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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. STUDENTS' CHRISTMAS DINNER.

That the hard work into which the students at the Swiss Mercantile School in Fitzroy Square are being pressed does not depress their spirits nor lower their vitality was evidenced at their Christmas Dinner and Ball, held last Friday, Dec. 20th, at the First Avenue Hotel. Never was there a more naturally gay yet mannerly evening entertainment in our Colony. Never have we witnessed a similar event in Switzerland which could have been termed a happier affair. There they were, about 130 boys and girls, grouped round the many small tables in the comfortable banquet hall of the First Avenue Hotel, talking and laughing with the happy, carefree exuberance that only youth can show. The score or so of guests—comprising members of the school board, officials and teachers at the school—never could have had a better time. The meal—emanating from the kitchen of Mr. Indermaur—was one of the best and though there were many speeches nobody could have been bored as they were mostly delivered *ex tempore* and in very good humour. The most amusing speeches came from two students at the School, one of whom also impersonated Santa Claus in a manner worthy of the best Cinderella show in the West End.

Mr. Paschoud, president of the S.M.S., was in the chair. After proposing the toast to the King he read out a telegram from two ex-students, Mr. and Mrs. Landis of Zug, conveying their best wishes. In proposing the toast to our home-country Dr. Rezzonico, who represented our Minister and the Legation, delivered a very witty speech.

The toast for the Swiss Mercantile Society was proposed by a student, Miss R. Sennwald, who spoke in a most charming manner, showing her grateful affection for the Society to whose untiring efforts it is due that the young Swiss recruits to the calling of commerce are so admirably trained, especially also at the London School of the Society.

Mr. Paschoud, as president of the S.M.S., replied in appreciative terms to the graceful compliments of Miss Sennwald. In doing so he mentioned with particular satisfaction that the change-over at the School had been carried through most successfully thanks to the sporting spirit in which the students had adapted themselves to the new regime.

In proposing the toast to the teaching staff at the School another student, Dr. R. Pfenniger, made the following brilliant and witty speech which time and again set his audience rocking with laughter.

Dr. Rezzonico, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

To-day I am in a most happy position. I have the honour of toasting the headmaster and his collaborators; that means, whilst on ordinary days they speak and I have to listen, to-day I speak and they have not even the right of making a point of order.

I have several reasons for complaints. A short time ago the headmaster called me a naughty boy, it was five minutes after half past nine, and I ask you if it is my fault if the fog holds up the train?

And I have other, more serious complaints. In the good old time we knew no fear of examinations, only the appearance of Mr. Levy brought us this terrible nightmare, and it is getting worse and worse, it seems that we have really to study and to work hard in order to get our certificates.

I am convinced that you all understand the real meaning of my words, it is with deep respect that I consider the tremendous amount of work done by Mr. Levy for the sake of our School, and it will need a long time until he can reap what he is now sowing.

It is not an easy task to teach Swiss students, Mrs. Paull and Mrs. Pinard do certainly not believe that they have here heaven on earth, I know how difficult it is to keep patience, calm and self control in front of an audience which isn't one. For our excuse I can only say that we are not as bad as we seem to be at certain moments, laugh with us and you get over it. We are not very particular, Mr. Willis can confirm this, even when he tells us his favourite joke of the big fish twice a week, he always has the success he wishes. I may quote also Mr. Schaarp here, his theory of bachelordom is certainly due only to the overwhelming supply of the article in question and to the difficulty of choice, but although we don't believe him, he finds always our attention; or look at Mr. Day he knows the art in perfection to keep discipline with a quiet, even soft voice, his magical influence subdues even the loudest voice.

We Swiss have not the gift of showing our affection. During the year we seem often very cold, giving always trouble and anger to our teachers, and to be a member on the staff of the S.M.S. means very often to stand up under adversity. But I pretend, and I know that all my fellow-students are of the same opinion, in our heart we are always with you. We fully

appreciate your indefatigable efforts for the sake of our school as well as the interest you are always ready to take in the personal matters of every student.

Mr. Levy and all members of the staff, in the name of the students of the S.M.S. I thank you for your work, I wish you may find the satisfaction for your difficult task in the gratitude of your pupils and in the success of your efforts.

The new Headmaster, Mr. A. Levy, thanked his pupils in heartfelt words for the kindly reception they have given him and for the loyal co-operation they are affording him in his arduous task. He again complimented us Swiss for the excellent way in which we manage our educational and other affairs.

Mr. B. Davis, the popular English teacher at the School, expressed his delight at the progress the school and its pupils are making. It was hard work teaching at the S.M.S. School, but it was a thing worth doing. As previous speakers had mentioned with regret that Mr. Klein, another teacher at the School, was absent owing to illness, Mr. Davis gave the good news, that the patient was now well on the way to recovery. He was the finest teacher the school ever had and he hoped he would be able to return early next year.

Finally yet another student, Mr. E. Moser, spoke in proposing the toast to the Chairman, Mr. Paschoud. He said amongst other things.

As a Student of the older Brigade I have the greatest pleasure in saying a few words to our honourable Chairman.

As a matter of fact Mr. Paschoud and his committee are more or less very mysterious personalities to us. My honourable duty is to unveil and introduce to you this committee and its very esteemed President.

All that I know is that somewhere in a room at Fitzroy Square from time to time a very magical circle of a few men holds its mysterious meetings. Although we see very little of the gentlemen of the committee, we all know that they work very hard in our interests, and the result of their labours are shown in the excellent way our school is managed.

One is told that it is impossible to enter the room where the meetings are held. One of the Big Five of our school stands in front of the door and it is said that everybody is afraid when they see him and prefer not to come into close touch with him.

My friend told me that he once had a short look into the meeting room in spite of the guard because the latter was sleeping on a chair which is, indeed, not blamable at 2 a.m. The aspect and impression which my friend had of this meeting must have been terrifying as since then he never missed any lessons at school.

Mr. Paschoud, evidently moved by the good will shown by the students towards him and the School, responded with a few cordial words, in which he stressed that it was a sense of duty which made him and his colleagues on the committee gladly perform the work that had to be done.

In the end, Dr. Pfenniger, dressed up as Santa Claus, presented various official gentlemen with funny presents, addressing each of them in very humorous words, extracts from which we reproduce here:

It is always a special pleasure for me to pay a visit to the S.M.S. During the year I had often a watchful eye on the School-life, sometimes I saw naughty boys and girls, but generally I must say that I was satisfied.

It was only yesterday that I had a talk with Wilhelm Tell, we spoke of the old Swiss spirit and he said that I could still find it at this meeting. That is my chief reason to be here, unfortunately I have only a few minutes to spend among you my dear children, having an appointment with Miss Helvetia at Lyon's Corner House.

In my sack I have some presents for you, they are not always very pleasant, but they are always chosen for the purpose to strengthen your weak points, to help you in your daily work, or to remind you of something in the past, and also as a reward for your good deeds.

The English that was spoken by all the students was excellent proof of the high standard of teaching that the School is giving our young compatriots. During the speech which concluded the evening an amusing "Schnitzelbank" was shown.—Dr. E.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue in which the subscription expires.)

E. Uhlmann (469), W. Lehmann (445), A. Genoni (470), A. Sulzberger (474), Dr. W. Bader (473), Miss L. Kuepfer (449), Foyer Suisse (469), C. Haefliger (431), A. Maeder (477), F. W. Lichtensteiger (477), B. Davis (437), H. Stucki (479), A. Bolliger (474), L. Chapuis (498), J. Oertli (450), G. E. Bacher (450), Miss J. H. Magron (450), Miss A. Bertazzi (435), A. Bodenehr (478), C. Meier (450), J. C. Wetter (476), H. S. Denner (448), Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. (476), H. A. Turler (450), Miss M. Chollet (437), P. E. Dick (476), H. H. Baumann (478).

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.
and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up £6,400,000
Reserves - - £1,960,000
Deposits - - £43,000,000

The WEST END BRANCH
opens Savings Bank Accounts on
which interest will be credited
at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu le MARDI 7 JANVIER au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. Démonstrations.
Admissions. Divers.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

Fancy Dress Dance

will take place on

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4th, 1930,

at the

Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Str., N.W.
from 6.45 for 7.0 to 2.0 a.m.

TICKETS at 8s. 6d. (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained from Mr. J. C. Nussli, 8, Cross Lane, E.C.3 (Tel. Royal 8834), Mr. R. Chappuis, 31, Crookerton Rd. Upper Tooting, S.W.17, at Swiss House, 34-36, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Tel. Museum 6839) and from Employment Department, 24, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4 (Tel. City 7719). THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),
(Langue française.)

79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.2.

Dimanche 29 Décembre 11h—Mr. M. Pradervand.

6h30—Mr. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Mardi 31 Décembre 8h30—Culte de Sylvestre et Ste.

Cécile: L'arbre de Noël sera rallumé.

Mercredi 1er Janvier 1930 11h—Service de Nouvel-An.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 29. Dezember 1929.

11 Uhr morgens Gottesdienst.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst und Feier des Heilg. Abendmahls.

Dienstag den 31. Dezember 1929. Abends 7.30 Uhr. SYLVESTERGOTTESDIENST. Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls. Der Weihnachtsbaum wird wieder angezündet werden.

DANKSAGUNG.

Es ist eine liebe Pflicht allen Landsleuten recht herzlich zu danken, die uns geholfen haben armen Landsleuten an Weihnachten Freude zu bereiten, sei es durch Gaben an Naturalien, Kleidern oder Geld. Wir bitten auch fernerhin um solche von Herzen kommende und zu Herzen gehende fröhliche Mitarbeit.

Die Kirchenpflege und der Pfarrer der SCHWEIZERKIRCHE.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, January 1st, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, January 4th at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Fancy Dress Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel.

Tuesday, January 7th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB Monthly Meeting at Pagani's Restaurant (See advt.).

Tuesday, March 11th—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet, Ball and Cabaret at The Monaco Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W.1.

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