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Fastnachtszeitungen, die Schnitzelbank-Kursblätter und ähnliche Produkte des verfeinerten Geschmacks nicht einmal inbegriffen. Allerdings blühen viele dieser Blätter, den Veilchen vergleichbar, nur im Verborgenen; sie erscheinen mit Ausschluss der Öffentlichkeit, aber sie blühen doch, und jedes hat seinen spezifischen Geruch. Das eine Blatt riecht nach Mammon, der allerdings einem alten Sprichwort zufolge nicht riechen soll; das andere steht im Geruche der Heiligkeit; das dritte duftet nach der Studierstube. Was doch wohl der selige Buchdrucker Johannes Froben sagen würde, wenn er sehen könnte, welche Fortschritte seine Kunst in Basel gemacht hat! Seine Verwunderung wäre gross, aber doch nicht grösser als die des Jakob Gernler, der um das Jahr 1580 in Basel den ersten geselligen Schwätzverein gründete. Wenn dieser sähe, dass es jest in Basel weit über tausend Vereine gibt, in denen durchwegs enorm viel geschwätzt wird, so würde er die Hände über dem Kopfe zusammenschlagen und ausrufen: "Verzeiht mir, ich habe damals nicht gewusst, was ich tat!"—So entwickelt sich eben alles; leider auch vieles, das besser ewig klein geblieben wäre!

Gross ist die Zahl der Zeitungen aller Art; doch fehlt immer noch ein wichtiges Organ, nämlich das Blatt für Schnitzelbankdichter. Ein solches sollte unbedingt ins Leben gerufen werden; erst vorgestern las ich in der Zeitung, dass ein Schnitzelbankdichter gesucht werde und zwar einer für zwölf Verse. Früher las man etwa von zwölfpferdigen Dampfmaschinen, zwölf Meter langen Gartenhägen, zwölfliterigen Milchkannen, die man zu kaufen wünschte; jetzt sucht man zwölfversige Dichter zu mieten, vermutlich gar auf die Stör zu nehmen. Es wird sich wohl ein solcher im baslerischen Dichtergärtlein vorfinden; hofentlich benimmt er sich nicht schmirzelig, sondern spendet zu den zwölf Versen noch einen dreizehnten gratis. Bei einem Dutzendeinkauf von Wecken und Würsten bekommt man ja auch immer ein dreizehntes Gratisexemplar als Zugabe!

Fritz Amstein.

SWISS BANK FOOTBALL CLUB.

SWISS BANK 1st XI v. SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY 1st XI (on Mercantile's ground).

A report of this match by our friends will be found in another column.

SWISS BANK 2nd XI v. SOLILA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB (DE TREY & CO.).

In spite of the heavy and slippery ground, Solila Athletic started the game at a very fast pace and seemed to outplay the Bank in the first half-hour, but Floyd, the Bank's goalie, through his smartness, saved the visiting team from a defeat. Soon after the Bank's forwards succeeded in netting a fine shot to Rueff's credit. The second half started with more pressure by the visitors' attack and gave the Solila defence a very hot time. Smith, having his shooting boots on, which fitted him nicely, beat the home team's goalie on several occasions. The visiting team helped the Solila to score, one of the Bank's defence, trying to clear from a dangerous raid, turned the ball by mistake into their own goal.

Result: Swiss Bank 4, Solila 1.

Swiss Bank team: Floyd; Schwendener, Kronauer; Kebbell, Steiner, Hildebrand; Lloyd, Rueff, Kurz, Smith, Picard.

SWISS BANK 3rd XI v. CUSTOMS & EXCISE SPORTS CLUB.

Played at Snaresbrook on March 4th under distressing conditions. The state of the ground made accurate football impossible, and it was surprising to see how well the Customs played. They were easy winners, but the score (10 to 0) greatly flattered them. For the losers, Peter played a good game at right back. Customs owed a lot to their captain, who played splendidly. His kicking and tackling was a treat to see. So well did he work that his goalkeeper had only one difficult shot to save.

Result: Customs & Excise Sports Club 10, Swiss Bank 0.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY FOOTBALL CLUB

S.M.S. 1st XI v. SWISS BANK 1st XI.

Considering the heavy downpours of rain during the last week and right up to 3 p.m. on Saturday, the Mercantile's ground at Perivale was in a reasonably good condition when the rival teams took the field.

The Mercantile had merrily left their ball at home, but managed eventually to borrow a kind of substitute from some friendly neighbours.

It being a "Cup Tie" day elsewhere, the two teams also seemed to be under the spell of its atmosphere, as one witnessed from the start a very fast, if not exciting, game. The exchanges were fairly even, each team doing its best to obtain the lead. Unfortunately the play frequently had to suffer from interruptions caused by excesses on the part of certain players on both sides and duly spotted by the ever-watchful eye of the referee.

About 20 minutes from the start the Bank gained the lead, Gourbach scoring from a good distance after a short run past Schönholzer, who had failed to return a high ball. This unexpected reverse did not discourage the home team, who, however, could do no better than to exact two or three corners, one of which gave hope for an equaliser, but the ball was headed over the cross-bar. The game continued very lively, with the ball seldom penetrating the respective defences. A free kick given for "foul" against the Bank also nearly led to a goal, the leather hitting the upright and rebounding across the goal-mouth, whence it was cleared by the goalkeeper. Not long before half-time the Bank's outside left led an attack on Gerber's goal. The insides, however, were tackled in time, and the ball was considered out of danger, when Meyer, to the dismay of his colleagues, repeated his unfortunate feat of three weeks previous, namely, of attempting to clear towards the centre instead of the side, with the result that his fast shot hit Müller's leg, off which the ball deviated into the net.

Early in the second half the strenuous efforts of the Mercantile were rewarded by a point scored by Wintsch from close quarters. The Bank, where Dr. Ruefer was now playing centre forward, subsequently attacked very energetically, and before long the named player succeeded in placing the ball past Gerber after some fine combination on the left side. The quick pace of the game continued, but the goalkeepers had a comparatively quiet time. Ruefli once missed the mark from 3 yds. distance, and the end arrived with the ball just being cleared from the Bank's goal-line.

The Bank showed better combination than their opponents and deserved a narrow victory.

It must be reported with regret that on numerous occasions the referee had to intervene owing to "fouls," and that he found it necessary to warn a certain player of the Bank who revelled in these offences. The referee earned the thanks of both sides for the splendid firmness and impartiality he never ceased to display.

Result: Swiss Bank 3 S.M.S. 1.

S.M.S. team: Gerber; Werner, Schönholzer; Jacot, Müller, Meyer; Blanc, Ruefli, Aeschmann, Wintsch (Capt.), Benz.

Swiss Bank team: Zuercher; Herzog, Rasch; Bornand, Way, Castle; Tobler, Gourbach, Dr. Ruefer, Holton, G. Weber.

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