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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

"Grümpelschiesset" Evening.

It is a well-known saying, that skill, sooner or later, will get its reward. This happened on Wednesday, November 29th, when forty members and guests assembled at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, to dine and receive their prizes, won in the "Grümpel Schiessen" competition, which was held on Sunday, October 29th, at the Bisley Shooting range.

Previous to the presentation of prizes, a most excellent and sumptuous dinner was served, but here I am reluctantly obliged to use my discretion with regard to divulging the contents of the *Menu*; all I can say is, that it had no austerity complex, it also proved that Mr. Alfred Schmid, who was in the Chair, is not only a fine shot, but also a first class Hotelier.

After the loyal toasts were given by the Chairman, Mr. A. Schmid warmly greeted the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, expressing to him the appreciation of the members of the Swiss Rifle Association, at his having accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Society; he also extended a hearty welcome to the following guests present: Colonel Ryser, Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation, Major H. C. Patrick, Vice-Chairman of the Surrey Rifle Association and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer."

The President then spoke of the great tradition which lies behind rifle shooting, which is so popular in our country, and expressed the hope, that at the next

Federal Shooting Competition, which will take place at Lausanne in 1954, the Swiss Rifle Association would be in the first rank amongst the competing foreign sections, a result which could only be attained by continuous and unrelenting practice.

The Swiss Minister, thanked the President and the Members for having appointed him as "Président d'Honneur," "an honour," which he said "was greatly appreciated." Monsieur de Torrenté said that he was agreeably surprised to see, that the Association is granting a generous handicap to the less efficient members taking part in the competitions, so that even *he*, might stand a chance of obtaining one day a prize. Amidst laughter he declared, that as a rule, Colonels do not shoot *anymore*. (The Minister held at one time the rank of Colonel of the General Staff in the Swiss army.) On the conclusion of his short address, the Minister was presented with a lovely basket of . . . (I must not say of what.)

Major H. C. Patrick, addressing the gathering, referred to the always friendly and cordial relations which had existed, for a great number of years, between the two associations. He voiced the hope that the two Societies would get together more closely in the near future. "I personally", he said, "am looking forward to many happy and friendly competitions between our two Associations."

Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President, thanked Mr. F. Magnin, Honorary Secretary, and Captain W. H. Hurter, chief range officer, for the services they had rendered. He voiced his deep regret, that the Society will shortly be deprived of the services of Captain Hurter, who is Assistant Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation, owing to an important appointment in Switzerland.

Mr. Magnin, then announced, that he would now proceed with the distribution of the prizes. Underneath the two banners of the Association and other trophies gained in competitions both here and abroad, was exhibited a great display of attractive gifts, such as bottles of Wine, Sherry, Brandy, Whiskey, Champagne, Cigars, Cigarette Lighters, Poultry, Tinned Goods, Ladies' Bags, Cutlery, etc. One member, of the farming profession, presented as a prize, a three weeks old calf, which, however, owing to its "tender age" was not present, which was just as well, as it is rather a cumbersome object to take home, and might even frighten the wife on its arrival past midnight.

Thanks to having been accorded a generous handicap, I was lucky to collect a bottle of Champagne,

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which I shall open on Christmas day, and the toast will be: "Success to The Swiss Rifle Association."

This really fine evening, where good comradeship and a friendly spirit prevailed, came officially to a close about 11 o'clock, but many of the members afterwards indulged in a game of "Yass" until very much past "closing time".

ST.

CATERING AT THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN.

In 1951, when many Swiss will be visiting Great Britain and the focal point of the Festival at the South Bank Site, they will, no doubt, be interested to note that a Firm the founder of whom originated from Switzerland, is the largest Catering Concessionnaire and the principal supplier of bread and cakes to the Festival Ground.

Mr. Charles A. Hagenbach, who originated from Oftringen — Aarburg, Canton of Aargau, and who with his bride from England had a Business in Berne for four years, came and bought a Business in Wakefield in 1903.

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The present Managing Director, Mr. Arnold Hagenbach, who has dual nationality, keeps close ties with the Motherland, and his wife and three daughters have all been inscribed in the Register of Citizens of the Commune of Aarburg.

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The 78th Monthly Meeting of the London Swiss Philatelic Society took place in the large room of "Swiss House", on 24th November last, with a record attendance of 56 Members and Visitors.

The President, Mr. F. SRETT, in welcoming the large gathering which was presently to see the Film Display, expressed his pleasure at the presence of a number of ladies as well as several members from St. Paul's School where he had recently given an address on Swiss stamps, and he introduced Mr. T. W. HONGSON, Governing Director and Publisher of "Stamp Collecting", who had come specially to see the films on the printing of Swiss stamps. It should be recorded that Members of other Philatelic Societies, noticeably the Finchley & District Philatelic Society, were present.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. A. GORTZ, announced the Film Programme which consisted of two films showing the printing of Swiss stamps. These were followed by two coloured films of the Swiss Bernese Oberland in summer and winter, one film being appropriately called "Paradise on Earth." The film display lasted nearly two hours, and judging from the enthusiastic remarks made by many members, it proved to be most popular. In expressing the Society's appreciation to the Swiss National Tourist Office which had made this show possible, the President invited Mr. W. B. HAWORTH to say a few words to wind up the display.

After the departure of the visitors and of those Members who were unable to stay, the official part of the Monthly Meeting commenced and it finished at 9.45 p.m.

E.A.G.

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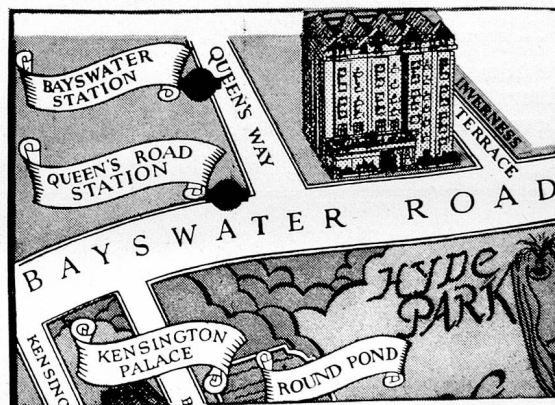
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