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"TICINESE" NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

"Venite, confederati, a celebrare il 1° Agosto da noi! (Come compatriots and celebrate the 1st August with us!) Thus the invitation that went out from the "UNIONE TICINESE" to their Dinner and Dance which followed the official National Day Celebration in the afternoon of Saturday, July 28th. The "Ticinese" knack for initiative is known and, thanks to the Colony's response, the evening was most enjoyable. Perhaps, owing to the heat, one might have wished for cool rusticity rather than the sumptuous surroundings of the Park Lane Dorchester, but if we may be forgiven the pun, when the "Ticinesi" entertain, the only formality is happy informality.

To arrive, to take one's place, to order refreshments and to ask one's partner to a dance to the toe-teasing rhythm of Harry Vardon's band was on this evening the most natural thing to do without any constraint of etiquette.

The family party note was further struck, as the supper was due to begin, by the Swiss Minister entering the ballroom with the President's wife, Mrs. P. De Maria, on his arm, while Mme. de Torrenté was on the President's arm, followed by the other official guests. The procession was momentarily halted by young Gemma De Maria, who with a curtsey and a timid flourish presented a bouquet of red and white carnations to Mme. de Torrenté amidst applause.

We have nothing but praise for the cold meal (except for the hot 'minestra'); perhaps this was due to the chef yielding to whispered words of wisdom from the "Ticinese" Banqueting Manager, Colombi; the whole was generously washed down by Swiss wines amongst which the red 'valaisain' Dôle was conspicuous by its absence.

Undaunted by this omission we sat back for the token speeches: one by the President to greet his guests which included the Chairman and members of the 1st August Committee, and the other by Monsieur Henry de Torrenté extolling the virtues of the people beyond the Eastern end of the Rhone valley.

The official portion of the evening over, it was befitting that the first contribution to the cabaret should come from the Federal Capital, in the persons of the charming Bernese Jodler-duo, Heidi Ammann and Ernst Sommer, who 'jodelled' various request numbers with consummate skill and to unanimous enjoyment. These favourites, whom we had already listened to during the afternoon celebration, were encored, but as they left the platform a thunderous reception proclaimed the appearance of the London

Colony's popular soprano, Miss Eva Cattaneo, after an absence of twelve years. Classical singing cannot but allure with an interpreter of Miss Cattaneo's brilliance, as was amply proved by her competent handling of a difficult aria from "Cavalleria Rusticana". This she followed up with a charming "ninna, nanna" (lullaby) to end with a martial aria "... il cannon fa pum, pum, pum, etc.". We realized once again that the London Colony's loss was Radio Monte Ceneri's gain.

To bring us back to our toes, while the band were still relaxing at their meal, the Swiss Accordeon Club stepped on to the platform to entice us into whirling waltzes, and old time ländler.

A better pen could have done justice to this most pleasant of evenings, and while we apologize for our short-coming, we would say to the organizers, "thank you, and try again!"

J.E.

SWISS CLUB, DUNFERMLINE.

(1st August Celebrations, 1951.)

The compatriots of the North, gathered on Wednesday, 1st August, to celebrate "Our National" Day. Almost every member residing in Dunfermline at present, joined this function. Many of our friends were lucky enough this year to celebrate this great day in our Homeland.

In the absence of Mr. Frick, the participants were welcomed by the Vice-President. He also read the 1st August message from the President of our Confederation, Mr. Ed. von Steiger. His assurances of the desire to keep in close contact with the Swiss abroad, were met with great applause. The good wishes forwarded to us on behalf of the Swiss Government and of the Swiss people, were heartily reciprocated by the speaker. To express our sincere thanks for this message and assuring our people at home that at this moment our thoughts were with them, we all left our seats to sing our National Anthem.

Before starting with the official programme, the Vice-President read the following telegram:—
"WISHING YOU AND THE SWISS CLUB HAPPY FIRST AUGUST CELEBRATIONS — FRICK". We were very pleased indeed to receive this telegram from our President, who is at present with the family on holiday in Switzerland.

Our programme included a shooting competition, card games and putting competition. All the winners were presented with suitable prizes by Mrs. Schoenberger. The music included many Swiss yodelling songs which made us feel at home amongst our dear ones; our snow covered mountains; our lovely green valleys.

Special thanks were accorded to Miss Hunter for the very delicious supper she prepared for us at this function. Her untiring effort is appreciated by all the members. Mr. Weiss, who is of course, responsible for the catering was also thanked for the fine job he did.

The celebrations of the 660th Birthday of our homeland, as a free confederation, came to an end only too soon. The small gathering of approx. 25 members expressed their true Swiss feelings at this gathering and all enjoyed the few hours we were together.

B.

