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arguments multiples dont les deux principaux sont les suivants :

Ils ont montré que les conditions de la loi actuelle étaient des entraves à la liberté individuelle et des mesures restrictives du droit personnel. Ils ont su jouer habilement de la corde de la "liberté" et se sont écriés jovialement : "Loin des Gessler et autres tyrans !"

C'est en Suisse romande, à Genève surtout, si frondeuse et si craintive des emprises centralisatrices, que cet argument a joué. Je connais nombre d'amis, parmi lesquels des intellectuels, qui se sont refusés à entamer la moindre discussion à ce sujet et on voté "oui" pour les maisons de jeux simplement pour affirmer leur droit de faire ce que bon leur semble. Ce ne seront malheureusement—on heureusement—pas eux qui dilapideront leur fortune à la roulette...

La seconde tentation était de considérer l'initiative comme seule susceptible d'assurer dans nos grandes stations internationales le maintien des kursal et le développement du tourisme. Là encore on a hardiment spéculé. On a montré Interlaken comme un endroit désert et prêt à la faillite, Lucerne comme acculée aux bords de l'abîme ! On a prétendu que les étrangers déserteraient la Suisse... parce qu'il n'y pouvait plus perdre leur fortune. Tous ceux qui de près ou de loin—et ils sont plus nombreux qu'on ne se l'imagine—ont quelque chose à faire avec ces centres, leurs industries, leur développement : tous ceux enfin—et ceux là sont innombrables—qui vivent plus ou moins des miettes qui tombent des tables de jeux ont fait bloc autour de l'initiative. N'étaient-ils pas d'ailleurs en bonne compagnie puisque les Chambres fédérales elles-mêmes s'étaient prononcées en faveur du projet.

De l'autre côté de la barricade, il y avait ceux qui placent au dessus d'un gain temporaire une idée saine et vraie. C'est l'Eglise, quelle que soit sa confession, et le Foyer autour de mère et de l'épouse qui se sont élevés véhémentement contre le projet, groupant autour d'eux tous ceux qui réfléchissent impartialement.

Cette lutte, nous la connaissons. Nous l'avions affrontée pour la première fois en 1911 et avions été radicalement repoussés. Nous l'avions reprise en 1920 et ce fut alors le triomphe de l'idée saine. Nous venons de la perdre à nouveau en cette fin 1928 mais nous n'en sommes pas pour cela découragés. Que ceux qui ces jours se gaussent et se préparent aux larges prébendes, sachent bien que nous ne désarmerons pas et que nous ne reviendrons à l'attaque que pour mieux triompher à nouveau. Une Idée Juste ne peut disparaître. C'est un des impondérables de l'Histoire.

D'ailleurs la bataille fut douteuse jusqu'au bout. Si ceux qui veulent dilapider leur fortune et celle d'autrui sont vainqueurs, ils ne le sont que sur une mince proportion. Sur plus de 500,000 votants, ils obtiennent à peine 20,000 voix de majorité sur lesquelles Lucerne à elle seule leur assure plus de la moitié de ce chiffre.

Splendide, la Suisse romande a fait bloc contre l'initiative. Vaud donne 14,000 voix majoritaires de "non" énergiques; Neuchâtel 7,000, Fribourg 4,000, et Genève, cette terrible Genève où déjà se prépare le rétablissement des tables de jeu, si elle répond "oui," à notre grande honte,—ne donne, après les derniers travaux de récapitulation, qui ont dévoilé de graves erreurs, que 113 voix de majorité à 8,412 "oui" contre 3,293 "non."

Le Valais fut une autre déception et Zurich une troisième mais Bâle, Glaris, Argovie et Thurgovie sont de réconfortants exemples. Que penser cependant des votes de Schwyz qui montrent une majorité acceptante de 2,000 voix, d'Obwald, qui en indiquent 900, Nidwald 900, et Uri 500 ? Où sont donc les fiers principes d'antan et que penseraient dans son ermitage Nicolas de Flue devant semblables résultats ? Erik.

UNION HELVETIA.

The 33rd Annual Banquet and Ball of the Union Helvetia was held on Tuesday last, the 27th November, 1928, in the large hall of the Club House, under the customary pleasant and jolly conditions. Punctually at 9.30 p.m. over 180 members and friends sat down to dinner, excellently served by the Steward, Mr. Charlie Rossier and his good lady, to whom hearty congratulations are due for their "artistic culinaire." Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, was unfortunately prevented from occupying the Chair by another engagement, and Monsieur W. De Bourg, First Secretary of Legation, deputised.

After the repast, accompanied by the high spirits of everybody, the Chairman, Mr. W. De Bourg proposed the Toast to His Majesty the King, coupled with the sincere wishes of the company for His Majesty's complete and speedy recovery, and then to Switzerland, which met with the usual hearty response.

Mr. A. Indermaur, the President of the Territorial Administration for the U.K., then gave his Presidential address in the shape of the Toast to the Union Helvetia in roughly the following words:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all most heartily on behalf of the Union Helvetia and would like to give you a few

details of the activities of our Society. The Union Helvetia was founded in England in 1885 by our Honorary Member, Mr. Charles Hermann Senn, who is to-day the Honorary Director of the Food and Cookery Association, and who can rightly be described as the king of Swiss cooks. One year later, in 1886, the Union Helvetia amalgamated with the Winkelried Society, as it was then called, and the result is the Union Helvetia Convention with its General Administration in Lucerne, and with branches in France, Italy, Germany, Austria, U.S.A. and the British Empire, with Club Houses in London and New York. After difficult times, especially during the war, the Union Helvetia has put her house in order and is to-day progressing favourably. In the Employment Department, under the able management of Mr. Finger, situations were found for 2,676 people during last year, of which 60 per cent. were English. Great efforts are made to increase this figure in the coming year. The Union Helvetia looks after the members in ill-health and when advancing age prevents them from doing much work. The Sick Benefit Fund helped members during the past year to the extent of nearly £300 and old age benefits were also paid to those entitled to receive them. This will show members and those interested in the Union Helvetia how essential it is for every employee in the Catering Trade to be an insured member of this Society, as it is specially in times of misfortune when help is most welcome. Propaganda work has been specially indulged in during the past twelve months and new branches were opened in Edinburgh and Glasgow, whilst old ones were reorganised in Harrogate, Manchester and Birmingham by those ever-ready pillars of the Union Helvetia movement, Messrs. Marfurt, Sermier and Finger, to whom the Society's great thanks are due for their work. The Club House Commission, under the able management of Mr. F. Delaloye, has proved that there is a profit to be made out of the Club House when the latter is well managed, and the Entertainment Committee, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Favre, is also doing excellent work by having not only provided entertainment for members during the year, but also in having done this with a profit of some £200. It is now my great pleasure and privilege to draw your attention to the magnificent success which the Swiss Food and Cookery Exhibition, which was visited by our Minister, who had the satisfaction of finding that the Société Culinaire Suisse, under the presidency of Monsieur A. Juriens, had won the Grand Prix, Gold Medal and Special Prize of £20 for their Buffet de Bal. In the same category the Second Gold Medal and £10 prize were won by Messrs. Schallenberg and Arm, both members of the Union Helvetia. In the open class, a first Gold Medal was won by Mr. F. Huber. In Pulled Sugar the Silver Challenge Cup and Special Gold Medal were also won by the Société Culinaire Suisse (Mr. F. Seiz), further awards to our countrymen being 3rd Silver Medal in class 19, Silver Medal by Mr. Salzmann in class 13, Bronze Medal by Mr. Stutz in the same class and a 2nd Bronze Medal in potato-cooking. I would like to congratulate the Société Culinaire Suisse most heartily on their magnificent success, and specially congratulate their President, Mr. A. Juriens, and their Delegates, Messrs. Menze & Fils, Kuepfer (Vevey), Tobler and Nicodet.

I am pleased to announce that we hotel employees live on the best possible terms with the proprietors and managers, and are pleased to see that some of them are with us to-night, Messrs. Odone, A. Frick, A. Wyss, J. Jenny, Alfred and Adolf Schmidt, Brüllhardt and Povin.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink to the health of the Union Helvetia.

Mr. W. De Bourg did full justice to the speech from the Chair in a very witty manner and heartily congratulated the Société Culinaire Suisse on their splendid success. Mr. F. Delaloye proposed the Toast to the Ladies in his customary humorous and able manner, and Mr. J. P. Gallo, President of the Section, proposed the Toast to the Guests, which was replied to by Mr. A. Dupraz in a most able manner.

Mr. Juriens delegated Mr. De Brunner for his reply on behalf of the Prize-winning Société Culinaire Suisse and Mr. F. Delaloye provided, as usual, two star turns of entertainers to keep the company in good humour. All too late, after midnight only, the Ball began and was done full justice to until nearly 3 a.m.

Amongst those present and not already mentioned were :—M. and Mme M. Wullschleger (Ex Hon. President of the U.H.), M. A. Dupraz (Fonds de Secours), M. Demaria and M. Moretti (Unione Ticinese), M. Werner and M. H. Senn (City Swiss Club), M. and Mme Stähelin (Swiss Mercantile Society), M. Tresch and M. Callouin (Swiss Club "Schweizerbund"), M. Bommer (Swiss Choral Society), M. E. Block (Swiss Gymnastic Society), M. E. Martig (Union Helvetia, Brighton), M. Ch. Strubin (Swiss Rifle Association), M. and Mme P. Lehrian, and many others. E.B.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

L'Assemblée Mensuelle a eu lieu Mardi le 4 courant au Local du Club, Restaurant Pagani, sous la Présidence de Mr. Max Gerig.

La Séance de Décembre, qui suit toujours de près le Banquet Annuel, est généralement très animée car c'est l'occasion recherchée par les membres pour donner libre court à leurs critiques. Ce fut donc par de vifs applaudissements que le Président ouvrit les débats.

Les feux oratoires sont ouverts par un membre bien connu; sa critique du menu fut des plus amusantes.

Le Président, avec sa spiritualité habituelle, remercie les orateurs pour leurs diverses suggestions, il fait ressortir qu'il est évident que les King Edward VII. Rooms deviennent trop petites pour contenir le nombre toujours grandissant des participants au Banquet et Bal du C.S.C. Le Comité est chargé d'étudier cette question.

Un chaleureux vote de remerciements au Comité ainsi qu'à Mr. G. Marchand et Mr. H. Senn est passé à l'unanimité. Le Président, en remerciant, tiens à montrer sa haute appréciation aux membres qui se sont chargés de la vente des billets.

Mr. F. M. Camper, qui représentait le Club au Banquet du Swiss Club de Manchester, fait un rapport intéressant et apporte les cordiales salutations de nos compatriotes du Lancashire.

Il est évident que les membres absents se sont privés d'une agréable soirée car, grâce à la verve de certains orateurs, cette Séance fut un véritable succès. C.L.C.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

It was an imposing and charming affair. Imposing with regard to the size of the festive community and the large number of good marksmen who were being rewarded with so many most attractive prizes, ranging from silver cups down to such tempting things as bottles of various none too sober contents, cigars, fruit trays, framed pictures and dozens of other more or less useful, decorative or palatable articles. And altogether charming it was in so far as the general "Stimmung," well supported by good food and excellent wine, was so naturally gay that everybody present must have enjoyed the evening immensely. The speeches were not too long, so that the floor could be cleared for dancing by 11.30, which is, so I am told, a considerable improvement, from the point of view of the dancing enthusiasts, on last year's banquet. That the youngest Society of our Colony, which was founded only five years ago, should have got together such a grand company of members and friends seems to me a wonderful achievement.

The official part of the evening was opened by Mr. Borsinger, who took the chair in lieu of our Minister, who was unfortunately prevented from coming to the Banquet by another important engagement. After the toasts for the King and our Motherland, Mr. Chas. Strubin, as President of the Swiss Rifle Association, spoke with considerable pride and gratification of the growth and activities of the young but vigorous Society, which now consists of a hundred members. It is a goodly number, but it should still grow considerably higher. No good Swiss is too good or not good enough to join the Society, pleaded the speaker amidst roaring applause. The S.R.A. has, during the year, taken part in two competitions with other shooting clubs, both of which were won by our countrymen. Mr. Strubin concluded with an expression of warm gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Cusi, whose generosity has enabled the S.R.A. to get its own flag. Mr. Borsinger responded to the Toast for the S.R.A. with a spirited speech in praise of our own national sport—shooting.

Mr. Alfred Schmid, the Vice-President of the S.R.A.—and, by the way, one of its best shots—greeted the guests in a very cordial manner, amongst them being representatives of the other Swiss Societies and the Press. Mr. E. S. Block, the President of the Swiss Gymnastic Society, responded on behalf of the guests with the well-deserved compliment to the S.R.A. that it is fully worthy to represent here in England the country which leads the world in the art of shooting. Mr. J. Haesler, who proposed a special toast for the ladies, set the assembly roaring with laughter by the lavish compliments he paid to the beauty of the members of the weaker sex present whom he taunted at the same time with satirical observations on the use of artificial aids to female attractiveness.

In the end Mr. Borsinger proceeded to distribute the prizes. Amongst the recipients the three first winners of the various competitions may be mentioned : 300 Metres : Fuchs, Hirt and Wetter; 100 Yards : Alf. Schmid, Wetter and Hirt; "Kunst" 300 Metres : Burger, Hirt and Wetter; "Glück" : Lampert, Haesler and Wetter; Pistols : Wetter, Deubelbeiss and Hiliker; "Skill" 300 Metres : Wullschleger, Ed. Brüllhardt and Müller; "Skill" 100 Yards : Haesler, Wetter and Rognon; 300 Metres Handicap : Burger, Ann. Schmid and Wullschleger, and 100 Yard Handicap : O. Brüllhardt, Deubelbeiss and Haesler. DR. E.