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cloches chantaient dans le reste de la Suisse. Au Palais fédéral, le président Welti télégraphiait à la Compagnie du Gothard d'avertir tous les cantons confédérés. Les télégraphistes surchargés de Lucerne faisaient connaître à leur administration qu'ils étaient exténués et qu'ils avaient soif. Ils reçurent en réponse une dépêche cordiale disant: "Nous vous autorisons à vous reconforter à nos frais de bière, de pain et de fromage. On voit par le ton exceptionnel de cette réponse que le dernier coup de dynamite, en faisant tomber le dernier mur du tunnel, avait renversé aussi toutes les barrières dressées par les conventions sociales. Quelques heures plus tard, une locomotive remorquait de Göschenen à Airolo le premier train spécial. Ce fut un moment pathétique que celui où, sur les rails fraîchement posés, le premier convoi franchit la porte sacrée du Gothard. Le trajet fut couvert en trois heures et demie, alors que la diligence postale, se hâtant lentement au sommet du col, parvenait à destination avec une heure de retard sur le train, qui savourait ainsi une première victoire. A la cérémonie d'inauguration qui eut lieu immédiatement après, et qui fut sur la montagne une vraie fête nationale et patriotique, on distribua aux ouvriers 3700 médailles commémoratives. Les éléments italiens—il faut le rappeler ici—par leur entrain, leur inaltérable bonne humeur, leur faculté extraordinaire d'adaptation et leur endurance, firent l'admiration de tous les ingénieurs et eurent la plus grande part au succès de l'entreprise.

La journée du 29 février 1880, au même titre que d'autres jours historiques, mérite de figurer parmi les dates illustres de batailles et de victoires. Car l'homme y vainquit la nature. Le Gothard, qui voulait être un mur et une séparation, devint une route et un lien. C'est bien le même génie humain qui, au cours des siècles, domestiqua les bêtes sauvages, lança les bateaux sur les océans, et les locomotives sur les rails, les automobiles sur les routes et les avions dans les airs. La nature méchante et rebelle a été livrée à l'homme pour que, par son intelligence et sa volonté, il la travaille, la transforme et la rende bonne, belle et féconde, afin que lui-même y puisse vivre plus heureux et plus prospère. Cela est l'œuvre de la civilisation. Or on peut considérer le percement du tunnel du Gothard comme une œuvre éminente de la civilisation.

Les ingénieurs autant que les hommes politiques on les hommes d'affaires eurent lieu de se féliciter du succès de l'ouvrage d'art qu'ils venaient de mener à chef. Leurs calculs se révélèrent si exacts qu'à la rencontre des deux galeries, il n'y avait en hauteur comme en largeur que quelques centimètres d'écart.

Dans le domaine international, le tunnel du Gothard faisait faire aux relations pacifiques et fructueuses entre les pays du nord et ceux du sud un pas de géant. L'avenir doit voir tous les peuples de la terre vivre dans l'harmonie. Tout ce qui favorise la pénétration des races, l'abaissement des frontières naturelles et ethniques, l'échange des idées et des choses, prépare cette ère définitive. A ce titre, le percement du tunnel du Gothard et la journée du 29 février 1880 sont une œuvre et une date à inscrire dans les annales de l'humanité.

Extracts from the "Bulletin des C.F.F."

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Doings in Our Colony.

UNIONE TICINESE.

Close upon 300 guests, members and friends attended the Annual Banquet and Ball held on the 11th inst. at Monico's Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus. The banquet started at about 8 o'clock, after an informal reception, and proved most enjoyable as usual. In the unavoidable absence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Chair was taken by Signor Clement Rezzonico, Secretary of Legation, who proposed the traditional toasts.

In due course Mr. W. Notari, as President of the Unione Ticinese, rose to propose "the Unione Ticinese—The Ladies and Guests," and was received with the customary enthusiasm. After thanking the audience for the fine way in which he was greeted he expressed the regrets of the society at the absence of our Minister, and cordially welcomed Signor Rezzonico in his stead. He then proceeded to greet the representatives of the various Swiss Societies, as follows:—

Secours Mutuels—Mr. Campart (President) and Mme. Campart; *Fonds de Secours*—Mr. Dupraz (President) and Mme. Dupraz; *City Swiss Club*—Mr. Werner (President) and Mr. Zimmermann (Secretary); *Schweizerbund*—Mr. Christen (President) and Mr. Humbel (Secretary); *Union Helvética*—Mr. Indemaur (President) and Mme. Indemaur; *Swiss Mercantile Society*—Mr. Paschoud (President) and Mme. Paschoud; *Swiss Gymnastic Society*—Mr. Block (President); *Swiss Choral Society*—Mr. Ritzmann (Treasurer); *Swiss Rifle Association*—Mr. Krucker and Mme. Krucker; Dr. Egli, Editor of the *Swiss Observer*, was unavoidably absent.

Mr. Notari mentioned also our friend, Monsieur G. Marchand, who on this occasion also kindly presented a gold wrist watch which was drawn among the ladies in the course of the banquet. He then said:

A matter which has been receiving the serious attention of the Unione Ticinese during recent months and which has been for years a great concern to me personally, has been that of finding a way of materially helping the Swiss Benevolent Society of London in the discharge of the self-appointed task of assisting those Swiss resident in this metropolis who have fallen on evil times, particularly the aged and the infirm.

The Swiss Benevolent Society started in 1926 what is known as the "Georges Dimier Fund" with which it is intended in time to provide the capital required for the establishment of a central home in London to shelter needy aged Swiss residents. The early attainment of this great object is undoubtedly near the heart of every Swiss in London and I consider the time has arrived when a determined and united effort should be made to complete the sum required for an effective start.

After careful consideration and in recognition of the assistance which has been extended by the S.B.S. to unattached distressed Ticinesi, my society has decided to sanction the transfer of £1000 from its own funds as a donation to the "Georges Dimier Fund," on condition that at least an equivalent amount be subscribed among the other Swiss Societies in London, out of their own funds, and that at least another £1,000 be raised by public subscription from the Swiss Colony in general, or other sources, in the course of the next twelve months.

In coming to this decision the Unione Ticinese was prompted by the fact that the other societies would no doubt be eager to contribute handsomely towards the same object. Furthermore I have no doubt that the prosperous Swiss trading community in this country would be only too eager to further contribute substantially towards an early realisation of that 'sacred vision' of the late Georges Dimier.

Mr. Notari considered that this was a case when our national motto "all for one and one for all" should find us all ready to contribute according to our ability. He then paid a few nice compliments to the ladies and sat down amid the heartiest cheers.

Mr. Dupraz, President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, in responding for the guests said:

Mr. Notari has built up for himself a reputation for eloquence which is thoroughly deserved and you will all agree with me that to-night, in his appeal for the poor, he has surpassed himself. When I came here I was absolutely unaware of the decision arrived at by your society and I must ask for your forgiveness if under the shock of this surprise, I do not find the terms I should like, to express to you our sincere gratitude. I do not know how to thank you for your extraordinary generosity, which I can assure you will be for us a source of much encouragement. We were rather disappointed at the remoteness of the realization of the aim of our Fonds Dimier, but this fine gesture of yours will give it a new

impetus and bring considerably nearer the founding of our Home for Old Swiss. I thank you for your gift and I thank you also for your idea of making this gift dependent on the collaboration of other Societies and the colony in general.

Mr. Dupraz then thanked the Unione Ticinese on behalf of the Ladies and of the Guests, for its kind hospitality and spoke in very flattering terms of the beauties of the Ticino and of the youthful looks of the older members of the Society. He asked those present to try and visualise the enormous amount of good work done in 56 years by the Unione Ticinese. He ended by saying:

I am optimistic, thank goodness, but nevertheless there are ominous signs that things are not as well as they could be. Quite likely even some of your members are finding life difficult and as the Unione Ticinese is synonymous with the Ticinese colony, you are no doubt aware that quite a number of your countrymen are going through very anxious times. It is in those days that it becomes necessary for you to hold together and to give the fullest scope to the high ideals which this society has upheld in the past. We therefore sincerely wish that you may carry on this good work into a far distant future and we express our sincere wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the Unione Ticinese.

Mr. Dupraz' speech was received with loud applause and when quiet had returned it was the turn of our Chairman to give his address. Signor Rezzonico remarked that he had had the pleasure to attend the Annual Dinner of the Unione Ticinese seven times in succession. This time, however, he was not present merely as a member of the U.T. but as a substitute for his Chief, the Swiss Minister. He conveyed to the audience the patriotic greetings of our Minister and his regrets at not being present that evening. The speaker explained that the fulfilment of his duty was rather delicate. He was obliged, by tradition, to sing a hymn of praise to the Unione Ticinese—of which he was a member—and to tell the audience what marvellous people the Ticinesi are—and he is a Ticinese. However he did not hesitate in congratulating the U.T. on its achievements and a few words of praise were addressed to those members of the society who, for many years, had been the pillars of the U.T.

Commenting on the decision recently taken by the Unione Ticinese, to subscribe £1,000 to the "Fonds Dimier" Signor Rezzonico pointed out that this action had been dictated by one reason only and that is by a sense of patriotic duty. "Patriotism," he said, "is, as you all know, one of the main characteristics of the Ticino. Someone far more competent than myself has told you that in the most eloquent way quite recently. I am thinking of Signor Giuseppe Motta, the great statesman the Ticino gave Switzerland and whom the Swiss Colony in London had the privilege and pleasure of entertaining on the occasion of his recent visit to London."

The speaker told us of the pride of the Ticinesi to be Swiss, of the advantages the Ticino derived from being a member of the Swiss Confederation and of what the Ticino gives, in return, to Switzerland. After praising the character of the Ticinesi, he said, he thought it was his duty to recognise that such a beautiful medal had its reverse too. But he preferred not to waste too much time on it. He thought, however, that he was not giving away any secret in telling us that a Ticinese is by nature inclined to be very critical and fond of an argument, and even of a little quarrel, but all that merely for argument's sake and once the argument or the quarrel over, you would find the Ticinese as sweet as ever.

Before the gathering dispersed for the dance Mr. Notari read out a letter he had just received from Mr. Henry J. Ahern, an admirer of the U.T. and whose association with the Ticinesi dates back to over 50 years, in which he includes a cheque for £25 to start the subscription list which the Unione Ticinese will be circulating among its members and friends in favour of the Fonds Dimier. He mentioned also he had received a similar amount from our Hon. Vice-President, Mr. A. Meschini, whose unflinching support was a source of great strength to the society.

Yielding to persistent calls for a speech from him Mr. Meschini rose to thank all those who had contributed to make the banquet a success and proposed a toast to the President, Mr. Notari, to whose steadfast leadership and untiring efforts was chiefly due the fine progress made by the society in recent years. He expressed the hope that he may remain at the helm of the society for many years to come. Mr. Meschini's words were received with wholehearted cheers.

As soon as the banquet was over many of those present adjourned to the Renaissance hall for the dance, whereas those who preferred less strenuous exercise accommodated themselves at tables in the International hall to listen to the Cabaret presented by Mr. Murray Ashford. Among the items which specially pleased the Ticinesi were the well rendered songs by Miss Eva Cattaneo of Lugano. 2 a.m. came all too soon for most of

us, but let us hope that we shall find as merry a gathering on the next occasion, in the establishment of our compatriots, Messrs. Monaco, who contribute so much towards making the event a real success, and whose presence at the banquet is always so pleasing to the Ticinesi.

No special mention having been made before it may be just as well to say that the idea to give a donation of £1,000 to the Fonds Dimier originated with our President, Mr. Notari, who brought it forward at a Committee meeting last September. Everyone was in favour of it and the suggestion was again unanimously confirmed by the Committee at the end of February, when an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society was called and the resolution passed unanimously and enthusiastically. O.B.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Miss T. Fröhlicher, Solothurn: "Maria Waser." Mr. M. Chaponnier, Nyon: "Nero." Mr. W. Hürlimann, Bâretswil: "Antwerp." Miss H. Baumann, Zurich: "The Queen of the Adriatic." Mr. H. Steiger, Uster: "The Abolition of Slavery." Mr. F. Wespil, Illnau: "Free Trade and Protection." Mr. J. Fischer, St. Gallen: "A Short Road to Wealth." Mr. Kaltbrunner, Zurich: "The Psychological Moment in a Circular Letter." Mr. E. Dietschi, Zurich: "A Holiday on the Riviera."

The debating classes dealt with the following subject:—

"Should Women have Careers?" Affirmative: Mr. A. Staub. Negative: Mr. J. Niggli.

The School was honoured on Friday March 14th when Mr. W. J. Pincombe, J.P., lectured on "The Unseen Rulers of London." The lecturer who has been a member of the London County Council for a number of years, with special experience on the Education Committee of that body, was introduced by Mr. A. Levy, the Headmaster.

The whole of the lecture was listened to with rapt attention and students suggested that Mr. Pincombe should be invited again to lecture to them.

In a short but able speech Mr. Zeller, one of the Students, proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer to which the students responded with hearty acclamation.

UNION HELVETIA, GLASGOW.

"SÜCHRUT ABIG."

After the very successful whist drive and dance which was held in December last year, the always active committee of the Union Helvetia under the chairmanship of our compatriot Monsieur Joseph Scherer arranged a "Süchrut Abig" which took place on 13th March at the Globe Restaurant in West Nile Street.

The Glasgow Section of the Union Helvetia is the youngest in Great Britain, but as regards activity and real companionship our fellow-countrymen in the North need not be ashamed, since the cup which is won by the section having the biggest increase in membership during the preceding year, is now in their possession.

After the "Süchrut, Frankfurterli und Gnagi" were enjoyed by everybody—even by some ladies who thought this was a certain sort of barbarian food—a well deserved tribute was paid by the president to Monsieur Ammacker, chef of the Grand Hotel, to Mrs. Ferrari, the proprietress of the restaurant and Mr. Grotz, who were responsible for the catering.

Afterwards Mrs. Voegeli, the very efficient entertainment manageress announced the date of the next whist drive.

Then Monsieur Max Graf who is in charge of the consulate in Glasgow addressed the community, thanking the committee for their kind invitation to be present at this very happy event. He also expressed his appreciation for the untiring activity of the committee and specially of its propaganda member Monsieur Giuseppe Negrini, who spared no trouble until this very satisfactory increase in membership was reached. Monsieur Graf further hoped that the good start with the Union Helvetia might help to bring the Swiss Colony here more and more together and was seconded in this desire by Monsieur Ammacker.

After a farewell speech of Monsieur Hans Balmer, Monsieur Grotz, the secretary asked the party to join the toast in honour of the representative of the government.

The second part of this friendly and homely gathering was dedicated to Jass and whist.—M.G.

SWISS FROTH BLOWERS' ANNUAL BANQUET.

Mr. Wyss of the Swiss Hotel, Old Compton Street, kindly sent us the following report which appeared in last Sunday's *Referee* of the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Vat of the "Ancient Order of Froth Blowers" held last

week. Part of the collection made goes to the Fonds de Secours Suisse.

"Great praise is due to Monsoon Wyss, to his 'better half' Tornado Mrs. Wyss, and to all the Swiss Vat officials for their recent perfectly staged evening's entertainment. . . . The fare provided attained so high a standard of excellence that Chairman Jack Haes, otherwise "known to his intimates" as the Cloudburst, insisted upon the Chef being escorted by Vat officers to the top table where he was accorded musical honours by the whole assembly, and space alone prevents a detailed description of this affaire de gourmets. At the express wish of All Concerned "no speeches" was the order of the evening, and no "fining" in the usual A.O.F.B. interpretation of the word. But the Cloudburst and the Grand Scrounger had a genial set-to fining each other in turn, although this did not account for the splendid total of £33 discovered in the Oast Box at the end of the festivities.

Prior to the interval, the Vat officials marched round the room with a huge tablecloth spread out for the gathering in of 'Alms' and, after a hefty barrage of coppers had rained down, a steady shell-fire of Whizz-Bangs in the form of half-crowns and similar pieces of eight continued for some time, thereby accounting for the above-mentioned wonderful total. . . .

The dinner terminated with a display of indoor fireworks, after which Fairy Belle Alvina led off with a burst of community singing which nearly raised the roof. Following the repast, Miss Carlotta Mossetti with her well-trained A.O.F.B. cabaret party consisting of ten delicious damsels delighted an audience which would willingly have asked for more of their charming dancing. Vat Minstrel Stoddon's orchestra of forty instrumentalists then took the dance floor, their rendering of "The Meistersingers" overture being exceedingly well done, while a paraphrase, "A.O.F.B." written and composed by Vat Minstrel Stoddon himself, was received with tremendous cheering. Towards the end a unique dance number was played upon an instrument resembling an enormous mouth-organ (soloist, our good friend John Korten), and one eminently suited to the Swiss dances which terminated the entertainment. The last thoughtful act of Monsoon Wyss was to provide a huge bowl of soupe à l'oignon just as the tired but cheerful throng were preparing to catch not the last but the first trams home!

UNE BONNE NOUVELLE.

Toute la Colonie sera heureuse d'apprendre qu'à sa dernière séance, le Comité de la "Fête Suisse" a décidé de célébrer la soirée de cette année dans la grande et magnifique salle du Central Hall, Westminster. C'était devenu une nécessité absolue! Même la belle salle de Caxton Hall ne suffisait plus. Eh, quoi! Jamais affluence pareille ne s'y était entassée. A notre corps défendant, il avait fallu même renvoyer du monde! Preuve que la "Fête Suisse" est toujours plus appréciée de nos compatriotes.

Au Central Hall, nous n'aurons pas à craindre de difficultés semblables; il y aura 1300 places assises. Tout le monde sera donc confortablement installé et la carte ne coûtera pas davantage (seulement 1/6).

Il est vrai qu'à quelque chose malheur est bon: les recettes extraordinaires de l'année dernière avaient permis de verser 15 guinées au Fonds de Secours. Cette année, malgré les risques d'une location de plus du double et d'imprévus inévitables, quand on loue de nouveaux locaux, le Comité a décidé de verser le profit net à cette oeuvre de bienfaisance, certain que la Colonie appréciera le geste et viendra en nombre encore plus considérable à sa traditionnelle fête annuelle. Ce sera la 61e, et elle aura lieu jeudi 19 juin à 7 heures. Que chacun en prenne note dès à présent. Le Secrétaire,

R. HOFFMANN-DE VISME.

Home News—(Continued)

FRIBOURG.

The death is announced of Mr. Paul Morard, who was a member of the Grand Council since 1915 and of the National Council for the last ten years. T.G.

GENEVA.

The Police Authorities have refused an application made by the Geneva taxi drivers to charge an additional franc for journeys between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. As a protest a meeting of taxi drivers has decided on a General strike between the hours of 10 p.m. and midnight.

TICINO.

The "Tribune de Genève" reports that four veterans who took part in the construction of the Gotthard tunnel are still living at Bellinzona. One of them, Merlini Giovanni, was the engine driver of the little machine which transported the remains of Louis Favre and of the locomotive which pulled the first train through the tunnel. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary the four men received messages of congratulation from the authorities.

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Conférences M. F. Durrleman, directeur de la "Cause."

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etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102,
Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Archway 1798).
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Dienstag 12-1 Uhr in der Kirche. Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im
"Foyer Suisse."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, March 25th, at 9 p.m.—SWISS RIFLE
ASSOCIATION: Annual General Meeting at
Union Helvetia, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Wednesday, April 2nd, at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIÉTÉ DE
SECOURS MUTUELS: Annual General Meeting
at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, May 24th.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne
Hill Athletic Grounds.

Thursday, June 19th, at 7 p.m.—FÊTE SUISSE at
Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

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