

General meeting of Swiss catholics in London

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GENERAL MEETING OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON.

On Sunday, September 20th (Bettag) the Swiss Catholics met for the *first general meeting* at the Westminster Cathedral Hall. About 130 compatriots were present when Mr. J. Eusebio, in the absence owing to illness of the President, Colonel Anton Bon, opened the meeting at 3.30 p.m.

The assembly sang the Swiss National Hymn and the Right Rev. Bishop Myers said the opening prayer.

Mr. Eusebio offered a hearty welcome to His Lordship Bishop Myers and thanked him for the interest he has taken in the efforts of the Swiss Catholics. He also stated the general reasons of the appointment of Fr. Lanfranchi as Chaplain to the Swiss Catholics. Mr. Boos supplemented the chairman's report by giving some details of the prolonged negotiations and difficulties that had to be overcome before everything was finally settled, stressing particularly the fact that, Fr. Lanfranchi, by remaining in London as our Chaplain sacrificed a comfortable position as Professor of English at a College in Switzerland.

The Hon. Secretary read letters received from His Eminence the Cardinal and the Bishop of Chur approving and blessing the arrangements made and also a letter from the Swiss Minister, Mr. W. Thurnheer expressing his pleasure that the Swiss Catholics had their own Chaplain.

Mr. Boos appealed to all for moral and the necessary financial support to maintain the Chaplain and to assist him in his apostolic work amongst our compatriots.

Fr. Lanfranchi, in his address, mentioned that in three months of work as chaplain he had already collected the addresses of over three hundred Catholic Swiss families and that he would make it his duties to give first his attention to the sick, aged and poor but that as and when time allowed he wishes to call on all his compatriots.

Bishop Myers, in his address, showed intimate knowledge of our country and our institutions. He complimented the Swiss on having their own chaplain and asked all to work in true Christian harmony, always with God's help, as did the forefathers who formed the Confederation in 1291.

He also referred to the achievements of the Catholics in Switzerland through the ages, a proof of which are the wonderful cathedrals, the centres of Catholic activities of Einsiedeln, Engelberg, Fribourg, etc., and the numerous chapels and churches built in towns and valleys or pitted on mountain sides in the Catholic parts of the country.

He begged of the Swiss Catholics to unite with their christian brothers here and all over the world in prayers and action to bring about a true and christian peace.

In the following election the Provisional Committee was duly elected as the permanent Committee for this year.

Telegrams were sent to President Etter and Bishop Caminada.

Following the General meeting a congregation of 300 attended Solemn Benediction at St. Peters Church Westminster, where Bishop Myers officiated and a mixed choir of Swiss lead the Congregational singing.

J. J. BOOS.

CITY SWISS CLUB. (Monthly Meeting).

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, September 1st at Brown's Hotel, fifty members being present.

The meeting was preceded by an excellent dinner, for which the Management of Brown's Hotel is to be congratulated.

The President, M. Louis Chapuis in opening the meeting mentioned, that there were no admissions, and no resignations. He then read out a letter from Colonel Feldmann, the head of the Army Relief Foundation, addressed to the Swiss abroad, appealing for support for the dependents of Swiss soldiers serving at present in guarding our frontiers. M. Chapuis heartily endorsed this Appeal and proposed that the City Swiss Club should subscribe an amount of £21.0.0., this was adopted unanimously. Contrary to an unwritten rule, that no collections should be made at Monthly Meetings, the President asked for permission to circulate a donation list, in view of the importance and the patriotic aim of this Appeal; this was readily granted and a further amount of £91.18.6 was collected making a grand total of £112.18.6.

M. Chapuis thanked the members present for their very generous gesture.

The Meeting was followed by a very enjoyable *causerie* in French by Monsieur Maurice Thiery on "Les Salons du XVIIIe Siècle."

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

ST.

* * *

Members and friends of the City Swiss Club will no doubt hear with pleasure that the forthcoming monthly meeting will be replaced by a Tea Party at the Dorchester Hotel on Saturday, 3rd October, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., which the Swiss Minister and Madame Thurnheer have kindly agreed to attend.

Eminent Swiss artistes and Max Newman and his Band will entertain the company.

The Committee hopes that all members, their family and friends will take advantage of this unique opportunity of enjoying Swiss talent in London.

The price of the tickets is 3/6d., and it is advisable to inform the Secretary of your intention to be there so that suitable arrangements can be made for the comfort of everyone.

BEE.

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