

Das Wildkirchli

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Assemblée Générale Annuelle.

6 Avril 1937.



P. F. BOEHRINGER

President

CITY SWISS CLUB.



Tout le monde était présent, y compris le meilleur danseur de la Colonie et le plus grand rouspéteur. Quarante-cinq membres ordinaires étaient également présents.

La soirée fut longue, car on discutait beaucoup suivant la tradition, on discutait, et en fin de compte, le résultat fut assez maigre.

A la fin du dîner on a bu à la santé de Mr. Pagani (Meschini) et en réponse Mr. Pagani a prononcé quelques paroles émouvantes. Ensuite on a bu à la santé de M. Schobinger qui vient d'atteindre sa 25ème année comme membre du Club. On a bu aussi à la santé de M. Paschoud qui est ici pour un court séjour. M. Paschoud a répondu brièvement. Après ces toasts on a entamé le programme officiel de la soirée.

Quatre admissions. Deux démissions. Rapport du Président. On a fait circuler des copies imprimées et sans doute ce rapport qui résume les activités du Club pendant l'année qui vient de s'écouler, paraîtra dans les colonnes du Swiss Observer.

Vérificateur des Comptes.

Suivant la tradition, on épluche les comptes et malgré les efforts de plusieurs de nos meilleurs experts en matière de finance, on finit par accepter les comptes et en donner décharge à notre grand argentier. M. Boehringer, après avoir remercié ses collègues pour tout leur dévouement, quitte la chaire et M. Gattiker devient Président intérimaire afin de procéder à l'élection du nouveau bureau suivant les us et coutumes du Club.

Election du Bureau.

Afin d'éviter un travail presque inutile plusieurs membres ont exprimé le désir de voter le nouveau bureau en bloc, mais le règlement est inexorable et un de nos membres expert en matière de procédure ayant fait opposition, nous avons été obligés d'avoir recours au scrutin secret prévu par le Règlement.

Sont élus :

Président : M. P. F. Boehringer.
 Vice-Président : M. Louis Chapuis.
 Trésorier : M. R. de Cintra.
 Secrétaire : M. G. Marchand.
 Trésorier adjoint : M. W. Deutsch.
 Secrétaire adjoint : M. A. Stauffer.
 Bibliothécaire : M. H. Binggueli.

Vérificateurs des comptes : MM. G. Jenne et H. Pfirter.

Fideli-commissaires du Club House Fund : MM. Ch. Barbezat, A. Baume et F. Zogg.

Press Reporter : Dr. K. Eckenstein.

Lorsque tout est fini, M. Boehringer reprend la Chaire présidentielle et remercie les membres du Club. On discute brièvement plusieurs "faits divers" et à onze heures le Président lève la séance. Chacun s'en va, conscient d'avoir enfin mené à bien le travail minutieux de la réunion générale de 1937.

ck.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.
(London Group.)

It is a thousand pities that the arrangements made to receive Dr. A. Latt, the President of the "Swiss Abroad," fell on a Saturday. It is a most inconvenient day, as many of our countrymen have acclimatised themselves to the English week-end habit, and the result was, that the attendance was a very poor one.

This is very much to be regretted, because Dr. Latt would have deserved a hundred per cent. attendance, not only on account of the splendid *exposé* of Swiss affairs which he gave us, but also

for the untiring and unselfish services which he renders to the "Auslandschweizer" work.

I do not think that we Swiss abroad have a more capable or more earnest champion at home for the manifold problems with which we are confronted, than our old friend Dr. Latt. His enthusiasm and his untiring labours simply baffle me; I met him some twenty years ago, when he rendered such valuable services in the capacity of Secretary to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. His undiminished ardour and his keenness to work in the interest for the Swiss abroad has not relaxed since his departure from London 17 years ago; he is still fighting with the same tenacity for our interests, and if the "Auslandschweizer" have been by now recognised as an important unit in our national life, Dr. Latt can rightly claim a big share in this achievement.

On this occasion I also might mention, that Dr. Latt has been the first Editor of our paper, which was founded in 1921, and I am proud that we are still able to carry on the good work for which he laid such an excellent foundation.

I am glad to report that Dr. Latt had a wonderful success at the Students Congress at Cambridge, which has just come to an end, where he fought very bravely for a cause, which, alas, is more than often called a "lost cause," namely the existence of the League of Nations. In spite of all the bitter criticism with which this institution meets from almost all quarters, I still maintain, that if the obligations, which the members had undertaken to carry out at the time, would be faithfully observed, the world would be a better and safer place to live in.

Dr. Latt intimated that he had no wish to give a lecture, and his remarks about News and Personalities from home were given as a sort of "causerie." It goes without saying, that we Swiss abroad are at all times interested to hear about the men, who are directing the destiny of our homeland. The speaker gave us a few short biographical glimpses about the work and the personality of the men who are at the helm of the Swiss Confederation.

He paid a great tribute to M. Motta, the President of the Swiss Confederation, whom he termed as one of the greatest statesmen Switzerland has ever possessed. A no less flattering tribute he paid to Federal-Councillor R. Minger, head of the Federal Military Dept., who occupies one of the most important offices in the Government, namely the one to keep our Army up to the scratch against all eventualities.

In turn, he acquainted the company with the work of the other members of the Federal Council, viz. M. Obrecht, who has to tackle many of the most difficult economic problems with which our country is confronted with. Dr. Meyer, the Finance Minister, who after a great struggle, and not a little against his own conviction, agreed to the devaluation of the franc. M. Pilet-Golaz, who has the almost impossible and least pleasant task to put our State Railways on a sound foundation. M. Baumann, Minister of Justice, who is responsible to maintain law and order, and M. Etter, who as "Kultur" Minister is indirectly closely connected with the "Auslandschweizer" work.

Dr. Latt also named two of our countrymen, namely Dr. Scherrer from St. Gall and M. Musso, President of the "Pro Ticino" for their great efforts for getting the Federal authorities to allot the 1st of August "Brüdesfeier" collection in 1938 for the "Auslandschweizer" work. A special tribute was also paid to Dr. H. P. Zschokke, Central President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Switzerland, who recently lectured in London.

After the address an animated discussion took place amongst the members present. Very valuable suggestions were made by Messrs. A. F. Suter, President of the London Group, Ch. de Jenner, Councillor of Legation, P. Walser, J. J. Schneider, P. Savoie, Th. Ritter and A. Stauffer.

Before closing the meeting, M. A. F. Suter, President, thanked Dr. Latt for his very interesting *exposé* assuring him of the faithful collaboration of the London Group of the N.S.H., he also thanked M. de Jenner for having attended the gathering, which he considered had fulfilled a most useful purpose.

ST.

LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

The general meeting of the above team took place last Saturday, April 3rd, at the Glendower Hotel and was preceded by a supper which did full justice to the culinary talents of the popular proprietor of the Hotel, Mr. A. Schmid.

Monsieur W. de Bourg, Counsellor of Legation, occupied the chair. The Secretary submitted particulars of the results of the last shooting season, and the accounts were passed with the usual thanks. It was decided to continue shooting practice and the first meet has been arranged for next Sunday (the 11th inst.) at the Bisley Camp.

After the distribution of prizes, to which all those present had made a contribution in kind, a most enjoyable evening was passed in a truly Swiss spirit.

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

London, 5th April, 1937.

The Editor,

"Swiss Observer,"

23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

Already a month has elapsed since "Kyburg" made his excellent and timely appeal for a suitable delegation from Switzerland at the coming Coronation. — As far as I am aware, no statement has been made so far either by the Swiss Government at Home or by the Swiss Legation in London. — Does this mean that the Swiss Colony in England is again to be made to feel as uncomfortable as it did on the occasion of the King's funeral last year?

Nobody particularly wants an Army or Air Force Delegation. Even if Switzerland is a "Neutral State" or a "modest little country" as "UHU" will have it, this is no excuse for not being as friendly and polite as most European and other Nations are apparently anxious to be. If Italy, for special reasons of her own, will not send a delegation, there is surely no need for Switzerland to follow suit!

Yours faithfully,

C. J. B.

DAS WILDKIRCHLI.

By Dr. Emile Baechler.)

*We are such stuff as dreams are made on
 and our little life is rounded with a sleep.*

(The Tempest.)

How many thousand generations separate us from the men who with primitive weapons hunted the powerful cave bear on the Ebenalp and the Gartenalp and dismembered him in the cave of the Wildkirchli? Dr. Baechler makes a guess and comes to the conclusion it might be 50,000 years ago since these caves were occupied but this is unimportant.

What is important is the scientific classification based on the type of stone and bone implements found and on this evidence Wildkirchli man belongs to the older stoneage or more precisely to a pre-Mousterian culture. Wildkirchli man existed in the last interglacial period previous to the last great advance of the Alpine glaciers. What happened to him? Probably the arctic climate which followed the milder conditions of the interglacial period drove him from his mountain fastnesses along with the game he pursued.

The next culture of early man we have in Switzerland is of a higher type and is found in the caves of the Jura, between Bâle and Schaffhausen and while he too was a hunter, his instruments were better and he practised a surprisingly life-like art. He belongs to the later palaeolithic age and the animals he hunted were the Mammoth, Reindeer, etc., and the type of climate was cold like that of the tundra. The Ice age, however, was coming to an end.

A still further advance in development is marked by the Lake dwellers which belong to the newer stoneage, the Neolithic, who produced handsome stone axes which they polished. They also managed to domesticate some of the animals of their fauna such as the dog, goat, sheep, cattle, etc. Dr. Baechler out of the fullness of his knowledge has written a most interesting book dealing with his excavations and its many problems and it is made readable by a limpid style, which mirrors his experiences as the Seeläpsee mirrors the scenery of the Säntis.

To those of us who know the Appenzell, the book is a gift and moreover a charming gift from our colleagues of the Section St. Gallen of the S.A.C., who have undertaken the risk of publishing and selling it at a reasonable price.

The aim of the S.A.C., is to foster the love of our mountains. This can be done in many ways but none is more noble than to produce such a scientific work.

Ekkehard also is not forgotten and a chapter is devoted to J.V. Scheffel. I will conclude with one of his poems, it refers to the Wildkirchli:

*Und wer Schneeglöcklein graben will
 Und hat das Glück dabei
 Der gräbt wohl einen Bären aus
 Und gräbt auch ihrer zwei.*

E.M.

BELLS RING AT SIX.

By FRED DOSSENBACH, JR.
(Continued).

"That's the main idea," Jan answered. "The ringing of bells at six goes back to the old custom of the Guilds when from April to October the bells rang for the cessation of work at six o'clock instead of seven, as in winter. The burning of the 'Boegg,' or bogey, an effigy of Winter, is an old custom, too. The figure is filled with fireworks, and as it pops to pieces in the middle of a huge bonfire, the members of the Guilds gallop around it on horseback, forming a 'Magic Circle' which according to old pagan belief, prevents Old Man Winter from escaping the fire and restoring his domination."