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CITY SWISS CLUB.

"Bierabig."

The Secretary of the City Swiss Club must have had some considerable difficulty in finding a proper name for the gathering which took place at the Dorchester Hotel, on Tuesday, October 5th.

The Committee had decided that on this occasion beer should be the principal beverage to be consumed, and to make it "go down" easier, it should be accompanied with "choucrouste garnie."

He could not possibly have called it "Ein Bierabend" for obvious reasons, nor would "Beer Evening" or "Beery Evening" have sounded well, let alone "Soirée de Bière," so he found a happy solution calling it in good "Schwyzerdütsch" a "Bierabig."

It was a very enjoyable affair, and the 130 members and guests appreciated the change from the customary dinners at Brown's Hotel.

For technical reasons, as the President explained, it was not possible to have the beer barrels brought up to the Banqueting Hall, but the "Jug Departement" worked adequately.

A delicious "Zibelesuppe" or "Böllesuppe" as some of my friends called it, introduced the *Menu*, followed by an excellent "Bärnerplatte." I need not go into details about the fare, it is sufficient to mention that our friend Bartholdi was partly in charge of the catering arrangements, and that needs no further comments.—

On this occasion the City Swiss Club had invited a number of eminent personalities as its guests, amongst them Monsieur Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, unfortunately the latter had, at the last minute, to cancel his attendance, which was a great disappointment both to him and to the members of the Club. The following guests were, however, present: Sir Hanns Vischer, Sir Louis Greig, Sir Angus Gillan, Air Commodore F. Beaumont, Sir Malcolm Eve, Mr. Arnold Lunn, Mr. H. W. Barton, Mr. Ferber, etc., etc.

The President of the City Swiss Club welcomed the guests, expressing his pleasure at seeing so many eminent personalities present, who, in one way or other, have given proof of their friendly feelings towards our country during their distinguished career.

The short address of Mr. Bon, delivered in a humorous vein was greatly enjoyed by the entire company.

Sir Hanns Vischer, whose native town is Basle, replied on behalf of the guests in an excellent speech, during which he recalled some of his experiences in Switzerland in times long past, when he was a school-boy. He said, that the Swiss have every reason to be proud of their country's record, and he for one would always be grateful for the many benefits he had derived from his native land.

The second speaker was Sir Louis Greig, of the British Council, who professed his admiration for our country, which in difficult times, is giving such a splendid example of solidarity and universal help. Both speakers were greatly applauded.

After the business part of the meeting was concluded, the President asked M. Bingguely, Vice-President of the Club, to take the Chair during the social part of the evening. The latter made an appeal to the members and guests present to show their various

talents, and I am glad to say that an improvised programme of a high standard was produced.

Mr. Luterbacher, who, on the occasion of the recent 1st of August celebration made his *début* on the stage as a champion yodler, sang a couple of yodling songs with great success.

Mr. Heimerdinger gave a recitation in French, at a terrific speed; being a Bernese, I had some considerable difficulty in following, but as far as I could gather (I might be wrong) it was all about a "conversation" between the inmates of a poultry yard. The warm applause which greeted him was well deserved, and if at the same time, Mr. Heimerdinger could have produced a few eggs the acknowledgement would have been still greater.

The event of the evening was undoubtedly the very fine playing of our compatriot, Mr. Ferber, who attended the gathering as the guest of the Secretary, Mr. P. Moehr.

Mr. Ferber, who enjoys a considerable reputation as a pianist in our country, played the Nocturne in C minor and Revolutionary Studies by Chopin, as well as two studies by Schubert in a masterful way, and I have no doubt, given an opportunity, he will make a name for himself in the music world of this country. The success his playing evoked was, to use a Yankee expression, "terrific."

M. Renou, who in the past, gave repeatedly proof of his oratorical capability at some of the monthly meetings, when his eloquence was often used to make the Committee of the Club feel "uncomfortable," especially when dealing with matters of the "Renaissance" (or shall I call it *Renouissance*) of the Club, made a very witty speech, and for once he declared himself satisfied with the Committee.

Amongst other things, he suggested to the Swiss Diplomats present, that the diplomatic bag should be made available for transferring some of our excellent vintage wines to this country for the benefit of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. I think this is a splendid idea, but whether the carrier of the diplomatic bag, or our authorities at home agree with M. Renou's suggestion is another matter.

Amidst great applause M. Bingguely announced, that he had succeeded in persuading the President to give a "turn." Mr. A. Bon played a number of "Ländlers" on the piano with much gusto (his fortissimo's were most impressive) thus proving that he is not only an excellent President and Hotelier, but also a good musician.

This ended the programme and everybody left the Dorchester Hotel highly satisfied, having spent an agreeable evening in congenial company.

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