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institutions as the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, for the abolition of the Military Tax, for those abroad, should at last be crowned with success. A revision amounting almost to a repeal of that obsolete institution, justified in principle but unsuitable for just application, especially under present conditions, has been urged upon the Federal Authorities. Let us hope that this be true.

Our country has in the past year participated to a remarkable extent in the economical improvement that has taken place. This was most obvious in the Hotel Industry, which can look back, for the first time since many years on a satisfactory season.

About the world conditions in general, I need say very little. We all know them only too well. Peace, for which the world is crying is further than ever and war is raging in various parts. Democracy is gone in many lands, the power is in the hands of dictators who have established new theories which will allow them to make war whenever they like and the worst is that these new theories are forced systematically and by all possible means upon indifferent and neutral countries. We are watching developments in our country with anxiety and we are asking ourselves: Will Switzerland be able to keep its independence? The answer is: Only when we remain united. Who contributes towards the unity renders the greatest possible service and in this respect the Swiss abroad can help to a great extent.

What about England? All free nations are looking to England for guidance and help. This time she will not disappoint them. Like all other countries England is arming vigorously to restore her old power in order to save the world from collapse.

We can consider ourselves fortunate, to live in a land, where we are still free and unmolested and where we can cultivate and develop our own nationality and can criticize and grumble as if we were at home, the only limitation being the consideration which the guest owes to his host. Are we always sufficiently tactful in this respect? There are those permanent grumblers and those very clever people, who within the first week of their arrival can tell this great country, what there is wrong with it and what it should do. Do these people ever look into other countries and realize how quiet they would be there, and do they know that they endanger our relations with the powerful country, which has always been our best friend? As we are here amongst ourselves I thought it advisable to remind you, that conditions might arise, when any lack of tact in this direction might have serious consequences.

I am, however, glad to state, that the Swiss Club knows what his duty is and that this will always be the case, when we have a President like Mr. Kuebler, who's interest, skill and tact we all admire. I express to him our appreciation and thanks. And now I ask you to rise and to drink the Prosperity of the Swiss Club and the health of the President."

Mr. Bingguely was next called and said:—

"It is indeed a very pleasant duty for me to represent here to-night the City Swiss Club of London. I bring you their patriotic greetings together with our President's regrets not to attend personally. When he found himself unable, through pressure of work, to come to your annual Grütlifeier, and I was the lucky one to be delegated to represent our Club, I can assure you that most members were exceedingly jealous, as your hospitality is now proverbial and everyone knew what a wonderful time you would give us to-night.

Mr. Suter, President of the N.S.H., who, unfortunately, is also prevented from attending, has asked me to represent him, and the N.S.H., and I bring with me their cordial greetings, together with Mr. and Mrs. Suter's sincere regrets at their inability to be present. Mr. Suter has asked me to tell you he attended the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger, at Berne in the Summer, and the Swiss President, Mr. Motta, who was present, declared himself thoroughly satisfied with the enormous attendance which showed that the patriotism of us Swiss abroad was still deeply "rooted in our hearts." Mr. Suter brought back with him the Salut de la Patrie, and I am glad to have this opportunity of passing it on to you on his behalf.

As we were travelling up to your beautiful City to-day, and the mist was beginning to show troublesome signs of interference, I enquired as to whether the fog was bad this way. I was told, however, that I had nothing to fear as it always rains in Manchester. Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not believe that, and I do know for I was here last Monday! and partook of the worst fog you have experienced for years, but I can see a silver lining through the dark clouds shining when I look at the radiant smiling faces of all your charming ladies, and I congratulate you, Friends of Manchester, in having so well surrounded yourselves by permanent rays of sunshine.

What a joy it is to find such a happy gathering of Swiss in Manchester. I see compatriots from all over the Country, and I do hope that most of you will find it possible to honour our own, City Swiss Club Annual Banquet, at Grosvenor House, London, which takes place next Friday.

Whilst these Evenings mean very pleasant hours spent together, they also are very important from a National point of view; they enable us to know each other better, they enable us to help each other, and above all as Herr Dr. Schedler has so well said, they make for that unity of our Compatriots which is so important in the troubled time our World is going through.

Believe me, Compatriots, we all want to meet more frequently, we all want to feel each other's elbows so that by constant co-operation and understanding we may keep the flag of Switzerland flying proudly, and put into practice that wonderful National motto of ours "One for all and all for One."

Allow me now to thank you most sincerely on behalf of my wife and myself for the very warm reception you have given us on the occasion of this our first visit to your Manchester Schweizer Club. You have made us feel so much at home that we already believe we have known you a long time. We shall take away with us the happy memories of a delightful evening, and the assurance of many new sound friendships.

Before I sit down may I just say Do come to see us in London next Friday, and do ask us to visit you again."

Mr. Brun, Mr. Montag and Mr. Hofer brought the cordial greetings of their respective Clubs, and expressed the hope of seeing our Manchester compatriots attend their own yearly banquets.

After an excellent repast, the company adjourned whilst the room was being prepared for dancing, and a most enthusiastic atmosphere prevailed right through to the end.

The only adverse criticism one may have found was that the clock went round far too quickly. As Big Ben struck twelve and the evening drew to a close a great cheer was given to the very popular and never tiring President and his wife. A well "energised" band of compatriots turned themselves into a powerful "Männerchor" to the delight of the audience, singing old favourite Swiss songs and yodels.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

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Friday, December 17th — from 7 p.m. till 2 a.m. — Swiss Mercantile College — Students' Xmas Banquet and Ball, at the Prince's Galleries, Piccadilly.

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8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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