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passing of the ancient guilds, with their century old banners, especially evoked great interest.

In the evening a great firework display took place, and the promenades along the lake were illuminated with thousands of coloured lamps.

#### SWITZERLAND AND STRESA CONFERENCE.

Director Stucki of the political economy Dept., addressed the Stresa Conference, acquainting the delegates in a very able exposé of the Swiss point of view. Prof. Bachmann, Governor of the Swiss National Bank, has been nominated President of the financial commission.

#### LOCAL.

##### ZURICH.

The Canton of Zurich, provides a compulsory domestic training continuation school for girls of 15 and upwards who must attend for two winter courses (240 hours in all). Secondary school pupils and apprentices must attend for 180 hours at the close of their respective periods. Employers must allow their young workers four hours' holiday per week to attend the courses without loss of salary. This law came into force in May last. It is expected that the Canton of Basle will enact a similar regulation next year.

On the return flight from an Air Display in Berne, an aeroplane piloted by M. Karl Kerschbaum (Lachen), carrying as passenger M. E. von Kaenel (Zurich) crashed in the neighbourhood of Gehren, both the pilot and the passenger were killed instantly.

The directors of the "Bank für Elektrische Unternehmungen" have declared a dividend of 8 per cent for the year 1931/32. (Last dividend 10 per cent.)

Burglars entered the vicarage in Neuwiesenhof and got away with 1,400 frs., belonging to the "Jünglingsvereinskasse."

The International Congress of Mathematicians was opened at Zurich on Monday. Federal Councillor Dr. Meyer conveyed to the delegates the greetings of the Swiss Government, and the Swiss people in a remarkable speech. Various papers by eminent mathematicians will be read.

##### BERNE.

The members of the Swiss Bankers Association met in Berne last Monday. The Bankers were addressed by their President, M. R. La Roche (Basle).

The cantonal government has decreed, that owing to the crisis, no permits for holding lotteries will be granted.

##### FRIBOURG.

Dr. Othmar Perler from Wünnewil has been appointed Professor of Theology at the University of Fribourg.

##### NEUCHÂTEL.

Mme. Theurillat, an inhabitant of La Chaux-de-Fonds, who is over 100 years old, received her Air-Baptism on the occasion of an Air Meeting which took place at La Chaux-de-Fonds on the 3rd and 4th of this month.

##### LAUSANNE.

From Lausanne comes the news that Dr. Dind, late States Councillor and rector of the University of Lausanne, has died at the age of 77. Dr. Dind was born in 1855 at St. Cierges, he studied medicine at the Universities of Berne, Tübingen and Vienna; he was at one time a member of the Grand Council over which he presided, and from 1918-1933 he was a member of Parliament.

Dr. Dulliet, Professor at the University of Lausanne has died at the age of 63. Dr. Dulliet was a well-known surgeon.

##### VALAIS.

The police was successful in laying hands on the murderer of Miss Irene Eibershoff, an American girl, whose body was found in a lonely spot between the villages of St. Nicholas and St. Alden.

A man, Heinrich Walther, 20 years old, domiciled in Siders was arrested and has since confessed. Walther is a native of Grächen in the district of Visp.

##### VALAIS.

The little village of Blitzingen, situated near Brigne, on the Furka slope of a valley leading to the Rhone glacier, was almost entirely destroyed by fire. All the houses, the barns filled with this year's harvest, the schoolhouse, hotel, and post office, all built of wood, were rapidly consumed by the flames.

Only the church, which is of stone, remains intact. Owing to the intense heat and the lack of proper extinguishers in the village, the inhabitants could only attempt to quench the flames with buckets of water from the pump. By the time help came from the surrounding villages the disaster was complete.

The people being without shelter, the authorities are sending tents to provide habitations so long as the present fine weather lasts.

#### NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

#### STOCKER SEPP'S ERSTE UNTERWALDNER BAUERNKAPELLE, ZURICH, at the UNION HELVETIA CLUB.

Barely two hours after they landed at Croydon, having flown over, this famous Kapelle appeared at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1., and their entry into the big Hall was hailed with great applause by a numerous gathering, which had assembled in order to spend a few hours, listening to old familiar tunes.

Having received an invitation to be present at the "Schweizer" as well as the "Ländler" Abend, I decided to attend the former, thinking that same might prove to be less strenuous, and hearing since the reports of some of my friends, who were present on the second night, I consider that I have chosen wisely.

On my arrival at the Union Helvetia Club, I was conducted by the charming President of the U.H., M. Sermier, to a large table which was ornamented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers; I remonstrated at once, it looked to me a much too conspicuous position, and reminded me somehow of a familiar saying, that "Dr Muni muess a Meie ha!" but my remonstrations were of no avail, I had to sit at this table, which was the only one thus decorated, and I felt highly flattered and honoured. (Swank! Ed.)

The Hall, and especially the stage was artistically decorated with trees;—someone would have it, that they were Xmas trees, needless to say that could have only been a Bernese,—plants and Swiss flags. About 9 o'clock the famous musicians made their entry, all dressed up, but knowing where to go, and before one had time to comment on the smart appearance, — especially their richly embroidered blouses, which were the envy of all the ladies, — a lively tune in perfect rhythm made all and sundry look up and take notice. Those were the melodies of our country, tunes which one used to hear many years ago, when rambling through villages and hamlets in our homeland. Well do I remember these rustic tunes, having been once decorated, on the occasion of attending a villagers ball and sing-song, with a most beautiful black eye, which consistently kept me company for three weeks, for paying too much attention to some of the local beauties present.

The temptation, to invite one of the numerous beautiful ladies who adorned this gathering, to have a *swing round*, could not be withstood for long, and when Stocker Sepp played one of those alluring Swiss valse, which by the way, equalled a speed of about 20 miles an hour, I cast my eye on a smiling Appenzellerin, who valse with me for all it was worth, from corner to corner. There was no pardon given, the musicians had made their mind up to show us, what dancing is really meant to be; and I only regret, that those of my friends, who are seeking relief from their rheumatic troubles by taking, turkish, mud and other baths, were not present, a dose of Stocker Sepp's elixir would have done them a world of good.

In order to get some local colour, blouses, scarves and a kind of nightcap (Zipfelmütze) could be hired, and in a fit of rashness I decided to transform myself into a typical country lad, much to the surprise, or was it amusement?, of some of my friends, and the astonishment, putting it mildly, of my good lady; I was rather proud of this transformation, as I was now really and truly a Swiss, and never before did my faithful life companion behold her spouse in such a homely get up. Somebody, it was a lady of course, said, that I now looked really a "Bur", and that it was a pity that she did not have her camera handy. I have since turned over in my mind, whether this was meant as a compliment.

Now I want to rectify a former statement, I wrote in one of the articles announcing this event, that the "Kapelle" would also yoddl, this was wrong, how could musicians, and musicians they are, lower themselves to such an extent, but yoddling we had all the same, little groups were formed here and there, and jolly well they did it, but suddenly my eagle eye spotted Mr. Gattiker from Birmingham, whom I had the pleasure to hear in that town, on the occasion of my last visit to the Swiss Club, and I am glad to say that he yielded to my entreaties to entertain the company with some of his famous yoddles. The applause which greeted him, was proof enough, how everybody enjoyed this unexpected number in the programme.

A Potpourri of well-known Swiss melodies then was played, and everybody heartily joined in, and I had the surprise of my life, when I heard my colleague and collaborator Mr. Boehringer, singing lustily, but much to my shame I must confess, that I am not quite sure, whether he is the owner of a tenor or baritone voice, but I would advise my friends of the Choral Society to get in touch with him forthwith.— Many years ago a french friend of mine, summed up my compatriots as being of a rather rude disposition, I then remonstrated with him, but after last Monday I am not quite so sure, whether after all, my

friend was not right, because one of my neighbours, a rather critical reader of the Swiss Observer would have it, that Mr. B. was trying to blow his tonsils out, which would be a cheaper way to get rid of them, then by relying on the surgical skill of one of our famous Swiss surgeons. *Honi soit qui mal y pense.*

Midnight had long gone, but there was no relaxing, still the band played with the same commendable energy, still the couples valse and *hopped* as they have never *hopped* before. In a moment of respite Stocker Sepp, the sympathetic leader of the band, presented to Mr. Indermaur, a beautiful silver cup, as a memento of their London visit; this delicate attention on the part of the "Kapelle" was greeted with great enthusiasm, and Mr. Indermaur in accepting this splendid present, on behalf of the Club thanked the musicians in a little speech, which clearly showed how very pleased he was to accept this lovely cup. He also extended a hearty welcome to the many visitors, singling out, M. P. Hilfiker, from the Legation, M. G. Marchand, Vice-President of the City Swiss Club, Messrs. Boehringer, Senn and Stauffer. Earlier in the evening, M. Sermier, President of the Union Helvetia, London Section, had introduced the Kapelle, in a very nice speech, and here again, somebody was rude, and it was again a lady, she whispered to me, that it was a speech devoid of comas. Why, o why must we always live up to our reputation?

On writing this report I hear that the "Ländler" Abend was a still greater success, over 200 people being present, and that Mr. Juriens made things, as usual, — hum.

The Union Helvetia Club must be heartily congratulated on their undertaking, which was not without risks of a financial nature, but it clearly proved, that in spite of hard times, our countrymen will patronise an entertainment which is well conducted, efficiently arranged and properly advertised in the S.O. I am told that about 400 visitors were present during the two evenings, a really splendid record.

ST.

#### "STOKER SEPP" BAUERNKAPELLE at the HELVETIA CLUB

COME AND HEAR ALL THEIR RECORDS at the SWISS GRAMOPHONE SALON (NEWMAN'S) 2, LOWER PORCHESTER STREET, EDGWARE ROAD, 3 mins. from Marble Arch. Appro. Parcels can be sent to country addresses.

#### SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY.

The New Season has already commenced. Active Members every Wednesday evening at 8.30 p.m., Juniors at 7 p.m., and Ladies every Friday at 8.30 p.m., all at 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury W. 1. at the Union Helvetia Club. The Society is in want of *new blood* and newcomers as well as beginners will receive every attention and training under expert instructorship. All young Swiss or sons and daughters of Swiss parents born in England are welcome to join. Gymnastic training once a week keeps the doctor away and ensures good health and enjoyment.

The Lists for the VETERANS SECTION will be ready by the end of this week and all gentlemen, wishing to enrol, should not fail to put their names and addresses down as soon as possible. A meeting will be called in a fortnight's time to discuss all details. Here is an opportunity for everybody who no longer can join the active members team, or who is on the wrong side of forty, to indulge in some healthy exercises calculated to keep him in good health on the same lines, as many thousands carry on in Switzerland with such beneficial results.

Students of the Swiss Mercantils Society's Day School are heartily invited to join free of charge during their stay in London as a compliment to our sister societies at home.

Gymnastics in the Winter and athletics in the summer for all, as well as good comradeship!

E.S.B.

#### PERSONAL.

We had the pleasure to be present at the birthday party of M. J. C. Rathgeb, of "Wolverton" Finchley, Church End, N., which took place on Thursday last. M. Rathgeb attained his 87th year, and we conveyed to him the congratulations of our readers.

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