

The Swiss Benevolent Society

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Engineers, Journalists and representatives of the Catering Trade. The City Swiss Club is purely a social institution, and its principal aims are to foster good comradeship amongst its members based upon a deep and sincere patriotic conviction."

The address of the President was much applauded by the entire gathering.

It was then announced that Minister Sulzer, the Head of the Delegation would speak to the company.

On rising, Minister Sulzer received an enthusiastic ovation, especially when he mentioned that he would speak in "Schwyzerdütsch." It is a long time since we heard our homely dialect at any official gathering of the Club, and everyone felt as if a breeze from our beloved country had swept through the Banqueting Hall.

Minister Sulzer expressed, on behalf of his colleagues, his sincere thanks for the invitation extended to the Mission, "it is an honour," he said, "which we greatly appreciate." He voiced his pleasure at seeing amongst many friends present, his former "Stabs-trompeter" in the person of our member, Mr. Alfred Schmid, who, during the last Frontier occupation 1914-1918 so valiantly served him, when he was in command of a cavalry squadron.

The speaker then related that the Federal Council has entrusted him and his colleagues to support our Minister, Monsieur W. Thurnheer, in delicate and important negotiations with the British Government in relation to the Economic situation in Switzerland, concerning principally the Import of raw material, and the re-export of manufactured goods. Similar Delegations have been sent to various other countries.

The speaker gave a very interesting and pithy exposé of the position and the endeavours made to obtain certain concessions; in view of the fact that these negotiations are, — when writing this report — still not concluded, I must refrain from reporting further.

On resuming his seat Minister Sulzer was heartily cheered.

The next and last speaker was Professor Rappard, who spoke in excellent English. The applause which greeted him showed that he was no new-comer to the City Swiss Club, and he too expressed his pleasure at being amongst his compatriots in London.

He said that the Swiss to-day are all united and prepared to fight for their existence and their independence. An aggressor from whichever side he should come would find that he has an opponent who will fight to the last for all that is dear to him.

Professor Rappard pointed out, that the Swiss Government, which is not in too an enviable position has so far, thanks to her adherence to a strict and impartial neutrality, earned the confidence of all countries; he said that if Switzerland is respected to-day, it is greatly due to the statesmanship of the late Federal Councillor G. Motta, who, through his incessant endeavours and guided by idealistic principles has gained an universal reputation.

The speaker then gave a description of life in Switzerland as it is to-day, mentioning amongst other facts the scarcity of taxi-cabs and motor-cars, due to the fact that petroleum which reaches our country through Germany is not on a very big scale; he said, that f.i., in Geneva there were more than 7,000 houses either to let or for sale.

In concluding his address which was listened to with the greatest interest, Professor Rappard said that life in Switzerland, although hampered by a good many irksome restrictions, is bearable and that, when one realises the hardships and privation with which other countries have to contend, our people should be grateful and should willingly bear the existing inconveniences.

Seldom has a visitor to the City Swiss Club earned the genuine applause, which was so spontaneously given, more than Professor Rappard, who possesses amongst many other qualifications the invaluable gift of a fine and lucid orator.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the City Swiss Club was greatly honoured by the company of such distinguished guests; everyone who attended this splendid gathering left with the conviction, that our Government has chosen well and wisely the men who are to conduct the negotiations which are for our country of such vital interest. May their deliberations be fruitful and accompanied with success, this is our most fervent wish, and in the meantime we extend to them the thanks for their labours in one of the gravest hours our homeland is passing through.

ST.

Amongst those not already mentioned, were present:

C. A. Aeschimann, B. Appelbaum, T. H. Ascott, E. Bachofen, A. Baenziger, H. C. Balser, O. Bartholdi, A. C. Baume, W. Beckmann, J. H. Berger, H. Bingguely, A. Bleiker, A. Bloch, M. Boller, A. Bon, J. J. Boos, M. Bowen, W. Breitingen, P. Bucher, W. Burren, C. Campart, A. Candrian, V. P. Ceresole, Ch. Chapuis, R. de Cintra, A. W. Cockerill, H. W. Comfort, W. Deutsch, S. Dreyfus and Guest, J. Dubs, J. J. Eberli, Dr. Egli, E. Eha, E. Fankhauser, Chas. Fer, C. Filliez and Guest, J. Fischer, O. Frei, E. Frey, M. Gallusser, W. R. Gamper, W. E. Gattiker, A. Gerschwieler, W. Glauser, E. Glauser, E. A. Grau, J. L. Guggenheim, Ch. Gysin, Dr. G. Haefely, H. Hafter, M. Hartmann, J. Hausermann, C. Hausermann, G. Jenne, L. Jobin, J. J. Keller, S. Kemp, A. Kern, K. Kirchheimer, I. Kululundis, F. Kung, Hans Kung, C. Krebs, L. W. Krucker, F. A. Lanfranchi, A. Laemle, M. Leuba, O. Leutenegger, S. Lorisignol, M. Lugeon, G. Marchand, R. Marchand, M. Mathez, F. Matthey, B. M. Mavroleon, C. Mayr, W. Meier, J. Meier, P. Moehr, N. A. Mozer, C. Nater, E. Norton, M. A. Oboussier, H. Oswald, Dr. Hugo Rast, R. F. Reed, E. Reichenbach, A. Renou, F. E. Rittmeyer, T. Ritter, O. Rhon, R. J. G. Rolfe, A. Rueff, R. Ryf, A. Saager, Richard Saager, M. Saurat, J. Schmid, A. Schmid, E. Schmid, A. Schorno, M. Schumacher, J. A. Seiffert, C. E. Seinet, R. Senn, G. H. Smith, F. G. Sommer, J. H. Speich, M. Spitzer, Ch. de Steiger, H. Steiner, A. Steinmann, E. G. Suter, M. Trench, E. Ulmann, C. A. Wade, P. Walser, R. de Watteville, E. Werner, A. Wettstein, O. E. Wetzler, A. Widmer, F. Wiles, C. H. Willi, P. de Wolff, G. Wuthrich, J. Zimmermann, F. Zogg, A. M. Zullig.

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31, Conway Street, London, W.1.

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CHILDRENS' COTS.