

# Rimembranze

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the production of the remedy on a sufficiently large scale, but actually—through the sale of his horses—had reduced the possible supply to a very small amount. That the Government of Northern Ireland and the Belfast Corporation were anxious to secure a supply of the serum for trial was shown by the fact that in March last they had sent out three doctors to Geneva to ascertain on the spot whether a supply could be obtained for Northern Ireland. This effort, however, failed.

Doesn't it strike as odd that a well-known philanthropic institution, while giving millions away for museums, excavations, renovations, etc., has declined to assist Spahlinger when approached by English doctors and the writer, amongst others, and yet this is exactly what has happened. Would it not be of greater and more lasting honour to this institution if their benefactions were instrumental in ridding humanity of an age-long curse, and bringing joy and life to countless sufferers, both now and in the future?

#### Gold Circulation in Switzerland.

Those who remember with regret how plentiful sovereigns and half-sovereigns used to be in this country in pre-war days, and have often sighed with regret at the disappearance of the "Gold-vögel," will derive some consolation from the fact that in our homeland at least they have not entirely disappeared from circulation, as these observations from the *Statist* of the 6th March will show:—

The currency position in Switzerland is a curious one. Although the convertibility of the National Bank's notes into gold has not yet been reimposed, gold coins have actually been put into circulation, and every impediment restricting the free movement of the metal into and out of the country has been removed. Soon after the Swiss franc had returned to its nominal gold parity, the Swiss National Bank decided to place into circulation any coined gold which it might acquire in the normal course of its business. It was observed, in the course of 1925, that, in spite of every inducement to pay gold rather than notes over the Bank's counters, the public showed a clear preference for paper money. An interesting result of the new departure was the sudden reappearance of considerable quantities of gold coins which had been hoarded since 1922. During the past year the National Bank was called upon to intervene extensively on the foreign exchange markets, not to maintain the value of its currency, but to prevent it from soaring well beyond its nominal gold parity. It is perhaps the fear of embarrassingly large gold imports that has hitherto deferred the authorities from restoring the free functioning of the gold standard. With the Swiss franc commanding a moderate premium over its gold parity, and with the reintroduction of gold coins into circulation, it became profitable to buy coined gold by the weight in other countries of the Latin Monetary Union and to introduce the coins into circulation in Switzerland. These operations were profitable in spite of the fact that the rate of exchange was kept below the gold-import point, because the coins imported had almost invariably lost weight, and although they were purchased abroad at their exact bullion value, were placed into circulation at their nominal parity. Seeing the danger of any general extension of this practice, and the expense in which it would ultimately involve the nation, the Swiss National Bank entered into tacit agreements with other central banks of the Latin Monetary Union by which the scope of these operations was considerably reduced. Even so, the Government have had under consideration the complete prohibition of imports of coined gold. The question has for the time being lost its urgency since the Swiss franc has now fallen below its parity with the dollar.

And now read what the *Bristol Evening News* (19th March) has to say on some impending display of Nature's forces in our lovely Ticino:—

#### Swiss Mountain to Collapse at any moment.

A mountain collapse of unusual magnitude, described by a geologist as likely to be "the most impressive spectacle of the century," is said by the Swiss Topographical Bureau to be imminent. This anticipation arises from careful observations that have been kept by the Swiss Topographical Bureau since 1888 on the Motto d'Arbino, a mountain of 5,500 feet (over 22 times higher than the Suspension Bridge), near Bellinzona, in the Canton of Tessin.

A special staff of engineers and topographical experts is engaged in taking the most careful measurements day by day, and their reports show that the great platform that forms the summit of the mountain, covering an area of nearly 100,000 square yards, is now dangerously undermined, and that its collapse may be expected at an early date.

Nearly forty years ago the calculations of the engineers gave evidence of distinct lateral and sinking movements. It was found that the summit was shifting horizontally at the rate of nearly an inch a year, a movement that increased progressively until some months ago, when it

was seen that the rate had increased to four inches within a year.

At the same time subsidence was occurring at an even more marked pace. The mountain sank at an average of nearly an inch and a half a year during the first fourteen years of observation, and subsequently the movement was quickened to three inches. The latest report is that there has been a subsidence of more than six inches in the last twelve months.

When the underlying mass of rock gives way—an event that no human skill or ingenuity can avert—the whole of the great plateau will collapse and crash down into the valley below.

All possible precautions are being taken that when the plateau falls there shall be no loss of life.

What a chance for the Tourist Agencies—if only the day and hour of the threatened cataclysm could be made known!

And now to all my readers a Happy Easter!

#### QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.		Mar. 23		Mar. 29	
		Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Confederation 3% 1903	...	80.00	79.90		
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln.	...	101.95	101.75		
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	...	83.45	83.67		
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	102.25	102.37		
SHARES.		Mar. 23		Mar. 29	
		Nom.	Fr.	Nom.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	701	500	702
Crédit Suisse	...	500	765	500	780
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	606	500	615
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	...	1000	2021	1000	2049
Fabrique Chimique et-Dev. Sandoz	...	1000	3380	1000	3415
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	...	1000	3265	1000	3337
S.A. Brown Boveri	...	350	443	350	445
C. F. Bally	...	1000	1275	1000	1290
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	365	200	366
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	...	1000	1003	1000	996
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	...	500	570	500	570
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	...	100	87	100	87
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	...	500	715	500	725

#### FIRST OF AUGUST COLLECTION.

The following is a copy of the letter which the Swiss Committee for the Celebration of our National Festival has addressed to the different Swiss Societies and Clubs abroad:—

"Last month we asked you to join our social 'work connected with our national fête; to-day we include samples of the badges mentioned previously. They are a product of our home industry and will impart a festive note to our 'Celebration Day. The charge is 1 franc a piece. 'As you already know, the net proceeds will be 'used for the benefit of destitute mothers.

"We appeal to all our countrymen abroad to 'help us to make the 1st of August a national 'day devoted to social welfare. Let us remember our weaker fellow-countrymen on the Foundation Day of our Swiss Confederation by 'some deed entailing personal sacrifice. By thus 'doing we shall be acting in the spirit of our 'forefathers on the Rütli, whose ideal was: 'One for All.'

"We hope and trust that you will again show 'your sympathy in our common effort."

#### RIMEMBRANZE.

Allora e adesso....

"Come cosa bella, passa e non dura" così passarono quelle poche ore, tanto aspettate... passarono come una meteora, nella vita ordinata ed usale d'ogni giorno; "meteora" che brilla per un istante, abbagliandoci col suo splendore, illuminando e rivelandoci i misteri del firmamento....

Svegliandomi, in questa mattina fredda, nebbiosa e triste, mi domando se non fu uno dei miei sogni nostalgici, se davvero la notte scorsa non fui trasportata là nel mio Ticino... illusione quell'ambiente brillante... illusione del nostro bel sole, la luce sfarzosa... illusione della nostra flora ammagliante, la profusione dei fiori....

Nelle ampie sale s'aggrava una compagnia animata e festante; compagnia elegante ed eletta, fratelli tutti nell'amore alla nostra Madre Svizzera, festeggiante l'annuale festa dell' "Unione Ticinese" la società benefica di Londra, dal puro sangue latino....

Il Ministro Svizzero, impossibilitato a presiedere, era degnamente rappresentato dal Monsieur de Bourg, primo Segretario di Legazione; quale fu la gioia di tutti noi là convenuti, quando, squisitamente gentile, e, come disse lui stesso l'egregio oratore, volle parlarci nella "lingua di Francesco Chiesa"! Tanta deferenza per i nostri artisti e per noi, c'entrò nel cuore con riconoscenza, e l'ascoltammo religiosamente....

E con riconoscenza ed orgoglio, sentimmo ancora una volta cantare le lodi di quella amata terra lontana, che, qual magneto arcano, ci attira e lega a Lei il nostro cuore, il nostro ideale, le nostre aspirazioni, come una dolce promessa....

E come lessi un giorno nelle memorie di Wagner, che lui, il grande compositore, avrebbe voluto far nascere ogni artista, onde ispirarsi per l'opera

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sua, sulla sponda dei "laghi italiani" e precisamente "in quel ramo del lago di Como..." così, sentii l'esimio oratore esprimere il desiderio d'esser nato nel nostro bel Cantone Ticino!

...nel nostro bel Cantone Ticino!... come "nessun profeta in patria" mi sembra ora d'aver vissuto due vite... quella folleggiante dell'età giovanile, quando, vivendo là nella mia terra natia, l'occhio non aveva ancora la virtù d'apprezzarne le meraviglie... e nella contemplazione delle bellezze, lo spirito non ne sentiva che la solita fragranza...

Colline, ricche di vigneti carichi d'uva nerissima, dai chicchi dolcissimi... superbe ombre di castani, conche verdegianti, valli austere, montagne maestose ed imponenti; cascate, abissi e gole, laghi placidi ed azzurri e fiumi spumeggianti...

Tutto, tutto era messa lì naturalmente... Dio l'aveva fatto così il nostro paese... e doveva essere fatto proprio così, per rendere bella la vita ai suoi figli, acciocché crescessero intelligenti ed operosi... ispirare i nostri artisti nelle belle lettere, pittura, scultura... creare capolavori d'Arte che solo la bellezza della natura e del cielo può ispirare e tramandare ai posteri!

E noi la godevamo questa vita; senza apprezzarla forse, così, senza pretenzione, senza vanto, senza attesa, senza confronti... era come il canto dell'usignuolo, tutta armonia...

Ma, strano, e pur non raro contrasto! Al ricordare quella semplice armonia, risponde il lamento dell'esule... un palpito come di rimorso, un senso di pentimento... un impulso nuovo d'esprimere il nostro entusiasmo, riprendere lena e manifestarlo più vivo!

Oggi rivedo quei cari luoghi con aspetto nuovo; li apprezzo come mai li ho apprezzati... so d'averli sempre amati e quando, come iersera, sento a parlare del mio Ticino da Chi lo conosce, lo ammira e lo "desidera" gioisco in segreto e mi sento orgogliosa d'esserne una umile sua figlia!

Così oggi, oscura l'alba della vita, i sensibili gaudii d'un giorno si svegliano e si ripercuotono e si realizzano in questi dolci richiami, che ci agitano, ci commovono e ci danno l'illusione fugace di visioni che ci rapiscono, di affetti che ci inteneriscono....

T. LUNGI-REZZONICO.

Londra, Marzo 1926.

### UNIONE TICINESE.

Close upon 300 guests, members and friends attended the 52nd Annual Banquet and Ball of this society at Monico's International Hall on the 23rd of March. At the opening of the banquet the President, Mr. W. Notari, rose to announce that the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, having been called to Switzerland on official business, we were deprived of his presence that evening, and that of Madame Paravicini. He was, however, happy to say that Monsieur De Bourg was taking the chair instead of the Minister. Later on Mr. Notari read out the following telegram sent to Monsieur Paravicini in Berne, conveying greetings and good wishes to him, and through him our respects to the Federal Council and Monsieur Motta in particular, viz.:—

"Unione Ticinese riunita annuale convegno invia  
"Presidente Onorario sensi deferenza devozione  
"augura lunga prospera carriera Prega porgere  
"omaggi Consiglio Federale e Consigliere Tici-  
"nese Onorevole Motta.—Notari, Presidente."

In due course, the Loyal Toast and the Toast to Switzerland and the Federal Council, proposed by the Chairman, having been honoured, Monsieur De Bourg addressed the gathering in the following terms:—

"Signor Presidente, Ladies and Gentlemen, His Excellency the Minister has asked me to tell you how very sorry he is not to be able to preside, with Madame Paravicini, at the Banquet of the Unione Ticinese. He had to go to Switzerland rather unexpectedly, and will not be back in London before the end of this week. It is therefore my privilege to be in the chair to-night. Like all our compatriots from the other side of the Gothard, I am a great admirer and sincere friend of our fratelli ticinesi. I am fully aware—at least the President told me so—that the official language for the speeches to-night is the English. However, I am very much tempted to forget this recommendation. I am so fully tempted, in fact, that, with your kind permission and without Signor Notari's permission, I am going to break the rules and address the assembly in the language of Dante, or, in order to keep 'il colore locale,' in the language of Francesco Chiesa. In doing so I am following the good example set by Signora Lunghi-Rezzonico, whose articles published by the *Swiss Observer* are read with the utmost delight by everybody.

"Se fossi stato consultato prima di nascere, avrei senza nessun'esitazione scelto come patria in cantone Ticino, questa gemma della Confederazione Svizzera. In questo caso mi sarebbe stato più facile parlare stasera della bellezza di quel pezzo di Paradiso terrestre, della sua popolazione intelligente, tanto simpatica, e così sincera. Per noi Svizzeri tedeschi e francesi, il Ticino rappresenta un'attrazione irresistibile; abbiamo bisogno dei Ticinesi, della loro coltura, del loro aiuto

tanto nella vita artistica quanto nella vita economica, industriale e politica. Siamo fieri dei nostri compatrioti di lingua italiana i quali hanno dato e danno alla patria nostra uomini come il Vela, il Ciseri, il Chiesa e tanti altri, senza parlare dell'uomo i cui meriti sono oggi internazionalmente riconosciuti. Penso in questo momento al capo del Dipartimento Politico Federale, Onorevole Signor Consigliere Federale Giuseppe Motta. A Ginevra, il nome di Motta è quasi sinonimo di Società delle Nazioni. E se fermiamo la nostra attenzione sugli svizzeri all'estero, vedremo che dappertutto le colonie ticinesi contribuiscono alla buona reputazione del nome svizzero. Mi faccio un dovere di complimentare in modo speciale l'Unione Ticinese di Londra per il suo lavoro magnifico, ma mi manca il tempo per pronunciare i nomi di tutti i ticinesi di Londra i quali hanno bene meritato della patria.

"Mi è grata l'occasione di ringraziarvi tutti della vostra attività patriottica. Evviva il Ticino, evviva l'Unione Ticinese di Londra."

This speech, well delivered, was received with very hearty applause. Mr. Notari then rose to propose the toast of the Unione Ticinese, and with his gripping delivery held the attention of all present with what is undoubtedly the best speech he made during his seven years of presidency. He gave thanks for the warm welcome he received, and took it as a tribute to the cause which he, in common with his colleagues, had so much at heart. He was glad to see so many old friends around him, always eager to give the society their hearty support, and particularly so to see in increasing numbers our brothers from beyond the Gothard. After the great success of the celebration, two years ago, of the golden jubilee of its foundation the society rather feared to have reached the zenith of its activities and efforts, and that we should have fallen back on leaner days. Happily, however, that was not the case. The same spirit which prevailed then prevails now, and we have been able to enlarge and intensify the activities in our social and benevolent undertakings. Moreover, we had since so consolidated our internal organisation that at no time in its long history has the society worked more harmoniously or more efficiently, nor possessed more vigour. He attributed the post-war revival mainly to the inspiration and example which had been given to every member by the wholehearted devotion to the welfare of the society of its great Hon. Vice-President, Mr. Arthur Meschini, and hoped that the support received in the past would be continued for the future also.

This being the first official function of the society since the signing of the treaties linked up with the name of Locarno, Mr. Notari felt he could not let the occasion go without expressing the happiness of all Ticinesi at the fact that the representatives of the various Powers, who went to Locarno with the definite idea of promoting international peace, apparently found in the local atmosphere a stimulant to persevere in achieving what they set out for. He expressed the hope that the good work done there will endure. As Switzerland is composed of sections of three races, unequal in size and political strength, and to a good extent very dissimilar in temperament, mentality, creed and tongue, which, however, are no bar to the unity of which we are so proud, it is no wonder that the Swiss citizens should be firm believers in the spirit of international friendship and understanding.

When the applause abated, Mr. O. Gambazzi addressed words of welcome to the guests, and as the banquets of the Unione Ticinese are regularly attended by people of many nationalities, he likened the gathering to a miniature League of Nations, not bent upon the solution of knotty problems of international politics, but merely upon the enjoyment of a good banquet and the products of many countries, not forgetting, later on, the "Dew of Scotland," and then the continuation of the programme with dancing and cabaret in a spirit of perfect cordiality. He regretted the enforced absence of our esteemed Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, and Madame Paravicini, but welcomed Monsieur De Bourg in his stead, as well as Monsieur Martin and Dr. Rezzonico, of the Swiss Legation, and the representatives of the following Swiss Societies:—

Société de Secours Mutuels: Messrs. Colomb and Audemars;

City Swiss Club: Messrs. Marchand and Jobin;

Fonds de Secours: Mr. Dupraz;

Union Helvetia: Mr. and Mme. Lehrian;

Schweizerbund: Messrs. Tresch and Foster;

Swiss Mercantile Society: Messrs. Stahelin and Pfandler;

Swiss Institute: Mr. Mayr;

Nouvelle Société Helvétique: Mr. Suter;

Swiss Choral Society: Mr. Manzoni;

Swiss Rifle Association: Mr. DeBrunner.

He was also pleased to see Mr. Boehringer (*Swiss Observer*) and was glad he had given a bye to the cross-word puzzle craze. It provided a particular pleasure to the Ticinesi to see quite a good number of their fellow-citizens from north of the Alps, and it is hoped more still will come along on

future occasions. He was glad to see also the many notable Italian and English personalities, who make it a point never to miss one of our banquets. Coming nearer home, he heartily welcomed Mr. and Mme. Meschini and some of the older supporters of the society. Last, but not least, the presence of so many charming representatives of the fair sex contributed to make the gathering all the happier.

Mr. Dupraz replied to the toast, on behalf of the guests, in the following much appreciated speech:—

"It feels good to be once again amongst our friends, the Ticinesi, and to enjoy their hearty hospitality. Why is it that the Annual Banquet of the Unione Ticinese is always such a wonderfully cheery and happy gathering? I think that I have found out the reason. As some of you know, I come from Montreux, where, as the saying has it, we can control the weather and can guarantee sunshine whenever there is an open-air festivity. But the Ticinese at home goes one better. The sun shines for him all the year round—and how could one be dull and miserable when one is born on those sunny slopes, dotted with bright white houses, the brightness of which would almost be too much were it not tempered by the climbing vines, put there so that when the day is at its hottest, or when the work is done and the sun goes down, they can harbour us under their shady leaves, whilst homage is duly paid to a 'mezzo,' may be two.

"Having grown up in that limpidity and warmth, every young Ticinese who comes and settles down in this country brings with him particles of these good things, which accompany him wherever he goes. Moreover, these powerful germs infect those who come in contact with him, and that is why we all feel so happy to-night and why also it is recommended to try and keep in close touch with the Ticinese colony, if they will let you. The striking part of this intoxication (I believe it is the correct medical term) is that this happy condition lasts in other climes as long as there is life in the subject, however long he might have left his native country, and this explains why old Ticinesi (I will not mention names) look as gay and as fit as young ones. Furthermore, this intoxication is transmitted—sometimes with renewed vigour—to the second and third generations, and we have instances of specimens born and bred in England (I again will not mention names) who have been and are acknowledged leaders of this extraordinary spirit.

"There is another peculiarity, which is no doubt derived from the first: being of a happy disposition, the Ticinese wants others to be happy too. I know by experience that there is no one readier to come to the assistance of his fellow-creatures in need. The Unione Ticinese have always responded most handsomely to all appeals made on behalf of the Swiss Benevolent Society, and what is most striking is not so much the amount of money collected, which is considerable, as the number of the members who are anxious to help, to the best of their ability. I always remember an appeal made some time during the war, under the auspices of the Swiss Legation, on behalf of the families of our countrymen called back to serve in the Swiss army. On that occasion the Unione Ticinese collected a very large sum of money, and their lists were covered with names of members who could only afford a small amount, but meant to do their best.

"Is it surprising, then, that such people should be happy and prosperous—that the fairest of the fair sex, as we see here, should be eager to be included in this merry company, and that all tends to make this Annual Banquet delightful in every respect?

"Mr. President and members of the Unione Ticinese, I am speaking on behalf of all your guests to-night when I say that we are very flattered indeed to have been invited to share in this brilliant festivity, and we trust that this 52nd Annual Banquet will be followed by countless others, just as successful."

Very hearty cheering followed the close of Mr. Dupraz's speech, and the President then called upon Mr. Meschini to say a few words. In brief terms he expressed his great pleasure of seeing such a splendid gathering of old and new friends and assured the society that, as far as he was concerned, he would only be too glad to extend in the future whatever help or assistance he provided in the past. He thanked Messrs. Monico warmly for the fine banquet given, and the Ticinesi no doubt appreciated the fact that the younger members of that family were again present with us that evening, along with their charming ladies.

This ended the first part of the evening, and the dance orchestra in the ball room, and the singers and comedians under the direction of Mr. Claud Chandler, viz., Messrs. Fred Wilson and Clay Thomas, and Misses Doris Smerdon, Dorrie Courtney, Gwen Lewis and Irene Cecil, in the International Hall, kept the assembly happy till 2 p.m.

It is the sincere hope of the Committee and members that all those who favoured us with their