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UNIONE TICINESE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

A number of members sufficient to gladden any committee member's heart turned up at Swiss House on Sunday afternoon, February 17th, for the Annual General Meeting of the Unione Ticinese.

In declaring the meeting open the President, Mr. Peter De Maria, with a few simple words called on the members to stand in silent homage to his late Majesty, King George VI.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, whilst youthful Mr. Louis Jacomelli was accorded attentive hearing for his report on behalf of the Auditors for the 1951 accounts; in an excellent footnote various suggestions were made, of which the meeting approved, but alas failed to act upon.

In his turn the Secretary, Mr. Ernest Berti gave an item for item commentary on the year's business as reflected in the balance sheet figures; here too more advice was tendered which somehow later was overlooked.

By general acclamation the Hon. Vice-President, Mr. Carlo Meschini, consented to take the Chair *pro tem.*, upon the old committee laying down its burden, and in a workmanlike way he supervised the election of the new. There were no surprises. Here is the result:

President: Mr. Peter De Maria — *Vice-President*: Mr. Peter Jacomelli — *Secretary*: Mr. Ernest Berti — *Treasurer*: Mr. Virgil Berti — *Asst. Secretary*: Mr. Joseph Diviani — *Collector*: Mr. Vincenzo Ratti — *Members*: Frank Bassi, Carlo Berti, Ernesto Camozzi, Giuseppe Eusebio and Frank Pedretti.

It was decided to leave the committee a free hand for the organization of a suitable celebration of the Society's anniversary. Despite the earlier exhortations to provide more funds or make economies before the ever mounting expenditure everybody refused to consider a reduction of the sickness benefit rates. There were no new members: a sign of the times!

Various donations were confirmed and new ones were suggested but without success. The President reported on proposals before the Presidents' Assembly concerning the Swiss Home and its possible use as a hostel for young Swiss girls. Mr. De Maria invited the submission of names of young Swiss for a coming-of-age ceremony.

The meeting was grateful to Dr. Guido Lepori, Legation Secretary, who not only patiently sat through the lengthy proceedings but also made one of his short addresses, easy of style and of excellent delivery, to which everybody listens enraptured. He was thanked by the President.

J.E.

UNIONE TICINESE SEZIONE FEMMINILE. Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Section of the Unione Ticinese, which took place at Swiss House on the 17th February, was an encouraging evidence of loyalty to the Society — the attendance being well above the attendances at General Meetings during the past year.

Members were very glad to welcome Mrs. Bernasconi and Mrs. Cesarina Smith amongst them for the first time.

The President opened the proceedings by calling upon all to stand for a moment's silent homage to the memory of His Late Majesty King George VI.

The President's report for 1951 and the 1951 Accounts, again showing a satisfactory credit balance, were well received. Mrs. Berti expressed somewhat reserved satisfaction with the profit made on the Christmas Bazaar, but her appreciation of the very generous help given by kind benefactors of the Society was none the less warmly sincerely echoed by all.

Mrs. Guido Lepori, as interim Chairman, very kindly supervised the election of the Committee for 1952, with the following results:—

President: Mrs. A. Berti, *Vice-President*: Miss Irma Abate, *Secretary*: Mrs. Rina Eusebio, *Vice-Secretary*: Mrs. Frida McKenna, *Treasurer*: Miss Sylvia Morosi, *Committee Members*: Mrs. Peter De Maria, Mrs. D. Diviani, Mrs. Milli, Mrs. Cesarina Smith, Mrs. L. Bruni, Mrs. K. Ratti.

At the proposal of Mrs. McKenna, a very hearty and sincere testimony of gratitude and loyalty to Mrs. Berti was given by all present. Mrs. Berti expressed the feelings of all in giving thanks to the Catering Committee, Mrs. L. Bruni, Mrs. A. Allegranza and Mrs. R. Bassi, for their constant and cheerful care for the "inner man" of the Ladies' Section; their 'cup of tea' always seems to turn up just at the right moment!

Various plans were made for the entertainment of Members during 1952, and, with an appeal from the President to all Members to give the Society their active co-operation by attending General Meetings during 1952, the business activities of the Ladies' Section gave way to a combined Social with the Men's Section.

R.E.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Preceded by a joint DINNER and LECTURE

by Dr. G. SCHUERCH,
Central President N.S.H., Switzerland,
on

" THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY POSITION
OF SWITZERLAND "

in French and Bärndütsch,

on Tuesday, March 18th, 1952,

6.15 p.m. Dinner (price 7/6), 7.15 p.m.
Lecture, 8.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting,
at the

Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade,
opposite Baker Street Station, N.W.1.

All Swiss and Friends are heartily welcome.