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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

CITY SWISS CLUB.
Annual General Meeting 1938.
April 12th, at Pagani's.

Once again with the advent of Spring our thoughts turn with Kyburgundian enthusiasm to visions of warmth, of sun, of flowers, of bomb-proof shelters and of the election of a new President and a new Committee for the City Swiss Club. This year, however, we have not come shivering with cold to undertake this formidable task. We have certainly been dry and the number of bottles on the tables at Pagani's Restaurant on Tuesday, April 12th, did their best to make up for the lack of fluid in our gardens. Once again I shall attempt to give you an exact and truthful account of all that was done and of everything that was said at the meeting.

At 7.30 precisely, with the punctuality which always characterises the functions of the City Swiss Club, Mr. Boehringer, our esteemed President, took the chair for the last time.

After dinner, Mr. Boehringer welcomed M. Rezonico and M. de Rham of the Legation, and then called upon Mr. G. Marchand to read the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.

Either Mr. Marchand is losing his voice, or I am becoming deaf as a result of advancing years, or we are both getting old, but I was unable to hear very much of the minutes. I presume they were in order, as, after a few interruptions by excited members of the Left, they were approved and signed by the President as correct.

The balance sheet for the past Session was then presented by the auditors, and in spite of the best endeavours of the Left was declared to be correct and acceptable and was therefore accepted with the usual formalities.

A discussion arose about one of the items which was described as an "adresse illuminée" to which one of our purists took exception and maintained that it should have been "enluminée." Of course, he was right, but this printer's error is interesting as this morning I have looked up the two words in my Larousse and I find that the verb "illuminer" has the following meaning: "Eclairer subitement et vivement — Orner d'illuminations — Rendre la vue à ... — Eclairer l'esprit, l'âme, d'une lumière spirituelle."

I have not seen the "adresse" but if it was adorned with any of the attributes described above it must have been a striking and illuminating document. Perhaps, therefore, enluminée would be the safer and more correct description.

Another member raised the question of the apparent discrepancy in the accounts of a small matter of 14/2, but as the President ignored the interpellation, I presume it was not really important.

After these weighty criticisms had been dealt with, the meeting proceeded to the election of a new President and a new Committee.

Mr. Jobin proposed a vote of thanks to the President, Mr. Boehringer, and Mr. Baume expressed the Club's debt of gratitude to Mr. de Cintra for all he had done for the Club.

It was proposed that Mr. Baume should occupy the Chair during the election, but as Mr. Baume refused this honour with his habitual modesty, Mr. Gattiker was chosen to fill this important office.

It is always a joy to listen to Mr. Gattiker, who has a pleasant sense of humour and manages the difficult task of electing a new Committee with consummate tact. On this occasion he was somewhat subdued, and kept muttering something about Elizabeth and Cromwell, but whether he referred to Thomas or Oliver, I did not discover, and I am not quite sure if he really knew himself.

Mr. Boehringer was asked if he would allow himself to be elected for a third time, but on his refusal, Mr. Louis Chapuis was unanimously elected as President during the Session 1938/39.

A new Committee was then elected as follows:—

President :	L. Chapuis.
Vice-President :	G. Marchand.
Hon. Treasurer :	R. de Cintra.
Hon. Vice-Treasurer :	W. Deutsch.
Hon. Secretary :	H. Binggely.
Hon. Vice-Secretary :	A. Stauffer.
Hon. Librarian :	S. M. Brugisser.

I call it a new Committee, but, of course, it is really the old Committee playing a little game of musical chairs.

The annual cry for new blood arose and I suppose a kind of theoretical blood transfusion supplied the necessary renovation. Of course, this method of forming a new Committee is really satisfactory because nobody knows how to run the Club better than those who are accustomed to do it.

What should we do without Mr. Marchand, although he will no longer be able to read the minutes.

Mr. Louis Chapuis was then installed in his office and made an eloquent and impassioned speech in which he asked for a better attendance at the monthly meetings. He is quite right.

Mr. Gattiker was then elected as a Fidei-Commissaire in the place of the late Mr. C. Barbezat, and "au pis aller" the Press Reporting was again entrusted to

ck.

RE-UNION AND SUPPER
UNION HELVETIA IN "ERE."

The Annual Re-Union Supper and "Sauerkraut-Abend" organised by the Union Helvetic was held on Saturday, March 26th, at 7 p.m., at the Red Bank Restaurant, Dublin.

This event is eagerly awaited by all the Swiss and their friends, and it is sincerely hoped that these gatherings will be continued in the future.

Prior to the dinner a happy atmosphere of gaiety was prevalent, and one could hear the homely "Schwyzerdütsch" everywhere.

The National flags of both countries were conspicuously displayed behind the table of the guest of honour, Dr. C. Benziger and Madame Benziger, Swiss Consul General to Eire.

At 8 o'clock the company sat down to a very "tempting" supper which was prepared by our compatriot, Mr. Baumann; Mr. Hess also a countryman of ours was, as Manager, in charge of the arrangements, everyone greatly appreciated their endeavours. The tables were beautifully decorated in the national colours of our beloved country.

On conclusion of the dinner, the President of the Union Helvetic, Mr. Ch. Oppermann, extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the Society to all the guests, and in particular to the representative of the Confederation, Dr. C. Benziger, and Madame Benziger, "we are greatly honoured" he said, "to have you amongst us to-night." He mentioned that this year's gathering was a most successful one in every respect. "Our aim is to rally all our compatriots together in friendship to establish a closer contact," the President said. He also announced that in future the members will meet every first Wednesday in the month at the Red Bank Restaurant, where Mr. Hess will reserve rooms for these gatherings. On concluding his address, Mr. Oppermann asked Dr. Benziger to propose the toast to Switzerland.

Dr. Benziger received a hearty ovation on rising, he said:

"It is the second time I have had the pleasure to meet you at a "Sauerkraut-Abend" at our dear friend, Mr. Hess' home. I did not know the mysterious faculty of the "Sauerkraut" prepared by Mr. Baumann — but it seems that this "Kabis" produces the same effect as the "Kappeler Milchsuppe" — so good is the moral influence of this excellent meal on the guests. To see compatriots in so bad times so contented and so cordially united is a very comforting feeling for all of us to-day — for the Swiss colony and the speaker."

It is true the Irish atmosphere is to a large extent the same as the Swiss and that is certainly the reason why the Swiss feel so happy here. We need little propaganda from home and none from outside — we remain good Swiss mainly by the good spirit which surrounds us — we come all here in good humour from our daily work — that is the best guarantee for the success of this evening.

You will perhaps ask me, what about Switzerland in this troublesome time? I can, to my regret, not say: All is well. We also have our very great cares — most of them are, thanks be to God, of interior character and can be solved with the good will of the Nation.

I think you are all very satisfied with the Declaration of our Government, which you read during these days in the papers. It is beautiful to feel that our whole Nation is united in matters of external affairs — far from our Country we deeply appreciate this open language to the world and to our friends with the same ideals. Well then, let us prove in the future by our work, that a democracy like ours is really a working régime of liberty.

Nevertheless our Swiss house shows different chinks and we must repair it if we wish an easy life at home. Democracy cannot remain the same all the time, it has to be adapted to the situation in which we live. I often regret that our Government, absorbed in its daily business, does not appeal more to the people and call them to something like our "Sauerkraut-Abend," which would not but have a uniting influence in internal affairs. Every good Swiss, man and woman, must help to build up our house, it demands good work especially to-day. And I am in full earnest in paying here a compliment to our women who,

in these days of mutual assistance, do not spare their fair contribution to the common weal.

As we are all here, I can say, "model families we are of necessity also good patriots. We are all persuaded that in these days there is no political fraction, no race, no force, which will save us — we are all of the one big party united by our love for our Nation. It is a privilege to belong to a small Nation, nowadays particularly, when democracy is not everywhere understood. But to be a good Swiss also signifies to love and esteem the people of other countries. This also if they have not our ideas and as long as they themselves respect our ideas and institutions.

It appears to me more and more that the remains of the celtic blood which run through our veins and of which both, Irish and Swiss, are so proud, give us a special comprehension for democratic ideals — may it bring prosperity to our two countries, when the small Nations can only be strong through living in accordance with their ideals.

Let me express the hope that the "Dublin Sauerkraut-Abend" may be repeated every year and with it an opportunity for fostering these ideals under the same happy and unconstrained circumstances — the real good Swiss spirit will certainly never be missing! Let me also thank those who have taken great trouble to arrange this evening and who have well succeeded — the members of the Union Helvetic — and the numerous guests who have accepted their invitation and are largely contributing to the success of the evening.

I have pleasure in proposing the toast of the Irish Nation and of our sympathetic host Country and also of the Swiss Nation and her courageous Government which protects our beloved motherland with so great a circumspection."

Long applause greeted the oration of the representative of the Confederation.

The toast to "Eire" was proposed by Mr. E. Hess. The respective National Anthems were played after each toast. Mr. Hess also greeted Mr. Joseph of Zurich, who was on a business trip, the latter thanked the Society for the hospitality extended to him whenever he stayed in this country.

A further toast proposed was to the "Charming Ladies of Eire." A "pot-pourri" of well-known Swiss airs was played by the Misses Butler and Smyth, which was greatly appreciated and awakened many happy memories of days spent in "good old Switzerland."

The dance music was provided by Miss Rienan on her accordion, and young and old joined in dancing to these engaging tunes.

Shortly before departing the President thanked the company for having attended this function, hoping that it will remain in their memory for many a long day.

Telegrams which arrived from Birmingham, Arnet and Galway were read out.

The following were present:

Ch. O. E.,

Dr. Benziger and Madame Benziger, Mr. O. Schneider, Mr. Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Oppermann, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Baumann, Mr. and Mrs. E. Gygax, Mr. E. Hess and guest, Mr. J. Anneler and party, Mr. A. Volklin and guest; Mr. E. Charmartin and guest, Mr. and Mrs. Seeds, Mrs. Dellow, Mrs. and Miss Oaks, Miss Lockhard, Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. O'Leary, Mr. and Mrs. F. Waldmeyer, Miss Schlumpf, Mr. and Mrs. Smyth, Miss M. Smyth, Mrs. Brown, Miss S. Charlet, Miss Lötcher, Miss Brägger, Miss Scheiwiller, Mr. E. Hoenh, Misses J. and F. Oppermann, Miss Buttler, Mr. and Mrs. St. O'Connor, Mr. J. Coyle, Miss Buttler, Misses Rinan, Mr. Oelhaufen, Mr. and Mrs. Mägle, Miss Roch, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Brown.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

The Monthly Meeting was held at Swiss House on Wednesday, April 13th. Mr. J. J. Boos, Vice-President, was in the Chair, and a goodly number of members was present.

The Chairman, on opening the proceedings, offered the President's apologies for his absence due to his departure abroad on the morrow.

Three admissions and two resignations were duly dealt with and letters from National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, General Secretary of the S.K.V., and Monsieur W. de Bourg, Counselor of Legation and Consul General in Munich, were read out.

The Meeting, on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, decided that the Society should again be represented at this year's Delegates' Meeting of the S.K.V. at La Chaux-de-Fonds on May 21st and 22nd. The nomination of the Society's delegate was left to the Council.