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**SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB).***President: E. SIEGRIST.*

On the 10th of January the 122nd half-yearly General Meeting took place at 74, Charlotte Street.

There seemed to prevail an atmosphere of tension before the meeting started since many members realised that this might be the last meeting in these premises, if not of the Club at all.

The reason for the President's decision to start the meeting with the well-known Swiss song "Wo Berge sich erheben" became soon evident to all, especially after the second verse:

"Schallt Kriegsgeschrei vom Tale, der Aelpler drob erwacht.

Er steigt vom hohen Tale und stürzt sich in die Schlacht."

These words, in his opening address to the members, he considered most appropriate at the present juncture in the life of the Club, in view of the fact that the Club has to find new premises if its further existence is to be assured. He made it clear that the war cry is sounding from the valley and if the members do not wake up, like the cow boy of the alps in this beautiful song and plunge into battle, the club will die a shameful and miserable death. He produced a handwritten document dated the 13th of August, 1888, according to which this Club was founded on the 6th of May 1887 and on the 13th of June 1888 an extraordinary meeting was called and it was resolved to liquidate the Schweizerbund. Somehow or another the 55 members who signed this document have overcome the then existing difficulties and have managed to carry on in the same premises. He produced documentary evidence that, in pre-war times splendid functions attended by honorary presidents, such as Minister Carlin, Minister Paravicini, etc., have taken place in these premises and many members must have spent good and happy times with their families in the old Schweizerbund.

Before the President declared the meeting open, he welcomed Mr. E. Bircher, delegate of the Swiss Legation, Mr. F. Sommer, delegate of the Swiss Male Choir, Mr. J. Schneider, delegate of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and Mr. Kuenzle, delegate of the Secours Mutuel, as well as all the many old Swiss members present.

After reading of the minutes, the auditors were asked to report on the Balance Sheet. The members were informed that, despite of satisfactory profits, the club's resources had been considerably reduced. This was due to the greatly increased charges for rent and the heavy cost of legal fees incurred in connection with our court case against the landlords, the creation of reserves to pay for dilapidations and possible further charges for legal fees. The loss of £400.— in cash, already mentioned in the last balance sheet was also a serious blow to the Club. The balance sheet was duly accepted and passed, and the auditors were congratulated on the work they have done and the time they have spent to bring the books in proper order.

Our court case in connection with the renewal of the lease of 74, Charlotte Street formed the main item on the Agenda, the position being briefly as follows:

In accordance with the judgment given in Chancery Court, we should have vacated the premises by the beginning of December. Solicitors, however,

were instructed to lodge an appeal. This appeal is still pending but, should it eventually be lost, our landlords could enforce eviction without delay. The committee therefore has for some time endeavoured to find new premises for the Club which, however, would require a considerable amount of money. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to appoint a "House Committee" consisting of two non-members of the Club, well acquainted with the Hotel industry, one member of an affiliated society, a trustee, the Vice President and two members of the committee. During the next few days this committee will meet, inspect and value the Hotel in the Russel Square area which has been proposed to the committee as Club premises. The President announced that several old members have already expressed their willingness to assist the Club, provided that (a) the Club is run efficiently and (b) that the new premises are a paying proposition. Arrangements of some sort will have to be made quickly if the Club does not want to run the risk of losing the Licence which would be a severe blow to the Club.

The next item on the Agenda was headed "Membership" and the President disclosed that the position in this respect is anything but satisfactory. A great number of members have not paid their subscription for years; it was very difficult to compile a proper register of members. The arrangements with regard to affiliated societies were not too satisfactory and it was decided not to renew same so that equitable arrangements could be made as soon as new premises are found.

When the item "Election of Committee" was reached, a great many of the members had left, it being already well after 8 p.m. The President consented to carry on for the time being, provided he can see some substantial moral and material support from the Swiss in the Colony and with small alterations, the present committee was re-elected.

The President regretted that this meeting had to last 4½ hours but reminded the members that the Schweizerbund is an old and very sick man and that this rejuvenating operation had to be done if the patient is not to die a miserable and sudden death.

The meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.

ALBERT FERBER (SWISS)



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