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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

Amongst the numerous Swiss Societies in London is the Swiss Orchestral Society; a Society, it is true, which does not advertise itself much, but every year they give to their supporters and to the Colony at large a concert, just to prove that they are by no means a dormant or extinguished concern.

Apart from this special concert, they are and have been ever ready to take part in the various functions which are held throughout the year in the Colony; I need only mention the "Fête Suisse" at the Westminster Hall, where their performance before a Swiss audience of over a thousand has become the star turn in the programme.

The orchestra has also rendered a helping hand at several functions arranged by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, in short they have ever been ready to lend a helping hand, when their services were required, and by doing so, they have often strained their slender financial resources to the breaking point.

It would be wrong to say that their collaboration has not received due appreciation, as many members of the Colony, have, on various occasions, either privately or publicly expressed their pride that the Swiss Colony, alone amongst all the foreign colonies in this Metropolis, should have such an excellent orchestra.

Although this has been very gratifying to the Society, they would like to see their services honoured in a still more tangible way, either by swelling the ranks of their contributing members, or perhaps even more, by a substantial audience at their Annual Concert.

Unfortunately the Annual Concert during the last few years has suffered from lack of attendance, which is greatly to be regretted, as these performances have reached a remarkably high standard.

This omission, or one might call it by its proper name, viz., lack of interest, should be remedied at once, and I am glad to say that there is a splendid opportunity to do so almost immediately.

The Swiss Orchestral Society, under the leadership of its energetic conductor, Mr. E. P. Dick, is giving their Annual Concert, on Friday, March the 12th, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.

I make a strong appeal to the readers of this paper and their friends, to show the orchestra their appreciation for so many enjoyable hours which they have given us in the past, by attending this concert in great numbers.

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, under whose patronage the concert is taking place, has promised to be present.

The programme is a very varied one and is sure to appeal to the audience. The principal soloist will be Miss Dorothy Davis, violin-cello, who on a previous occasion at Conway Hall, delighted the audience with her fine playing, in addition Mr. Teddy Weil, the youthful Swiss artiste will give a violin solo, and those who heard him play before, will be glad to learn that he is well on the way to become a fully fledged musician of no mean talent.

The Orchestra will be augmented to its usual concert strength of about 30 performers. The programme, as already mentioned, is kept on the light side, and comprises Adam's overture to "Si j'étais Roi," "Invitation à la Valse" by C. M. Weber, the "Gypsy Baron" overture by Joh. Strauss and Delibes' Ballet Suite from "Sylvia" as *pièce de résistance*. It is a programme which studies all tastes.

There is thus no excuse for not booking this evening and to turn up in large numbers on Friday, March 12th, at Conway Hall, I have not the slightest doubt that it will be an evening well spent.

ST.

SHERRY PARTY AT THE LEGATION.

The Swiss Minister, who was supported by his two daughters, Milles, Livia and Jacqueline Paravicini, gave a Sherry party at the Legation on Wednesday, February 24th, to the members of the various teams who are taking part in the World and European Ice Hockey Championship.

Apart from the members of the following teams: Swiss, English, French, German, Czechoslovakian, Rumanian, Polish, Canadian, Hungarian, there were present the Czechoslovak Minister, Monsieur Jan Masaryk, M. P. Vassar Hunter, C.B.E., President of the British Ice Hockey Association and M. J. F. Ahearne, Secretary of the British Ice Hockey Association.

Professor Carl Burckhardt, the newly appointed High Commissioner for Danzig was also amongst the numerous guests.

SWISS EVENING AT PAGANI'S.

It has often been said, and not without justification, that some of the functions held by Swiss Societies in London, are devoid of a homely Swiss atmosphere. I well remember that some years ago, a speech in "Schwizerdütsch" at any Banquet or dinner used to be almost obligatory. For some reason, for which I can find no excuse, this custom has been dispensed with of late, much to the regret of those who still like to hear one of our mother tongues, if only on rare occasions.

The City Swiss Club is to be congratulated upon its initiative in arranging a real homely Swiss evening by having invited the famous "William Tell" Yodel Choir from Berne, which is paying a visit to this country, to be their guests at Paganini's on Tuesday, March 9th.

The invitation is extended to all members of the Colony and I feel sure that it will be a most enjoyable affair.

The Yodlers are looking forward to this evening with great expectations, hoping to spend a few happy hours with their countrymen, this expectation is undoubtedly shared by a large number of London-Swiss.

In order to enable the Committee of the City Swiss Club to make adequate arrangements it is necessary that all those who wish to be present on that evening, should apply as early as possible for tickets which can be had from any members of the committee, or at the offices of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595-9596) Price 6/6 which includes dinner.

ST.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Sixth Ordinary General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society (Limited by Guarantee) was held at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, on Wednesday, February 17th.

About 40 members were present and Mr. A. Steinmann, President of the Society, was in the Chair.

The Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting and the report of the Auditors.

Accounts: Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., elucidated the accounts for the period under review as circulated among the members and these were duly adopted.

Reports: The Chairman then reported on the activities of the S.M.S. during its 48th year of existence.

Whilst the membership had remained almost stationary the Society had left no stone unturned to make the meetings and other functions as interesting as possible and the President exhorted the Members to support him in rallying yet in larger number to the meetings arranged by the Society. A detailed account of meetings, lectures, social functions, sports, etc., was given which showed that the Society could look back upon another year of fruitful activity. The President concluded his report by expressing thanks to the Federal Authorities in Switzerland, the Swiss Legation in London, the Central Secretariat of the association in Zurich as well as the numerous friends and benefactors of the Society for their continued loyal support and he hoped that the Society would be favoured with this patronage in the future as it had been in the past. He finally thanked the Members of the various Committees and the Staff for the work done for the Society.

Mr. W. Meier, Chairman of the Education Committee, presented the report of his Committee. The College, he said, had passed through another year of animated activity and an increase in the number of students attending the College could be recorded. The report went on to give full particulars of attendance, Teaching Staff, curriculum, results of examinations, Holiday Course, Visitors to the College, excursions, lectures, social functions and sports, Old S.M.S. Students' Clubs, etc., etc.

The report clearly showed that the activities of the College are indeed manifold and that the educational advantages and amenities offered are fully up to the high standard the College has set itself.

A new illustrated prospectus was issued containing apart from a general survey of the history, organisation and working of the College a number of photographs showing students at work and at play. A new departure was the Holiday Course which met with success and this new venture will be repeated this summer.

Mr. H. H. Baumann, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, reported on the Evening Classes which despite the restrictions on immigration are still meeting a great need, over 300 students having taken advantage of the educational facilities. The curriculum comprises Language, commercial and shorthand classes and whereas there was a decrease in the number of classes held compared with the previous years the number of students was proportionately higher. The report gave full particulars of classes, attendance, teaching staff, etc.

Finally Mr. J. J. Boos, Chairman of the House Committee, reported on the activities of his Committee. He gave a concise account of the repairs, alterations and renovations effected at Swiss House for the comfort of and as amenities to the Members and Students. The report concluded with a record of the affiliated Societies who have their headquarters at Swiss House and the Society's friendly relations and connexions with the other Swiss Societies.

The reports were thereupon duly adopted and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to those who had so efficiently compiled them.

Elections: The Auditor, Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., was re-appointed auditor of the Society for the financial year 1937.

The Chairman then reported that with the exception of Mr. W. Deutsch, a Member of the Council and Mr. Hardmeier, a Member of the Education Committee, all the retiring members of Committees and the Council had consented to stand for re-election.

He mentioned that despite the efforts made to retain the services of the two resigning members they could not see their way to stand for re-election. The President on behalf of the Society expressed thanks to them for their many years of devoted work for the Society. There being no further nominations the Chairman declared all nominees duly elected.

Mr. A. C. Stahelin proposed a vote of thanks to the Committees and the Council expressing the Society's appreciation for all they had done, often, in trying circumstances. This was seconded by Mr. A. Stauffer and received with hearty applause from the body of the Meeting. The Chairman in the name of the Council and Committees thanked Mr. Stahelin for his words and the Meeting for the vote of thanks to which he added his personal gratification at being re-elected President and at the confidence reposed in him as well as for the loyal support he receives. The proceedings then terminated.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1937.

COUNCIL.

Chairman: Mr. A. Steinmann.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. J. Boos.

9 Members:

Messrs. Ch. Chapuis, G. E. De Brunner (Trustee), O. Grob, E. Hardmeier, G. Jenne, L. W. Krucker, W. Meier, J. J. Pfändler, M. Schneider.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

President: Mr. A. Steinmann.

Vice-President: (Chairman Education Committee): Mr. W. Meier.

Vice-President: (Chairman House Committee): Mr. J. J. Boos.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. M. Schneider.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. O. Grob.

3 Members:

Messrs. R. Chappuis, M. Heilingler, J. Trachsel

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Mr. W. Meier.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. H. H. Baumann.

Messrs. G. Haberstick, M. Rothlisberger, F. Streit, R. Weist.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Mr. J. J. Boos.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Trachsel.

2 Members:

Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico, Mr. P. Mathys.

AUDITOR.

Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A.

PRESS REPORTER.

Mr. W. Burren.

DELEGATE on the ADVISORY BOARD of the EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Ch. Chapuis.

DELEGATES on the SWISS SPORTS COMMITTEE.

Messrs. W. Burren, R. Chappuis, F. von Bergen.

DELEGATE to the N.S.H.

Mr. F. Streit.

The Annual General Meeting was immediately followed by an Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

The Chairman referred to the lecture which will be held at the Monthly Meeting on March 10th when Lord Passfield will address the Society on "What about U.S.S.R.?" The hope was expressed that a large number of members and their friends would attend to hear an expert unravel the mysteries of those vast tracts of land which we can never quite fathom.

The Members' attention was also drawn to a Dance, the last one of the season, to be held at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, Russell Square, W. 1, on Tuesday, March 2nd. Tickets 2/6 each can be obtained from the office (Museum 6693).

Mr. Meier reported on the recent activities of the College and informed the Meeting that the Football Team of the College, on February 13th, defeated the Metropolitan Police (Tottenham Court Road), Cup Semi-Finalists of the North