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UNIONE TICINESE.

General Meeting held at Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, on Sunday, 3rd February, 1946.

When the President, Mr. C. Ferrari, opened the proceedings the many members present were faced with a long agenda.

After the minutes of the previous General Meeting had been read the Auditors submitted their report, which was unanimously approved.

The Secretary, Mr. P. De Maria, in his report on the past year's activities, explained the accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1945, as per the Balance Sheet circulated to all members, and picked out for special mention the success of the Corale under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr. C. Valchera.

Such matters as the increase of the annual subscription from 10/- to 15/- per annum; the revision of the Statutes of the Society in English and Italian; a decision to hold the Annual Banquet once again if circumstances permitted; a measure to increase the funeral benefits and the admission of new members followed and were approved in rapid succession.

The Committee for 1946 was then elected. Mr. C. Ferrari, the President; Socio Benemerito O. Gambazzi, the Vice-President; Mr. P. De Maria, the Secretary; and Mr. C. Berti, the Treasurer, were then elected by acclamation. The following members completed the Committee: Vice-Secretary, Mr. V. Berti; Vice-Treasurer, Mr. V. Ratti; Members of the Committee: Mr. E. Lucca, Mr. P. Morosi and Mr. C. Valchera.

When the President asked if there were any further matters, the Secretary, Mr. P. De Maria, proposed that the Treasurer, Mr. Carlo Berti, should be awarded the highest honour of the Society, the title of Socio Benemerito. Mr. De Maria mentioned the unsparing and devoted efforts on behalf of the Society of Mr. Berti and the fact that he had now served on the Committee for 25 years. The President, Mr. C. Ferrari, seconded the proposal with some well chosen words. One of the only two holders of the honour Socio Benemerito, O. Gambazzi, the Vice-President, then added his whole-hearted support with a speech couched in glowing terms and asked the assembly to unanimously approve the proposal by acclamation. After the assembly had acceded to this request, Mr. Berti rose and, although obviously rather overcome, thanked all members present for the honour accorded him and pledged himself to be worthy of it.

After the conclusion of the meeting the members proceeded to partake of tea, graciously provided by the Ladies' Section, which was followed by a most interesting and educational talk given by Mr. R. Mordasini on the subject of the place of the Ticino in Swiss history, and its relation to Italian history.

Tea Dance held at the Dorchester Hotel on the 17th February, 1946.

Once again the members and friends of the Society turned up in great strength, amongst whom were Mr. J. de Rham, of the Swiss Legation, who gave a farewell party to his friends in view of his impending return to Switzerland to take up an appointment in Berne. The Society was honoured by the presence of Monsieur P. Ruegger, and the President, Mr. C. Ferrari, in a pleasant little speech of welcome, also took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. de Rham and to wish him the best of luck and success.

As usual a very excellent and tasty tea was served up. Dancing was to the lively and entertaining Spitfires Radio Band. Thanks to the kind offices of Mr. Adrian Dante, the Accordion virtuoso, an excellent cabaret was provided by the following artists:— Miss Isabelita Alonzo, well known broadcasting soprano; Mr. Ernest Sewell, an excellent and entertaining conjurer; and Mr. Rex Harold, a comical compère and entertainer, all most ably accompanied by Miss Anna Michaelson at the piano.

A really jolly time was had by all and when the evening came to its too rapid conclusion happy and smiling faces seemed to be the order of the day.

V.P.

UNIONE TICINESE — SEZIONE FEMMINILE.

The attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Section of the Unione Ticinese on Sunday afternoon, the 3rd February, 1946, was an exceedingly satisfying one and a most encouraging beginning to the new year.

The President, Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico, opened the meeting with a word of welcome to all, and voiced the regret of the members that owing to illness the Vice-President, Mrs. A. Berti, was unable to be present.

The minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed, and the statement of accounts up to the 31st December, 1945, together with the Auditors' Report, were considered. Unanimous approval was expressed at the excellent financial results of the year's activities.

Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico then addressed the meeting.

She first asked the members to stand in silence for one of their colleagues, Mrs. Onorina Morosi, who had recently passed away, and who had been a most respected and loyal supporter of the Society.

The President went on to refer to the past year's activities and achievements:

The two Tea Dances at the Dorchester Hotel and the "1st August" Dance at the Royal Hotel, all held in collaboration with the Men's Section, which had proved to be so popular and enjoyable.

The great success of the Corale at the Stoll Theatre celebration of the "Festa Nazionale," when with its little act of "The Village Wedding," so different from anything attempted before on such an occasion, it had surprised and charmed everybody.

The Variety Concert, held in conjunction with the Men's Section, on the 9th December at the Dorchester Hotel, in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society. This concert had been honoured with the presence of the Swiss Minister and Madame Ruegger, and had been a tremendous success, resulting in the magnificent sum of £104 being handed to the Benevolent Society. Thanks were again expressed here to Col. Bon, who had so generously made the ballroom of the Dorchester available for this purpose.

At the end of December a grand social meeting of the Unione Ticinese had been held, during which, amidst great excitement, the Christmas Draw had taken place, and the ladies had had the opportunity of holding a little private sale of Christmas gifts comprising handiwork, novelties, toys, etc. Here mention

should be made of the gratitude of the Sezione Femminile to Mr. J. Gianelli, who had made such a grand contribution in the form of a large supply of cakes and a cheque.

During the year the members had also not slackened in their efforts to work for the Red Cross, and this worthy cause had again been the recipient of a large parcel of useful garments.

The monthly social meetings at the Swiss House were still proving to be immensely popular and well attended, thanks in particular to the very good refreshments provided by the members of the Ladies' Catering Group.

Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico concluded by saying that she was exceedingly pleased with the excellent results of the previous year, and hoped the new year would prove equally satisfactory.

The 1945 Committee then retired and Mrs. L. Bruni temporarily took the chair. On behalf of the Society she conveyed its thanks and warm appreciation to the retiring Committee for their good management and their hard endeavours, which had done so much to maintain the enthusiasm and interest of all the members. She said she wished in particular to convey the deepest gratitude of the members to the President, Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico, for her fine leadership, and it was hoped that she would long continue to guide and inspire the Society's activities. To the Vice-President, Mrs. Berti, heartfelt thanks were also especially due for her constant interest and unstinting energies throughout the year.

The election of the 1946 Committee then took place, and it was a sure indication of the confidence placed in the previous year's Committee that it was unanimously re-elected, namely: President, Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico; Vice-President, Mrs. A. Berti; Secretary, Miss R. Abate; Treasurer, Miss R. Morosi; Vice-Secretary, Miss L. Diviani; also Miss I. Abate, Miss R. Darani, Mrs. I. Milli and Miss A. Morosi.

A new application for membership was then submitted for consideration and unanimously approved, followed by a discussion on the new year's activities, from which it was obvious that the 1946 programme was going to be a full and a varied one.

One item worthy of note was that the members were strongly in favour of, and indeed adamant, that an endeavour should be made to repeat and even surpass the outstanding success of the Christmas Bazaar of 1944. Such enthusiasm and insistence was truly most heartening and no better sign could have been forthcoming of the members' desire to collaborate and work for the Society's interests.

The meeting concluded in an happy vein and the members then had the pleasure, in company with the members of the Men's Section, of hearing a most interesting and enlightening talk by Mr. R. Mordasini on "The History of the Ticino and its Relations with Italy." This was the first of a series of lectures on Switzerland which Mr. Mordasini has very kindly offered to give, and the members of the Unione Ticinese are pleasantly looking forward to the next one.

Afterwards excellent refreshments were served by the Ladies' Catering Group, and amid never ending happy chatter and exchange of news everybody agreed that the afternoon had been a most enjoyable and successful one.

R.A.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on February 4th, 1946, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, and was preceded, as usual, by the customary dinner.

The principal guest of the evening was Mr. Vernon Bartlett, M.P., the well-known journalist and broadcaster; 170 members and friends were present, and the attendance thus nearly established a record for an ordinary monthly meeting.

The President, Mr. A. Bon, in opening the meeting, extended a hearty welcome to the Guest of Honour, telling him that the members of the Club have very much appreciated his acceptance to address them.

Mr. A. Bon also greeted the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, Professor William Rappard and Monsieur Charles de Jenner, newly appointed Minister to Sofia, at present on a visit to this country; to the latter, the President expressed his congratulations on his having attained the rank of Minister.

The subject of Mr. Vernon Bartlett's address was "The Future of Europe," and his very interesting *exposé* was listened to with the greatest of attention; circumstances unfortunately do not allow to report more fully on this event.

The Swiss Minister and Professor Rappard made complimentary comments on Mr. Vernon Bartlett's excellent address.

Close of the Meeting, 9 p.m.



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