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Beitrag an unsere Brennstoffversorgung. Es wurden damals aus diesen Vorkommen, teils im Tag- teils im Stollenbau, total 129,692 Tonnen gewonnen, woran Zell-Gondiswil mit 109,692 und Mörschwil und Uznach-Kaltbrunn mit je 13,600 und 6,400 Tonnen beteiligt waren.

Wie bereits erwähnt, sind die Schieferkohlen jungen Alters. Sie liegen zwischen den Ablagerungen der Gletscher der beiden letzten Vereisungszeiten, sind also interglazial, wobei indessen für einige Vorkommen die genaue Abgrenzung ihres Alters noch streitig ist. Bezüglich ihres Verkohlungsgrades nehmen sie eine Mittelsstellung zwischen Torf und Braunkohle ein. Ihr mittlerer Heizwert liegt indessen mit etwa 4000 Kalorien unter demjenigen von gutem Torf und von Braunkohle. Ihr Aschengehalt ist im allgemeinen gering, kann aber, wenn ihnen viel toniges Material beigement ist, beträchtlich steigen. Ein Nachteil ist ihr in grubenfeuchtem Zustande hoher Wassergehalt von 40 — 70%. Durch geeignete Trocknungsmassnahmen kann er aber bis auf 5 — 20% gesenkt werden. Sie eigen sich vorzugsweise zu Hausbrand. Es wurden auch Entgasungs- und Brikettierungsversuche gemacht, wobei sich ergab, dass lufttrockene Schieferkohle etwa gleichviel und gleich gutes Gas wie guter Torf liefert und die Briketts bei 20% Wassergehalt einen Heizwert von 3000 Kalorien erreichten. Die Qualität aschenarmer Kohle kann auch durch Tieftemperaturverkohlung wesentlich verbessert werden; das Verfahren ist jedoch wenig wirtschaftlich.

Heute ist ihr Abbau in Uznach-Kaltbrunn, Mörschwil und Zell-Gondiswil wieder aufgenommen worden und aus diesen Lagerstätten wurden im 2. Halbjahr 1941 rund 23,000 Tonnen gewonnen.

SLEEP'S BLESSINGS.

When all grows still, night's shadows fall,
An angel's wing glides over all,
Beck'ning, as if by unseen hand,
The tired world to slumberland.

How many wrongs during the night
Are cast away and set to right?
How many worried, aching heart
Prays that, with sleep, its grief depart?

The great, the humble, strong and weak
Alike their peace in slumber seek,
To bridge the gulf of daily life,
Forgetting envy, hatred, strife . . .

Pray for the brave, denied their rest,
Who toil and fight for valour's crest,
To free mankind from thraldom's sin
And make this age worth living in.

H.E.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine" at every meal—for Health!

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Tea Party at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W. On Saturday, October 3rd, 1942.

Amongst my notes reverting to the history of the Swiss Colony in London, I came across an entry mentioning that on October 3rd, 1856, a number of Swiss assembled at the Hotel Bucher in order to discuss the foundation of a Swiss Club in London. Two months later, on January 3rd, 1857, the City Swiss Club, then called "Schweizerverein" (changed to City Swiss Club in 1861) held its first meeting.

The tea-party, which was held on the 3rd of this month at the Dorchester Hotel coincided therefore with the 86th birthday anniversary of the Club, and a happy birthday party it was, nearly 350 members and friends assembled to partake of the birthday cake.

The Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame Thurnheer honoured the Club by their presence, there were also present Monsieur and Madame Preiswerk and Monsieur Girardet from the Legation.

Owing to a misunderstanding as to the time of the start of the programme, the latter had to be curtailed to some extent.

A programme played entirely by Swiss artistes was presented; unfortunately two of the artistes, who were referred to on the convocation circular as "eminent" had, at the last minute to cancel their appearance owing to other engagements, thus we were deprived of hearing two really first class acquisitions; both are well-known to B.B.C. listeners, but I am glad to say that the other artistes, one or two being of a tender age, made up successfully for this loss.

Mr. Max Newman, who is a member of the Club, brought his band along, and both he and his colleagues are to be complimented on their efficient performance. Mr. Newman undertook the orchestration of the yodels and Swiss Folk songs for the band, and his labours were very successful as could be judged from the hearty applause with which each rendering was acknowledged.

Shortly before tea was served, M. Louis Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, expressed with a few words, his pleasure of seeing so many members and friends present.

"I am very happy," he said, "to welcome in our midst, the Swiss Minister and Madame Thurnheer, and I am glad to see that Monsieur Thurnheer has completely recovered from his illness." The warm applause which greeted the President's words was a further proof of the popularity of the Minister and Madame Thurnheer.

The first soloist, announced by Mr. Moehr, who acted throughout the concert, very efficiently, as announcer, was Mr. v. Bergen.

He does not come under the category of "youngsters," as he has yodelled himself to fame in the Colony for the last twenty years if not longer. I am sure there were very few present who have not heard him before. Dressed in his "Mälcherchuttli" completed by his by now famous "Chäppli" he sang and yodelled to his hearts content; he might not be a "spring-chicken" anymore, but his voice is still young and so are his songs. Amongst the latter I liked best, "dr Köbu, dr Chrigu u dr Sepp." There is a

saying that "familiarity breads contempt," this can hardly apply to Mr. v. Bergen who can always count on a responsive audience, thanks to his sympathetic voice and pleasant appearance.

He was followed by Mr. Roland Andrea whose age was given as sixteen, which is, I am told by his father, who should know, incorrect, this artiste is only fifteen.

Mr. Andrea, who has chosen the career of a musician, gave an excellent rendering on the pianoforte of Chopin's Nocturne in E minor and Liszt's Consolation No. 6. This artiste has two great assets — youth and talent — and although the road to fame is long and thorny, I am sure he will make a name for himself. I understand that he has appeared on several occasions on B.B.C. programmes both as a pianist and in dramatic performances, having played with the B.B.C. Repertory Company, he shows great promise and versatility. As an *encore* Mr. Andrea played the Golliwog Cakewalk, by Debussy, like a finished technician. It is only fair to mention that a certain harshness which was noticeable in Liszt's Consolation was due to a faulty pedal. May the hearty applause, which his fine playing evoked be a happy omen for greater things to come.

Classic music is not to everybody's taste, and in order to cater for those who enjoy, what is called "Unterhaltungs Musik," the Committee had asked Mr. Marti to play a few tunes on the accordion. He too has performed previously at several of the Swiss functions.

Mr. Marti is, in the sphere of accordion music, a capable artiste, and his lively rendering of old and new melodies was very enjoyable; as his age was not mentioned I must surmise, that he is not to be classed as a child prodigy, and thus will not have to ask his parents whether he is allowed to "play in public," and I hope therefore that we shall have the pleasure of having him again on some future occasions; he can always count on a good reception.

And now we are going back to the youngsters again, the announcement that Rosemary Pfaendler and her brother Raymond would appear on the platform was greeted with warm applause, they too are no strangers to the Colony, I vividly remember Rosemary's playing some four or five years ago the solo cello part in the Adagio from the Concerto in D for orchestra by Haydn, the occasion being the Annual Concert of the Swiss Orchestral Society at Conway Hall. She was then only eight years old, and it is interesting to recall the fact, that she had performed in public since the age of four, and I can do no better than repeat what I wrote on that occasion in this paper:

> "On that programme was mentioned Rosemary Pfaendler, and I am rather in a quandary as to whether I should call her according to musical etiquette, Mlle., Miss or Madame, because neither really meets the case, and I therefore take the risk of calling her simply "Rosemary," hoping that she will forgive my transgression, and in return I am willing to allow her to call me "uncle." —

Well I am glad to say, that both Rosemary and her cello have grown since then, (she used at that time a half-size cello) and I will call her now Mlle., but I sincerely hope that she will not retaliate by calling me "Grandpa" but will consent to let me still be her "uncle" as hitherto.

Mlle. Pfaendler, whose teacher is Mlle. Valezina Frohawk, a pupil of the famous cellist Mme. Suggia, introduced herself to the audience by playing an Aria by Bach, followed by Bourée by Händel and Le Cygne by Saint Saens.

The choice of her programme proves what a capable artiste she is, and she promises to do great credit both to her art and to her country.

That Mlle Pfaendler has a fund of poetic imagination was obvious from her playing of such things as the Cygne by Saint Saens and Bourée by Haendel. The poetry does not all come out yet, owing to a certain youthful reticence, that can in itself amount to a quality in some types of music, but the hearer is aware of its presence, and its possibilities of development.

What is especially attractive in Mlle. Pfaendler's playing is a kind of neat fanciful touch that asserts itself in pieces which are all the better for some emotional detachement, such as Schubert's Ave Maria (played as an encore) and the Aria by Bach. It had tenderness but not a trace of sentimentality, and greater artistes than Mlle. Pfaendler, who have been known to toy prettily with these pieces might have learnt something from her reading of them.

Her brother Raymond proved to be a capable accompanist.

Mr. Andrea, Mlle. Pfaendler and her brother were introduced to and thanked for their creditable performances by the Swiss Minister and Madame Thurnheer.

And so the City Swiss Club has passed another milestone of its honourable history, and I sincerely wish that all those who attended this very successful gathering will again be present when the Club is going to celebrate its centenary.

This very enjoyable tea and birthday party terminated by the playing of the Swiss National Anthem.

ST.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

On Saturday, October 10th, the Society had the great honour and privilege of entertaining as guest and lecturer, Major the Hon. L. H. Cripps, C.B.E., well-known industrialist, shipowner and social reformer. The function took the place of the Annual Banquet, usually held at this time of the year, and coincided with the 54th anniversary of the S.M.S. London Section. It was a happy thought to combine this function with an austerity luncheon at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, prior to the lecture at Swiss House. This enabled the Council and the Committee as well as a number of representatives of the Swiss Colony in London to make the acquaintance of the lecturer and some of his friends and collaborators. Unfortunately the number had to be strictly limited for this luncheon owing to war time restrictions, as otherwise a general invitation would naturally have been extended to all members who might have wished to attend.

Mr. J. J. Boos, President, addressed the members and guests present in the following terms:—