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# UNIONE TICINESE

## ANNUAL BANQUET & BALL

at "Pagani's" on Tuesday, March 24th.

Oscar GAMBATI, President.

One Saturday afternoon, but a few weeks ago, a dense fog and a frost bound ground successfully conspired to rob your humble reporter of his favourite sport. On the way home to fireside, armchair and slippers, thoughts of vastly different Saturday afternoons, less than a decade ago, could not be repulsed. Then no 'pea souper' would make its unwelcome appearance and Jack Frost lend but an added attraction. Then, in the land where a free Switzerland was first conceived, such orders as "zum Stoos," "zum Haggengugg," "zum Fronalp," "zum Morschach," would send hundreds of youthful hearts beating a thousand times faster. Swift, garrulous columns would then advance up the mountain side, over sled tracks, the tugging of "bobs," toboggans, affording no hindrance. A short respite at the summit to look on an inspiring, description defying panorama: Nature clad in a soft, supple mantle of snow — in the valleys below the "Nebelmeer" — over all an awesome stillness. Then the exhilarating descent at break-neck speed with here and there an unrehearsed somersault. Indeed, one must be brave to face London winters after Switzerland!

Despite "Swissair's" commendable effort, our Homeland still remains farther from the Empire's Capital than we would want it to be. However, until even faster means of transport are invented, why not attempt to bring Switzerland across the Channel? An incredible proposition, and no one, however foolhardy, would for a moment explore the possibility of removing say idyllic Lake Leman to Hyde Park, or the imperious Jungfrau to Piccadilly Circus; no, not even Locarno to St. James's (with apologies to the political Press). But if it be granted that a country lives in its people the task lies well within our grasp, that is, to us Swiss.

The 62nd Annual Banquet and Ball of the Unione Ticinese at Pagani's Tuesday, March 24th, we may describe as such an attempt; especially if it succeeded in creating the illusion by its atmosphere of cordial informality, vivacity and infectious gaiety, characteristic traits of the Canton Ticino and its Ticinesi.

Over two hundred members and guests attended the successful function. Absent, through Court mourning, our Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini and other members of the Legation. To dine at Pagani's is an experience one fondly remembers: a succulent hors-d'oeuvre, a salmon ever so exquisite, roast lamb followed with a delicate "sorbet au kirsch," an incomparable spring chicken, to end with a delectable "timbale d'ananas Caruso."

After proposing the loyal toasts to the King, and the Swiss Confederation, the President of the Unione Ticinese, Mr. Oscar Gambatti, who was in the chair, extended a warm welcome to the Mayor of the Borough of St. Marylebone, Alderman Styles Allen, and presented a bouquet of pink carnations to the Mayoress, Mrs. Styles Allen, and also one to Mrs. Arturo Meschini.

On rising again, this time to propose the toast of "the Unione Ticinese and the guests," Mr. Gambatti remarked that a sad event still fresh in our memory, the lamented death of his late Majesty, King George V., and the ensuing Court mourning, had prevented our Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, as well as every other member of the Legation, from attending, and he, the speaker, had therefore to shoulder the responsibilities attendant on the chairmanship, along with those of the presidency. He then read to the gathering a telegram of greeting, in Italian, received from Monsieur Paravicini:

"Sono spiacentissimo di non potere partecipare alla riunione annuale della simpatica colonia Ticinese di Londra auguro il massimo successo questa festa e la prego di accettare per lei caro Presidente e tutti presenti i miei sinceri saluti

PARAVICINI.

and said he felt deeply grateful for our Country's representative mark of esteem, but at the same time he could not but feel a little disappointed that "force majeure" had thus robbed him also on his second year as President of the honour of having our Minister at his side to convey to him personally the loyal sentiments of the "Ticinesi" of London. A record attendance, and the many familiar faces spoke eloquently of the ever in-

creasing popularity of the Society and its chief function. All he heartily welcomed and thanked for the continued support. To his Committee colleagues, responsible in no small part for the organization, he owed a debt of gratitude for their valuable collaboration and steady encouragement. His task, he went on, had been made easier for him by Messrs. Monico, his employers, who had also honoured him by their presence, in granting him every facility so that he could carry on his arduous duties. On behalf of the Society he then paid a generous tribute to Mr. Arturo Meschini: Mr. Meschini was not only the Honorary Vice-President, but also the mainstay of the Unione Ticinese; thanks to him an ever increasing measure of success had attended its activities. He could not, Mr. Gambatti added, leave Mr. Willie Notari in the background, as he had been asked to do, for his predecessor in office had lavished on him advice and, what was more, practical assistance. As the saying goes, the relations with the other Swiss Societies continued most cordial: he had great pleasure in welcoming the representatives of:

Société de Secours Mutuals;  
Swiss Benevolent Society;  
City Swiss Club;  
Schweizerbund;  
Swiss Mercantile Society;  
Nouvelle Société Helvétique;  
Swiss Gymnastic Society,

and last, but not least, Mr. A. Stauffer, of the "Swiss Observer," the Colony's "autre Puissance." While he excused himself for having had to impose on the indulgence of his audience, the President concluded, or as he said, cut his speech short (thunderous approval), because he feared that owing to the wealth and variety of likeable topics it would be impossible for him to keep within the allotted time.

And, taking the cue, all the subsequent speakers were models of conciseness, a fact which of itself fills a reporter's heart with jubilation.

The principal toast was responded to by Mr. A. F. Suter, the President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group); he claimed one merit — namely that as a bad cold impaired his voice he presented the dancers with a clear gain of twenty minutes, — and paid one, albeit flattering compliment to his hosts. Mr. Meschini followed with a few well-chosen words of thanks to the chairman, and of appreciation to the Mayor and Mayoress for their friendship. Alderman Styles Allen's sparkling wit kept his complacent hearers roaring with laughter. It was for his Worship an even greater occasion, not only because he had been privileged to be once again amongst the "Ticinesi" he admired and of whom he almost felt he was one by absorption, but also because he was celebrating that very day the thirty-second anniversary of his wedding, and, much to his surprise, the occasion left his consort speechless for the first time in their married life.

Eloquence here retreated and left the field clear to rhythm: waltzes, tangos, fox-trots, played by a lively band, moved restless feet into action. A "Paul Jones" duly offered the longed for opportunity to bashful young maidens and venturesome old fellows.

In a first break in the dance, Mr. Norman Major greatly improved upon our notions of how to make an evening profitable, in the strictest sense of the word, for he could produce with astounding dexterity the contents of the pockets of eight stalwart, doubtless law abiding, citizens he had conveniently busied with a pack of cards, without their having the slightest inkling. The sympathy of his fellow men present, however, went out wholeheartedly to the gentleman whose braces were similarly removed, this despite the huge applause that greeted Mr. Major's "chef d'œuvre."

During another pause, Miss Sonia evoked admiration with a contortionist fan dance. Her litheness of body led one young logic mind to theorise over the supposed affinity between the gentle sex and our feline domestic friends; we are happy to report he was not overheard, that is not by any member of the sex concerned.

Such words as gorgeous, stunning, dazzling, generally herald the appearance on the screen of the most ravishing creatures of two hemispheres; they are nevertheless quite inadequate for even a pale description of the ladies present, in the most "chic" toilettes, who contributed largely to the success of the evening, and not only by their garrulous loquacity. "Me gustó mucho la fiesta de los Ticineses de Londres," remarked the Señora her dark, classic features smiling approval, her glossy hair and twinkling eyes as black as the ebony from her distant Honduras. This far-reaching appreciation we, of course, pass on duly endorsed, to the energetic Entertainment Committee to whom praise is due for the smoothness of the arrangements.

Two surprise items greatly pleased the revelers. They enthusiastically cheered Miss Eva Cattaneo, the "Ticinese" soprano, who sung "One night of Love," and "Come sei bella stassera, Mariù" in her impeccable style; whilst Mr. Gino Berni's robust voice did full justice to the Verdian "La donna è mobile," rendered with passionate gusto.

Dancing in the dark, through intermittent, coloured shafts of light, combined with the subdued performing of the band, the quiet crooning of popular tunes by Mr. Berni had us soaring to unprecedented heights of illusion ... and when the fated hour arrived, we said good-bye and went out into the streets and saw a sky sparkling with stars going around and around ... oho-oo-o!

eusj.

### WITH THE SWISS "SHARP SHOOTERS."

During my Editorship I have been told on various occasions by some "kind" friends of mine, that "I ought to be shot," but I really never could quite make out why I should deserve such a cruel fate. My readers therefore will appreciate with what feelings I accepted an invitation by my old and valued friend Alfred Schmid, to be present at a little informal dinner which he offered to the Swiss Rifle team at the "Glendower Hotel," South Kensington, on Saturday last.

Was this to be the occasion, I turned over in my mind, at which the "execution" could conveniently take place; and when on arriving, I noticed that all the crack shots were present, my heart was filled with evil forebodings.

As it happened, encouraged by the Daily Press, I only the day before, had, in a fit of depression picked up Dicken's immortal "Pickwick Papers" in order to get solace from its priceless humour; and quite by accident, or was it presentiment, struck the page where Pickwick's companions, Winkle and Tupman, together with the illustrious President of the Club, accompanied Mr. Wardle on a shooting expedition.

Those of my readers who are well versed in the escapades of the members of this famous Club will no doubt remember with what great concern Mr. Pickwick watched the careless way in which these Gentlemen carried their guns. —

Would it be possible, I turned over in my mind, that one of the Gentlemen present, would bring along a gun and by sheer "carelessness" would put an end to a "budding" life. But my fears were soon allayed when I saw what a cheerful and happy company had gathered at these hospitable quarters, and long before, I finished my "appetizer," I was convinced that nobody harboured any evil designs on my precious life. I was thus allowed to enjoy in full measure a really excellent dinner, accompanied by some delicious "vintages" and served by a number of charming young ladies.

M. de Bourg, the very popular President of the Swiss Rifle Team expressed his thanks, on behalf of the company to the generous host, Mr. A. Schmid, voicing the wish that the fine spirit, with which the Team has and is still imbued with, would continue and would add new lustre to an already honourable career.

Owing to the social character which this meeting bore, speech making was not encouraged, and after dinner the party split up to friendly

games of cards: the merry laughter which emerged from the various tables, was proof enough that everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Various reports of what happened after the company departed from Glendower Place, have reached me since, but I think I ought to use a certain amount of discretion, considering that in "some quarters" the homecoming early on Sunday morning is still shrouded in mystery. I might perhaps mention, that I saw the President next day (or was it the same day?) at Brighton, and he looked as well as "could be expected."

In short it was a really enjoyable evening and everybody, I am sure, will look back to it with the greatest of pleasure, amongst them, yours

ST.

#### EVENING PROGRAMS OF THE SWISS BROADCASTING STATIONS.

APRIL, 5th—11th.

#### BEROMUNSTER. (Principal items).

SUNDAY, April 5th.

(Swiss Time)

7 p.m. Sportresultate vom Sonntag.  
8 p.m. Palmsontagskonzert, Uebertragung aus der Kirche Oerlikon.  
9.10 p.m. Orchesterkonzert, Radio Orchester.

MONDAY, April 6th.

7.40 p.m. Hilfe für Ausgewanderte, Vortrag von Frl. Leni Cahn.  
8.10 p.m. Lieder v. Berner Komponisten, Berner Liederkrantz.

9.10 p.m. Für die Schweizer im Ausland.

TUESDAY, April 7th.

8 p.m. Unterhaltungskonzert der Stadt Musik Bern.  
9.10 p.m. Bauernschmaus, Begebenheiten aus den steyrischen Bergen.

WEDNESDAY, April 8th.

8 p.m. Basler Leckerli.  
9.10 p.m. Konzert des Reveille-Chors der Basler Liedertafel.

9.55 p.m. Für die Schweizer im Ausland.

THURSDAY, April 9th.

9.10 p.m. Gethsemane und Golgatha, Passionslieder, Gemischte Chor "Tabor" Zürich.

FRIDAY, April 10th.

8 p.m. Karfreitag Musik, Uebertragung aus dem Berner Münster.  
9.25 p.m. Die letzten Tage aus dem Leben Jesu. Passionsspiel v. L. Wyss.

SATURDAY, April 11th.

8.15 p.m. Volkstümliche Stunde der gemischten Jodeltruppe Heimatgesang.  
9.10 p.m. An der schönen blauen Donau.

10.45 p.m. Die Woche im Bundeshaus.

SOTTONS.

SUNDAY, April 5th.

(Swiss Time)

7.45 p.m. Nouvelles sportives.  
8.15 p.m. Grande messe en ut mineur, Mozart.

MONDAY, April 6th.

8 p.m. L'oeuvre intégrale de J. S. Bach.  
8.25 p.m. "Le malade imaginaire" de Molière (Comédie de Genève).

TUESDAY, April 7th.

8.30 p.m. Mariette, comédie musicale d'Oscar Strauss.

WEDNESDAY, April 8th.

8 p.m. Vingt-cinq minutes avec l'orchestre du Moulin Rouge.

8.55 p.m. Concert de musique variée.

10 p.m. Les travaux de la S.D.N. par M. Suès.

THURSDAY, April 9th.

8.10 p.m. Louise, Roman musical de G. Charpentier.

9.30 p.m. La cruelle Passion de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ.

FRIDAY, April 10th.

8 p.m. Concert de musique religieuse pour le Vendredi-Saint.

SATURDAY, April 11th.

8.30 p.m. Concert spirituel.

10.5 p.m. Le Pavé, nouvelle dialoguée de George Sand.

11.45 p.m. Office de minuit. Matines de Pâque et Grand 'Messe.

MONTE CENERI.

SUNDAY, April 5th.

(Swiss Time)

7 p.m. Vita Sportiva.  
8 p.m. Serenate.

8.45 p.m. Concerto Sinfonico, Radioorchestra.

MONDAY, April 6th.

8.55 p.m. Marce Svizzere.

9.10 p.m. Emissione Nazionale per gli Svizzeri all'Estero.

TUESDAY, April 7th.

8.30 p.m. La Passione di Christo.

9.30 p.m. Concerto D'organo.

WEDNESDAY, April 8th.

8 p.m. Il Campo del Sangue, Dramma sacro in 5 scene di Guido Calgari.

9.30 p.m. Musica Religiosa.

THURSDAY, April 9th.

8 p.m. Selezioni d'Opere, Radioorchestra.

9.25 p.m. Concerto variato.

FRIDAY, April 10th.

8 p.m. La Serata dei Desideri.

SATURDAY, April 11th.

8 p.m. Concerto di Musica Sacra.

9.30 p.m. Serata per gli emigranti: Settimana Santa.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

**L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ANNUELLE**  
aura lieu Mardi le 7 Avril au local du Club,  
Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street,  
W.1. et sera précédée d'un dîner à 7h. 15 très  
précises (prix 5/-).

#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.  
Admissions.  
Démissions.  
Rapport du Comité.  
Rapport du Vérificateur des comptes.  
Election du Comité.

Election des Vérificateurs des comptes.  
Election des Fidéi-commissaires du Club  
House Fund.  
Press reporter.  
Réunion d'été.  
Divers.

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).

#### The Twentieth Swiss Industries Fair

will be held at

#### BASLE

April 18th — April 28th, 1936.

for Information apply to:

**THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF  
THE SWISS LEGATION,**  
18, Montagu Place, Bryanston Square, W.1.

or to:

**THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION,**  
99, Gresham Street, E.C.2; or at Basle.

Information regarding Travelling facilities may be obtained from:

**THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS,**  
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#### MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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**SWISS FAMILY** in London requires young Nursery Governess for two children (aged 3 and 5). German-Swiss conversation essential for children. Wages £3 per month. Write Box No. 17, Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, April 7th — City Swiss Club — Annual General Meeting — preceded by Dinner (7.15 sharp) at Pagan's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W. (See Advert.).

Wednesday, April 8th, at 8 o'clock — Swiss Merchantile Society — Monthly Meeting, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Wednesday, April 15th at 7.45 p.m. at "Swiss House," — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting to be followed by a causerie by Oscar E. Wetzel, Esq., on — "The Emigration of Swiss Industries."

Saturday, May 23rd — Swiss Sports — at Herne Hill.

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Dimanche 5 Avril — 11h. — *Jour des Rameaux* — "Voici Il vient" Mal. 3. v. 1. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6h.30. — M. R. Sauty et Service de Communion M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Vendredi Saint — 11h. — Culte spécial et célébration de la Cène. M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Pâques. Communion matin et soir.

Lundi de Pâques : Promenade à Leith Hill. Rendez-vous : 10.15, Platform 3, Waterloo Station. Invitation à chacun.

#### SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Anne Georgens, née Munro, de Lausanne, née le 9 Juin 1875, décédée le 23 Mars 1936 — à Hendon Park le 26 Mars 1936.

#### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

*Palmsonntag* den 5. April 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

*Mittwoch*, den 8. April 1936.

6 Uhr 30 abends. Passionsgottesdienst u. Heiliges Abendmahl.

Gesang des Kirchenchores. Musik von J. S. Bach. *Karfreitag*, den 10. April 1936.

11 Uhr morg., Gottesdienst u. Heilg. Abendmahl.

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