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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

RELIEF FUND

for our

COUNTRYMEN IN SPAIN.

We have much pleasure to acknowledge further donations received:

Dr. A. Schedler, Swiss Consul in Manchester has sent us the splendid sum of £54. 4s. 6d., collected from individual members and Swiss Societies in his Consular District.

The above Fund will be closed very shortly, and we should be glad if would-be subscribers would send us their donations during the next few days.

THANK YOU!

(All subscriptions received will be acknowledged, week by week, in the columns of the Swiss Observer, cheques and P.O.'s should be made out: "Swiss Observer, Relief Fund.")

	£	s.	d.
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FROM THE LEGATION.

M. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, and Mme. Paravicini have just returned to London and the Minister took up his duties again at the Legation on Thursday, October 8th.

We hear that this year he was not able to attend the annual Conference of the Swiss Ministers Plenipotentiaries, which took place in Berne on August 28th and 29th, as he usually does, owing to the fact that he was then in Germany, but he spent a fortnight in Berne during September before going to Scotland for a short time to join Mme. Paravicini.

We are glad to report that Mme. Paravicini has greatly improved in health after her somewhat slow recovery of the past months. She is now looking forward to taking part again in the life and social activities of the Swiss Colony.

During the Minister's absence, the two Counsellors of Legation have acted as *Chargés d'Affaires*: M. de Bourg during the first fortnight until M. de Jenner's return from his estate Capard, Co. Cork, Ireland, and the latter himself from August till October 7th.

SWISS DEFENCE LOAN.

We have been informed that the City Swiss Club, London, has subscribed 25,000 frs. for the Swiss Defence Loan.

We heartily congratulate the City Swiss Club for this fine act of patriotism.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place last Tuesday, at Pagan's, forty members being present.

A suggestion was made by M. A. F. Suter, that an illuminated address should be presented to the King, on the occasion of the coronation; whilst the members agreed in principle with the proposal, the way in which the address should be executed evoked a lively discussion; no definitive decision has been taken.

The meeting also gave a free hand to the Committee to make the necessary arrangements for the forthcoming Banquet (November 27th) at the Grosvenor House.

The Meeting was closed shortly after 10 o'clock.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY BANQUET ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th AT THE TROCADERO RESTAURANT.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the above Banquet which promises to be a very enjoyable gathering.

M. C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, will be in the Chair, and amongst the various guests will be National Councillor, M. Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, General Central Secretary of the S.K.V. in Switzerland.

The Swiss Mercantile Society needs hardly any introduction, during the last few years they have gone from success to success; they have built up an organisation which can claim the admiration of everyone of our compatriots in this hospitable island, and one does not exaggerate, when one speaks of their work and achievements, as of national importance.

It is all the more to be regretted, that so many of the members, especially the older ones, show but little interest in the working of this institution. The Meetings are badly attended, and the same is to be said about the very interesting lectures, given by well-known lecturers. The Society is spending large amounts on procuring first class men to lecture on various subjects of general interest, and their laudable endeavours surely deserve a better reward.

Whatever the justifications are, for not attending the meetings or lectures, there should be none whatever in attending the Annual Banquet of this Society. The various committees, throughout the years have been working hard, and giving their services and work freely, and it is only right that they should get an acknowledgement for their services rendered.

This can best be done by attending their Annual Banquet, by doing so they will feel that their work is appreciated, and that they have still the support of the large masses of the Colony. We feel sure that such a spontaneous support will be greatly appreciated by all those who, throughout the year, are so generously and unselfishly working in the interest of the Society.

Furthermore the coming Annual Banquet is a splendid opportunity to re-unite once again old friends and members, and I would like to make a passionate appeal to some of my one-time co-workers in the Society, to come along and spend a few happy hours amongst the younger elite.

I feel sure that in doing so, they would pass a most enjoyable evening, and old and dear remembrances could be exchanged, old friendships could be cemented and new ones made. I have been informed from competent quarters, that the speech-making will take but little time (the dancing is to start at 9.30) and therefore this excuse for not attending, which is so often used, will not hold good.

Let us hope then, that this event will also register a record attendance, the Society and their leaders fully deserve this support.

They ask you for it, and I feel confident that you are not going to let them down. The invitation to take part in this Annual event is extended to all friends, whether members or not, in the Swiss Colony. Therefore "Auf Wiedersehen" at the Trocadero Restaurant!

ST.

LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

Glorious weather favoured the friendly competition which took place last Sunday on the Bisley Rifle range, between the above team and the Surrey Twenty Rifle Club.

The officials of the Surrey Rifle Club are to be complimented for the perfect arrangements which enabled the contest to be shot off in good time.

The conditions were: 10 a side, 6 best aggregate scores of each team to count; distance 300 yards; three sighting shots and seven to count, first with competitor's own rifle and then with the rifle used by the opposing team at the Continental decimal target and the official N.R.A. 300 yards target with the 15 inch diameter aiming mark and 7½ inch Bull's eye counting five points.

The Continental target was divided into 10 rings, counting from 10 to 1 points. The aiming mark on this target is circular, of just under 2ft. diameter, and looks very big from the firing point. It contains the first five scoring rings.

It is almost impossible to get a possible on this type of target, 94.95 points out of 100 is seldom beaten in competitions on the Continent.

This type of target diminishes the possibilities of ties and it also has an element of luck in it. There are quite a number of riflemen in England who advocate a change to the decimal or Continental target and scoring for Bisley Shooting. Highest possible per man — 210 points, viz., 140 Continental and 70 N.R.A.

Shooting commenced punctually at 10 a.m., continued with animation without a break until 1 p.m., and was resumed after lunch at 2 p.m. with the same enthusiasm. The shooting was carried out in pairs. An Englishman shooting shoulder to shoulder with a Swiss, three targets being provided. Three of our best marksmen went down first with three Surrey crackmen. Dismay crept early into the Swiss camps when it was seen that two of our most constant Riflemen could not just do the right thing at the right moment, whereas our friends seemed to be more at ease with our target than ourselves. It turned out that our first squad were 14 points down when the second squad lined up just to do equally as bad, and so it went on throughout the piece. We did manage to score well with the English Rifle but so did our opponents who almost excelled themselves with ours. In the afternoon, on the English target we held our own but here again our opponents showed their superior marksmanship. As a matter of fact, they took such a fancy to our Rifle as to score more points than with their own. Major A. Talbot-Smith, an expert with open sight shooting managed a possible (35 points) with his own rifle, and not to be outdone, Mr. J. C. Wetter, his partner, repeated the performance with the same rifle. It was, of course, the rifle which did it, not the marksman. Congratulations Mr. Wetter!

The scores were:

Surrey Twenty Rifle Club.

E. C. Patrick, 180; A. H. Vickers, R. S. Hadfield, F. J. Surridge, 176; Major Talbot Smith, 172; R. B. Hodgson, 170; Total 1,050.

London Swiss Rifle Team.

J. C. Wetter, 175; P. Hiltner, 164; E. R. Hirt, 161; J. Hess, 159; F. Suter, 157; A. Schmid, 155; Total 971.

The Swiss Rifle Team presented 3 spoons for the three best results with the English rifle and 3 spoons for the three, best results with the Swiss rifles. The Surrey Twenty Club 2 engraved tankards for the best two aggregates, one to the best Swiss and one to the best Englishman. Here are the winners: English Rifle: F. S. Surridge; Surrey, 94; J. C. Wetter, Swiss, 93; D. F. Cantley, Surrey, 90.

Swiss Rifle: E. C. Patrick, Surrey, 92; R. S. Hadfield, Surrey and W. Fischer Swiss, 88.

E. C. Patrick, Surrey, 180 points; J. C. Wetter, Swiss, 175 points.

In judging the result as far as our men are concerned, several points must be taken into consideration. In the first place, the members of the London Swiss Rifle Team have had very little practice this season, their visits to Bisley being more in the nature of a casual outing. Secondly, the Surrey Twenty Club took the match seriously and selected from their large membership, ten of their best and well-known marksmen, no fewer than eight being Internationals, whereas no such choice was possible to us.

H.S.

THE SYMPHONIC SOCIAL CHOIR.

On Thursday, September 24th, 1936, at the Schweizerbund, a Weinelesefest was held under the auspices of the Symphonic Social Choir.

In the Dance Hall of the Club, Seventeen Lauben were constructed and decorated with Grape Vines, Trellis, etc., and these, with the special lighting effects fitted, gave one, on first entering the Hall, the impression of a sudden transformation to the Rhineland.

As a matter of interest to our readers this is the first occasion during the history of the Swiss Club, which extends back nearly 60 years, a festival of this description has been promoted and it speaks well for the spirit and energy of the Committee and Members of the Symphonic Social Choir that such a thing has come about through their efforts.

During the evening, and between the dances and community singing of Folk Songs, the Choir sang "Wanderlied" and "Rüdesheimer Wein" and these were followed later by a tableau of the Loreley given by some members of the Choir assisted by Mr. Ellenburger, who made a most realistic Father Rhine. The Loreley Song was sung by the Choir during the tableau and the presentation and singing received considerable applause.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

ANNUAL BANQUET and BALL

on

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1936

at the

Trocadero Restaurant

Piccadilly Circus, W.1

In the chair: M. C. R. PARAVICINI, Swiss Minis. er.

RECEPTION	DINNER	DANCING
at 6.15 p.m.	at 6.45 p.m.	9.30 p.m. till midnight

TICKETS at 14/- can be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. Museum 6663). City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595-9596).