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Gruetlifeier, Schweizerverein Manchester.

The annual banquet and ball of the Swiss Club Manchester was held at the Midland Hotel on November 9th, under the genial presidency of Mr. E. Kübler. Cordial invitations had gone out to other Midland and London clubs to send their representatives to this joyous function. The chief guests of the evening, welcomed by the president in a delightful address, were:—

Dr. C. A. Rezzonico, Delegate of our Minister, and Secretary of the Legation in London;

Consul Dr. A. Schedler and Mrs. Schedler, Manchester;

Consul and Mrs. Montag, of Liverpool;
Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Suter, President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and Representative of the City Swiss Club, London;

Mr. and Mrs. Hofer, President Swiss Club Bradford, with Mr. and Mrs. Lanfranchi and Mr. Brukin;

Mr. Brun, President of the Swiss Club Birmingham, and Mr. Kloetzli;

Mr. Hagenbuch, Honorary Senior Member Manchester.

After an excellent dinner, proof of the professional capacity of the new Swiss Manager of the Midland Hotel, and, while the company was still enjoying the previous gift of the anonymous donor in ever-full glasses, Mr. Kübler proposed the toasts to the King and to Switzerland and then rose to deliver his presidential address.

With grace and in excellent taste he welcomed the visitors, the ladies and the members alike. He was proud to state that the Club's activities had not diminished in the course of the year, and he revealed to us a wonderfully long list of social and cultural activity, ranging from play-readings, outings on public holidays and supper-dances to whist drives and inter-County jass matches; all this quite apart from the ordinary monthly meetings. He spoke with great earnestness also of two coming events:— the "Schweizerische Gottesdienst" in the German Protestant Church on November 17th, and the lecture on Johannes Heinrich Pestalozzi on the following Wednesday. The Rev. C. Th. Hahn was to officiate at the service and deliver the lecture also. The President also disclosed the plans he had laid for a Christmas Tree Party during the season, inviting all the Mancunian Swiss to become children again during that hallowed evening. He went on:—

"So you see that, in spite of the small number of members, the Swiss Club Manchester is still a very live representative of our vierte Schweiz, though its activities are little known outside Manchester and the surrounding district. We seem to be an almost forgotten island in a vast uncharted sea. But is this desirable or necessary? We possess in England a small weekly paper, the "Swiss Observer" of which we have every right to be proud. But does that small newspaper of ours get the necessary support from its compatriots in the North, both as regards readers and correspondents? I leave this question for you to answer, but I would just like to point out that if the North-country Swiss show their interest in this would-be central organ of the Swiss Colony of Great Britain in a practical way, this newspaper of ours will give them the reading they desire most.

As this evening has for its purpose not only the bringing together of our members, their families and friends for a purely Social Event, but to renew the bonds of every Swiss abroad with his Home-Country, our English-speaking friends and members of our families will surely permit me to address a few words in one of our mother-tongues to my compatriots, in the hope, that others will follow suit, so that in the end each of us once more will feel that she or he is for a far too short a time at the foot of some snow-capped peak, or amongst the pines of some lovely valley or amidst the entrancing vineyards of the Ticino.

Liebe Landsleute —

Es ist nicht nötig, dass ich Sie heute Abend erinnere an den Ursprung unseres Festes. Die Geschichte des heutigen Tages ist unauslöschbar eingegraben in unsere Herzen von Kindesbeinen auf. Aber erst, wenn man einmal vom Festtrümmel für längere Zeit weg ist, losgerissen von den alltäglichen Eindrücken der Heimat, draussen in der fernen Welt, wo man die heimatischen Gegensätze und Verschiedenheiten anders ansieht und unabhängig von Partei und Familieneigenheiten urteilt, erst dann lernt man eigentlich, was es heisst, Schweizerbürger sein zu dürfen. Erst dann sieht der Schweizer seine Heimat als ein

"Ganzes, Unteilbares Kleinod mitten im Strudel der Weltgeschichte, unwogt von den schaurigen Wellen des Werdens und Vergehens und in Gefahr, hineingerissen zu werden in den Kampf um Recht und Freiheit der Völker.

Und dann kommt die Erkenntnis, wie trotz all des Kampfes der Selbsterhaltung und der Anfechtungen, unsre Väter sicher und stark das Gebäude unsres Heimatstaates gebaut haben, sodass es selbst heute dem tobenden Wetter standhält.

Aber wie stellen wir uns zu all dem? Sind wir bereit, unsere Pflichten zu schultern und mitzuhelfen, dass das Gebäude unserer Vorfahren nimmer Schaden leide, und dass unsre liebe Schweiz auch in Zukunft der Umwelt Ansehen und Respekt genieße?

Um das zu tun, ist es nötig, dass wir wie bisher fest zusammenhalten und das Kleinod der Schweizer-Ehre, das uns mit auf den Weg gegeben, rein erhalten und nie vergessen, dass wir Auslandschweizer Kaempfer sind für die Erhaltung unserer heimatlichen Namen —

Schweizer und Schweizer-Ehre.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you each and all to drink to the toast:—

"Our Home Country"

Unser Heimatland.

The President could have given us no better proof of his outstanding ability to direct and animate his Club in this truly Swiss spirit; he fully deserves the sincere compliments which were paid to him later so gracefully by Consul Dr. Schedler. A great wave of applause swept through the hall, while we relished inwardly the radiant happiness that shone on the face of Madame la Présidente, the charming Mrs. Kübler.

The speeches which followed were of a high order of merit, witty, weighty and inspiring. It was very evident that the Club did not regard these utterances as "dance-time robbers"; the audience listened with extreme care, attention and enjoyment; there was never a sign of impatience until the last word of the final speaker had fallen and we consider that, on this score, a great compliment is due to the Mancunian Swiss Ladies.

In a delightfully witty and spirited speech M. Rezzonico delivered a message from the Swiss Minister, M. Paravicini, who unfortunately, was prevented from attending the banquet. He also thanked the Colony for the reception they have given him.

As it is said that what Manchester thinks to-day, London will do to-morrow, M. Rezzonico was very anxious to make a good impression because should this impression be favourable, it may spread to London and even as far as Switzerland.

M. Rezzonico did not intend speaking about economic questions nor about the political situation of Europe. He preferred leaving this to the "Father of the Colony," Consul Schedler, who had already given his audience some very interesting information on these points. The speaker went on to explain some characteristics of the Swiss mentality, of the particularities of the composition of Switzerland, a people of different races, languages and religions, living in peace, forming one nation and united and ready to defend that patrimony against any aggressor.

Consul Dr. Schedler, who had been referred to by the President as the Father of the Club, humorously greeted his "official family," but expressed relief that it was no more than official. He complimented the Club on their able and genial President, on their happy activity and the fine social spirit of the colony in Manchester. He and his wife, he said, were always delighted and honoured to be guests of the Club at these functions and deeply appreciated the hospitality extended to them. He hoped that his speech would fill the requirements of a woman's dress:— long enough to cover the subject, short enough to be interesting, and he declared himself as belonging to classes one and three of the three categories of speakers:— Those under a duty to make a speech, those who have a right to make a speech, and those who cannot be prevented from making a speech.

Dr. Schedler then introduced the more serious subject of his speech and said:—

"About our country, I am sorry I cannot give you any more comforting news than on previous occasions. The economic conditions of our country are still far from being satisfactory. Trade, employment and income are steadily decreasing, whilst expenditure is going up. The result is increasing unemployment and national debt. The deficit for the past year was nearly 50 millions in the Federal administration, and a

similar amount in the Railways, and all this in spite of the newly introduced Crisis Tax.

With regard to the conditions of our industries, I will give you an example to show with what artificial means our most important industry — the Hotel industry — has to be pampered. There is for instance, a privately conceived "Hotel plan," an arrangement to attract visitors with very favourable terms forced from Hotel proprietors and transport concerns. This scheme, which guarantees the Hotel proprietors a small profit, has brought into being a new class of visitor, called the "Hopla guests." Another arrangement has been made by the Federal authorities with Germany, whereby Switzerland buys coal from Germany and the latter allows her Nationals to spend a similar amount of money in Switzerland.

Is it to be wondered that there is widespread unrest and dissatisfaction, and this is also reflected in the political conditions. This year is remarkable in so far as our people have had to go to the poll not less than three times in six months. The first time for the so called Crisis Initiative, which provided still more expenditure for social purposes without the least concern as to where the money was to come from. Fortunately sound commonsense prevailed, and the project was turned down. The second was to ward off an attack on our old Federal Constitution itself. In this case extremists of the right and left grouped in various fronts combined, all full of destructive complaint, but very bare of constructive ideas. The result of the poll was one Yes and five No. A splendid result. The third occasion — a fortnight ago — was the re-election of our Parliament. No remarkable change has taken place, and the country has expressed its support and confidence in its representatives.

There is only one bright spot in the picture. Early in the spring an attack was launched from without on the Swiss franc with the intention of depreciating its value. I am glad to say that the attack has been defeated and the franc stands higher to-day than it stood then. No doubt the Swiss franc will stand any further attack from without, and will not give way until necessity from within forces us off the Gold standard, as the only means of lowering our standard of living, and of increasing our competitive power in the world market. May this never be the case.

I cannot possibly conclude without making mention of another word — "Sanctions" — an entirely new addition to our troubles. You know we are members of the League of Nations by our own will. We are not compelled to join in military sanctions, but have to participate in economic sanctions. This is a particularly awkward problem for our country, not only on account of our constitutional neutrality, but also on account of our economic dependence, and particularly in view of the fact that we are a neighbour and holder of a large populace speaking the language of the country against which these sanctions are to be applied.

There is however, one consolation. We have a man in the Federal Council who hails from that district — Mr. Motta. In his hands are our Political and Foreign Affairs. He has represented our country with distinction at the League of Nations since its beginning, and has, under very difficult conditions, defended our interests with remarkable success, and thereby earned our admiration and the thanks of our country. To-day all eyes are again focussed upon him. Let us hope that he and our other Captains may be able to steer our ship as on previous occasions, clear of the rocks, and that the time may not be too far distant when we shall have again peace and prosperity."

The third guest to speak was Mr. A. F. Suter, who expressed the thanks and conveyed the greetings of the two London Societies, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the City Swiss Club. He maintained that the happy Mancunian spirit straight away put him into category three, and spoke with pride of the renewed activity of the London Group of the N.S.H. Service to Switzerland in every form and shape which would benefit the Swiss Abroad was still their motto. He compared the "Auslandschweizerium" with a similar movement, only greater and of international importance, the Rotary Movement, whose motto also was "Service above Self." Many of our staunchest friends in Switzerland, he said, were Stauhiards and well aware of the almost parallel direction and aims of the two bodies.

We Swiss Abroad, Mr. Suter said, have duties towards our Home, our "Co-exiles" and ourselves. We must remain Swiss at heart and in spirit; we must keep our private and profes-

sional ties with Switzerland; when travelling, we must look for each other and be ready with help, if needed — a big job, with 400,000 Swiss away from home. He referred to the reports presented by Consuls and other delegates at the "Ausland-schweizertag" in Baden last August, from which it became abundantly apparent that we Swiss colonies in England, being free from all political and religious molestation, had a much greater chance of social and cultural development and consequently had greater duties. Being SWISS alone, not the natives of any particular canton, and looking upon Switzerland from afar and without prejudice, we could idealise our sense of patriotism and regard it as an asset to Switzerland and ourselves.

The President then announced the opening of the ball in an adjoining hall, and it was a matter of minutes only before the ladies had found their partners and were gaily cruising round. The small but select band was ever ready to oblige with a third and fourth encore. Soon there came a Paul Jones, mixing us all up like a cocktail and producing no end of mirth. Then again one of the fast old-time waltzes or a Schottisch would leave the walls empty — except the buffet in the corner, where there was an indissoluble knot of old-timers themselves in happy reunion.

Who can blame us that we should have grumbled at the "Heil Dir Helvetia" at midnight, when we could have carried on so happily till two o'clock in the morning? We are of opinion that, bar only this extension of two more happy hours, the Southerners have nothing on the Mancunians in the matter of an annual Ball and Banquet. A memory which will last us to the second Saturday of the next November.

TERRE ET PAMPRES VALAISANS.

Joseph Delaloye, ing. agr.

(Tribune de Lausanne).

(Continuation).

Voici Chamoson, terré sous l'abrupt Haut de Cry, qu'assiège le pampre de ses créneaux feuillus.

Ardon, à l'étroit dans son humble territoire, a envahi de son activité tous les terrains cultivables et déborde sur ses voisins. Sous ses rochers s'abrite l'Humagne, à taille en archets, et dont le vin puise dans les années un parfum ample et mystique.

L'Amigne, qui verse le soleil dans l'estomac, et jette dans le sang une fièvre juvénile, a choisi Vétroz pour patrie. Elle attend sur les coteaux les mieux exposés du Valais l'arrière-automne qui dardera sur ses grappes les lumières éblouissantes réverbérées par les feuilles jaunies.

Dominant la Morgé historique, le Château de la Soie en ruines se dresse sur son tertre pelé et roux. On dirait qu'il étend de vastes ailes de verdure sur Conthey et Savièze, bigarrées de cépages les plus divers: Fendant, Johannisberg, Amigne, Arvine, Gouai, Rêze, Muscat, etc.

En dessous, Sion a tout gardé pour elle de la Morgé à la Liègne. C'est le plus vaste territoire viticole du canton. Et que de fleurons étincellent de leurs mille feux! Mont d'Or, Uvrier, Molignon, Clavoz, Châteauneuf! La grappe dorée comble tous les goûts, appelle les songes divins et verse l'oubli dans le flot subtil et cristallin du vin. La Dôle étoffée apporte aux anémiques vigueur et sang nouveaux. Le Johannisberg parfume et caresse la langue comme une pêche qui fond. Le Fendant dévoile soudain une grandeur insoupçonnée. D'un délicat arôme de framboise, l'Ermite pénètre les papilles et pétille de ses fines bulles capiteuses.

Avançons maintenant vers la noble contrée! Là sommeillent les vieux souvenirs et se continuent les traditions d'antan. Tour à tour défilent dans les vignes bleues de sulfate et aux lignées irrégulières St-Léonard, Noës, Sierre, et plus haut, Venthône, Veyras, Miège, Randogne, Lens, Chermignon. Sierre constitue le point de rassemblement de toutes ces légions bachiques. Les vieux cépages se cramponnent devant l'envahissant Chasselas; on y rencontre abondamment la Rêze dure, tyrannisant les nerfs, le Muscat à maturation irrégulière, l'Humagne qui y laisse percer une saveur timide de pêche des plus agréables, le Johannisberg dont le bouquet rivalise avec les meilleurs crus séduits, la petite Arvine aux grains qu'on dirait millérandés.

A Sierre déjà, le Rouge du Pays apporte les feux sombres de son vin intensément coloré; mais son lieu de prédilection, c'est à Salquenen qu'il le trouve. Il est de grande qualité, presque toujours supérieur à la Dôle ordinaire, robuste, et rappelle parfois maints vins bordelais, médocains ou autres.

Près de Brique, sur la ligne du Lœtschberg, quelques vignobles rompent par endroits la monotonie des roches grises. On y boit des vins peu corsés et "durets."

Citons encore sur la rive gauche le "Vin des Patens" (Heidenwein) à Vispertermen et les communes plus ou moins viticoles de Chalais, Granges, Grône et Bramois.


Terre Valaisanne! Vallée profonde éblouissante de contrastes sous son lumineux soleil!

Pentes ardentès où mûrit la grappe vermeille et transparente! Le vin de tes coteaux est chaud et fort; il verse dans nos veines l'effolante ivresse que donne le baiser d'une amante, et dilate à l'infini nos rêves, dans les belles nuits étoilées et tièdes, quand monte vers le ciel la chanson estivale du grillon!

Terre valaisanne! Vallée profonde, où le montagnard, à l'automne jaunissant, dirigera son pas le long des lumineuses rivières!

End.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, November 20th, at 8 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting followed by an address given by Christian Kunzle, Esq., Birmingham, on his great humanitarian Work in Davos — at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, November 22nd — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball — at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Saturday, Nov. 23rd, at 8 p.m. — Schweizerbund (Swiss Club) — Fancy Dress Ball — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. (See advert.).

Thursday, November 28th, from 8.15 p.m. — 2 a.m. — Unione Ticinese — Concert — followed by Dancing — at the Swiss Club, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. (The proceeds will be devoted to "The Swiss Benevolent Society London). See special announcement.

Saturday, November 30th, at 2 and 4 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. — Latest aerial films of Switzerland with commentary by Mr. W. Mittelholzer and a talk on "My ride from Buenos Aires to Washington" by Mr. A. F. Tschiffeli.

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7h.30 — Répétition du Choeur.

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Sonntag, den 17. November, 1935.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule, Predigt Herr Pfarrer A. Gobel.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst, Predigt Herr Vikar R. Stählin.

8 Uhr Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."