus ou moins des miettes qui tombent des tables de jeux ont fait bloc autour de l'initiative. N'étaient-ils pas d'ailleurs en bonne compagnie puisque les Chambres fédérales elles-mêmes s'étaient prononcées en faveur du projet.

De l'autre côté de la barricade, il y avait ceux qui placent au dessus d'un gain temporaire une idée saine et vraie. C'est l'Eglise, quelle que soit sa confession, et le Foyer autour de mère et de l'épouse qui se sont élevés véhémentement contre le projet, groupant autour d'eux tous ceux qui réfléchissent impartialement.

Cette lutte, nous la connaissons. Nous l'avions affrontée pour la première fois en 1911 et avions été radicalement repoussés. Nous l'avions reprise en 1920 et ce fut alors le triomphe de l'idée saine. Nous venons de la perdre à nouveau en cette fin 1928 mais nous n'en sommes pas pour cela découragés. Que ceux qui ces jours se gaussent et se préparent aux larges prébendes, sachent bien que nous ne désarmerons pas et que nous ne reviendrons à l'attaque que pour mieux triompher à nouveau. Une Idée Juste ne peut disparaître. C'est un des impératifs de l'Histoire.

D'ailleurs la bataille fut douteuse jusqu'au bout. Si ceux qui veulent dilapider leur fortune et celle d'autrui sont vainqueurs, ils ne le sont que sur une mince proportion. Sur plus de 500,000 votants, ils obtiennent à peine 20,000 voix de majorité sur lesquelles Lucerne à elle seule leur assure plus de la moitié de ce chiffre.

Splendide, la Suisse romande a fait bloc contre l'initiative. Vaud donne 14,000 voix majoritaires de "non" énergiques; Neuchâtel 7,000, Fribourg 4,000, et Genève, cette terrible Genève où déjà se prépare le rétablissement des tables de jeu, si elle répond "oui", à notre grande honte, ne donne, après les derniers travaux de récapitulation, qui ont dévoilé de graves erreurs, que 113 voix de majorité à 8,412 "oui" contre 3,293 "non."

Le Valais fut une autre déception et Zurich une troisième mais Bâle, Glaris, Argovie et Thurgovie sont de réconfortants exemples. Que penser cependant des votes de Schwyz qui montrent une majorité acceptante de 2,000 voix, d'Obwald, qui en indiquent 900, Nidwald 900, et Uri 500 ? Où sont donc les fiers principes d'autant et que penserai dans son ermitage Nicolas de Flue devant semblables résultats ? Erik.

UNION HELVETIA.

The 33rd Annual Banquet and Ball of the Union Helvetia was held on Tuesday last, the 27th November, 1928, in the large hall of the Club House, under the customary pleasant and jolly conditions. Punctually at 9.30 p.m. over 180 members and friends sat down to dinner, excellently served by the Steward, Mr. Charlie Kossier and his good lady, to whom hearty congratulations are due for their "artisterie culinaire." Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, was unfortunately prevented from occupying the Chair by another engagement, and Monsieur W. De Bourg, First Secretary of Legation, deputised.

After the repast, accompanied by the high spirits of everybody, the Chairman, Mr. W. De Bourg proposed the Toast to His Majesty the King, coupled with the sincere wishes of the company for His Majesty's complete and speedy recovery, and then to Switzerland, which met with the usual hearty response.

Mr. A. Indermaur, the President of the Territorial Administration for the U.K., then gave his Presidential address in the shape of the Toast to the Union Helvetia in roughly the following words:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all most heartily on behalf of the Union Helvetia and would like to give you a few

details of the activities of our Society. The Union Helvetia was founded in England in 1885 by our Honorary Member, Mr. Charles Hermann Senn, who is to-day the Honorary Director of the Food and Cookery Association, and who can rightly be described as the king of Swiss cooks. One year later, in 1886, the Union Helvetia amalgamated with the Winkleried Society, as it was then called, and the result is the Union Helvetia Convention with its General Administration in Lucerne, and with branches in France, Italy, Germany, Austria, U.S.A. and the British Empire, with Club Houses in London and New York. After difficult times, especially during the war, the Union Helvetia has put her house in order and is to-day progressing favourably. In the Employment Department, under the able management of Mr. Finger, situations were found for 2,676 people during last year, of which 60 per cent. were English. Great efforts are made to increase this figure in the coming year. The Union Helvetia looks after the members in ill-health and when advancing age prevents them from doing much work. The Sick Benefit Fund helped members during the past year to the extent of nearly £300 and old age benefits were also paid to those entitled to receive them. This will show members and those interested in the Union Helvetia how essential it is for every employee in the Catering Trade to be an insured member of this Society, as it is specially in times of misfortune when help is most welcome. Propaganda work has been specially indulged in during the past twelve months and new branches were opened in Edinburgh and Glasgow, whilst old ones were reorganised in Harrogate, Manchester and Birmingham by those ever-ready pillars of the Union Helvetia movement, Messrs. Marfurt, Sermier and Finger, to whom the Society's great thanks are due for their work. The Club House Commission, under the able management of Mr. F. Delaloye, has proved that there is a profit to be made out of the Club House when the latter is well managed, and the Entertainment Committee, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Favre, is also doing excellent work by having not only provided entertainment for members during the year, but also in having done this with a profit of some £200. It is now my great pleasure and privilege to draw your attention to the magnificent success which the Swiss Food and Cookery Exhibition, which was visited by our Minister, who had the satisfaction of finding that the Société Culinare Suisse, under the presidency of Monsieur A. Juriens, had won the Grand Prix, Gold Medal and Special Prize of £20 for their Buffet de Bal. In the same category the Second Gold Medal and £10 prize were won by Messrs. Schallenberger and Arm, both members of the Union Helvetia. In the open class, a first Gold Medal was won by Mr. F. Huber. In Pulled Sugar the Silver Challenge Cup and Special Gold Medal were also won by the Société Culinare Suisse (Mr. F. Seiz), further awards to our countrymen being 3rd Silver Medal in class 19, Silver Medal by Mr. Salzmann in class 13, Bronze Medal by Mr. Stutz in the same class and a 2nd Bronze Medal in potato-cooking. I would like to congratulate the Société Culinare Suisse most heartily on their magnificent success, and specially congratulate their President, Mr. A. Juriens, and their Delegates, Messrs. Menge & Fils, Kuepfer (Vevey), Tobler and Nicodet.

I am pleased to announce that we hotel employees live on the best possible terms with the proprietors and managers, and are pleased to see that some of them are with us to-night, Messrs. Odone, A. Frick, A. Wyss, J. Jenny, Alfred and Adolf Schmidt, Brullhardt and Ponvin.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink to the health of the Union Helvetia.

Mr. W. De Bourg did full justice to the speech from the Chair in a very witty manner and heartily congratulated the Société Culinare Suisse on their splendid success. Mr. F. Delaloye proposed the Toast to the Ladies in his customary humorous and able manner, and Mr. J. P. Gallo, President of the Section, proposed the Toast to the Guests, which was replied to by Mr. A. Dupraz in a most able manner.

Mr. Juriens delegated Mr. De Brunner for his reply on behalf of the Prize-winning Société Culinare Suisse and Mr. F. Delaloye provided, as usual, two star turns of entertainers to keep the company in good humour. All too late, after midnight only, the Ball began and was done full justice to until nearly 3 a.m.

Amongst those present and not already mentioned were:—M. and Mme M. Wullschlegler (Ex Hon. President of the U.H.), M. A. Dupraz (Fonds de Secours), M. Demaria and M. Moresi (Unione Ticinese), Mr. Werner and M. H. Senn (City Swiss Club), M. and Mme Stähelin (Swiss Mercantile Society), M. Tresch and M. Callouir (Swiss Club "Schweizerbund"), M. Bommer (Swiss Choral Society), M. E. Block (Swiss Gymnastic Society), M. E. Martig (Union Helvetia, Brighton), M. Ch. Strubin (Swiss Rifle Association), M. and Mme P. Lehrian, and many others. E.B.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

L'Assemblée Mensuelle a eu lieu Mardi le 4 courant au Local du Club, Restaurant Pagani, sous la Présidence de Mr. Max Gerig.

La Séance de Décembre, qui suit toujours de près le Banquet Annuel, est généralement très animée car c'est l'occasion recherchée par les membres pour donner libre court à leurs critiques. Ce fut donc par de vifs applaudissements que le Président ouvrit les débats.

Les feux oratoires sont ouverts par un membre bien connu; sa critique du menu fut des plus amusantes.

Le Président, avec sa spiritualité habituelle, remercie les orateurs pour leurs diverses suggestions, il fait ressortir qu'il est évident que les King Edward VII. Rooms deviennent trop petites pour contenir le nombre toujours grandissant des participants au Banquet et Bal du C.S.C. Le Comité est chargé d'étudier cette question.

Un chaleureux vote de remerciements au Comité ainsi qu'à Mr. G. Marchand et Mr. H. Senn est passé à l'unanimité. Le Président, en remerciant, tiens à montrer sa haute appréciation aux membres qui se sont chargés de la vente des billets.

Mr. F. M. Gamper, qui représentait le Club au Banquet du Swiss Club de Manchester, fait un rapport intéressant et apporte les cordiales salutations de nos compatriotes du Lancashire.

Il est évident que les membres absents se sont privés d'une agréable soirée car, grâce à la verve de certains orateurs, cette Séance fut un véritable succès. C.L.C.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

It was an imposing and charming affair. Imposing with regard to the size of the festive community and the large number of good marksmen who were being rewarded with so many most attractive prizes, ranging from silver cups down to such tempting things as bottles of various none too sober contents, cigars, fruit trays, framed pictures and dozens of other more or less useful, decorative or palatable articles. And altogether charming it was in so far as the general "Stimmung," well supported by good food and excellent wine, was so naturally gay that everybody present must have enjoyed the evening immensely. The speeches were not too long, so that the floor could be cleared for dancing by 11.30, which is, so I am told, a considerable improvement, from the point of view of the dancing enthusiasts, on last year's banquet. That the youngest Society of our Colony, which was founded only five years ago, should have got together such a grand company of members and friends seems to me a wonderful achievement.

The official part of the evening was opened by Mr. Borsinger, who took the chair in lieu of our Minister, who was unfortunately prevented from coming to the Banquet by another important engagement. After the toasts for the King and our Motherland, Mr. Chas. Strubin, as President of the Swiss Rifle Association, spoke with considerable pride and gratification of the growth and activities of the young but vigorous Society, which now consists of a hundred members. It is a goodly number, but it should still grow considerably higher. No good Swiss is too good or not good enough to join the Society, pleaded the speaker amidst roaring applause. The S.R.A. has, during the year, taken part in two competitions with other shooting clubs, both of which were won by our countrymen. Mr. Strubin concluded with an expression of warm gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Cusi, whose generosity has enabled the S.R.A. to get its own flag. Mr. Borsinger responded to the Toast for the S.R.A. with a spirited speech in praise of our own national sport—shooting.

Mr. Alfred Schmid, the Vice-President of the S.R.A.—and, by the way, one of its best shots—greeted the guests in a very cordial manner, amongst them being representatives of the other Swiss Societies and the Press. Mr. E. S. Block, the President of the Swiss Gymnastic Society, responded on behalf of the guests with the well-deserved compliment to the S.R.A. that it is fully worthy to represent here in England the country which leads the world in the art of shooting. Mr. J. Haesler, who proposed a special toast for the ladies, set the assembly roaring with laughter by the lavish compliments he paid to the beauty of the members of the weaker sex present whom he taunted at the same time with satirical observations on the use of artificial aids to female attractiveness.

In the end Mr. Borsinger proceeded to distribute the prizes. Amongst the recipients the three first winners of the various competitions may be mentioned: 300 Metres: Fuchs, Hirt and Wetter; 100 Yards: Alf. Schmid, Wetter and Hirt; "Kunst" 300 Metres: Burger, Hirt and Wetter; "Glück": Lampert, Haesler and Wetter; Pistols: Wetter, Deubelbeiss and Hilliker; "Skill" 300 Metres: Wullschlegler, Ed. Brullhardt and Müller; "Skill" 100 Yards: Haesler, Wetter and Rognon; 300 Metres Handicap: Burger, Arn. Schmid and Wullschlegler, and 100 Yard Handicap: O. Brullhardt, Deubelbeiss and Haesler. DR. E.