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ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Xmas Banquet, Ball and Cabaret

on MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1950 at the DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.I.

In the Chair : The Rt. Hon. PHILIP NOEL BAKER, P.C., M.P.

When speaking of the "Entente Cordiale" one invariably has in mind the Entente between this country and France, the instigator of which was the late King Edward the VII; but there has existed an "Entente" between Great Britain and our country, which, although not officially documented, nor of a specifically political nature, dates back several centuries and is, and has been, no less cordial than the one just mentioned.

The two countries, which have much in common, have never met against each other on the battle fields, but Swiss Regiments have fought gallantly side by side with the British in many theatres of war; true enough they have been duly paid for doing so, and the saying : "pas d'argent, pas des Suisses" at one time hardly enhanced our reputation. This, however, is ancient history, and as a mitigating fact it might be said, that whosoever sought the help of our soldiers got their "money's worth."

As time went on, there sprung up between Great Britain and the Helvetic Republic a, what one might call, "Entente de cœur", based on mutual respect for each others institutions, achievements and aims, which rests on a much sounder foundation than mere politi-

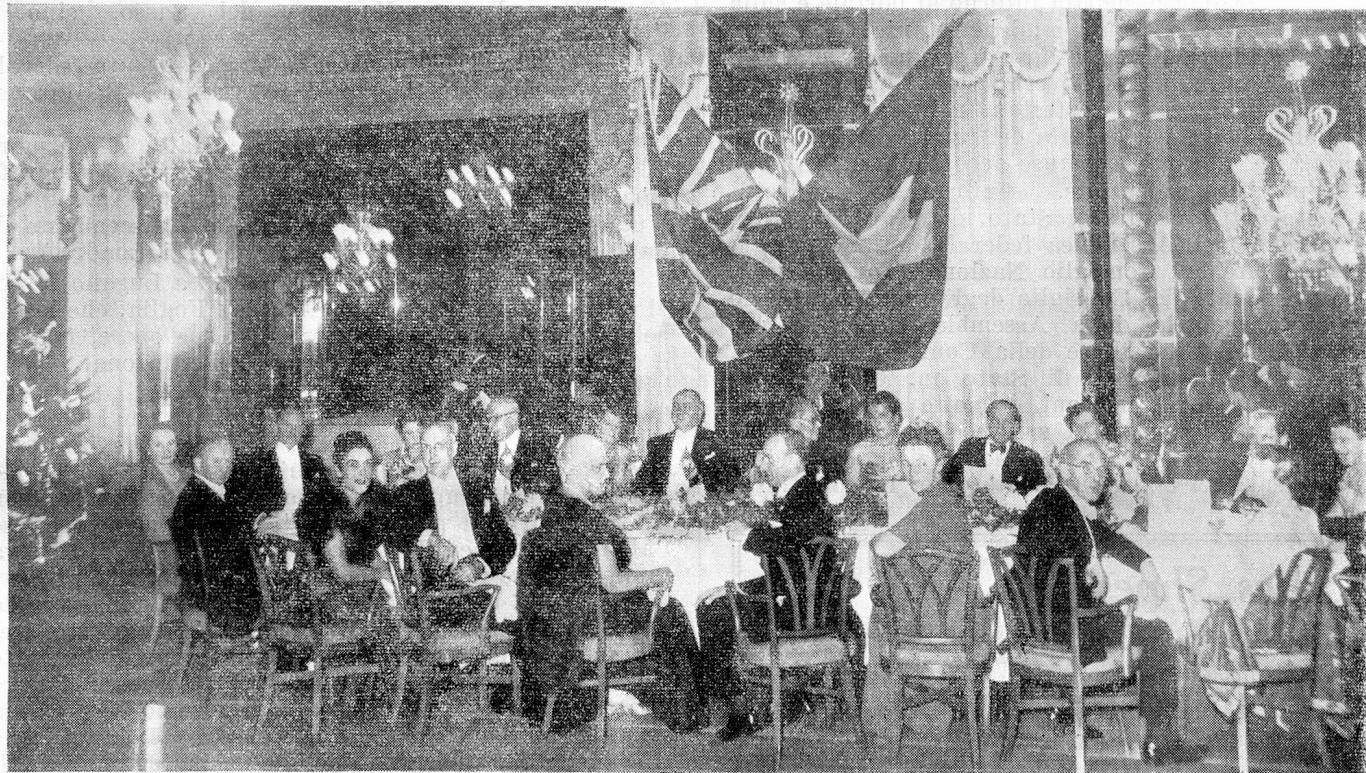
tical treaties, which, as history has taught us, are easily upset.

To fortify and still further improve these relations, the Anglo-Swiss Society was founded some two years ago; the need was felt, that by meeting each other more often in the social sphere, an even closer association could be fostered, and I can say, without any reserve, that the aims of this young, but active Society, have so far, fully justified its existence.

Apart from the social functions, like banquets, luncheons and dances, lectures are given by prominent men of both countries on various subjects and in different spheres which add greatly to a more intimate knowledge of the two countries.

A striking example of this "Entente de cœur" was the Xmas Banquet and Ball, which took place on Monday, December 11th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.I, under the Presidency of the Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, P.C., M.P., a member of H.M.'s Government.

Nearly 300 persons of both nationalities attended this festival which was a most enjoyable and intimate affair. If this evening was a success, it was principally due to the efficient arrangements which were made by



GUEST'S TABLE.

Lt.-Colonel Stuart Townend, O.B.E., M.A., the Director of the Society and his charming wife. There was not the slightest hitch nor one dull moment, the only criticism one could make is, that it did not last longer.

As mentioned in one of my recent reports, Banquets and Balls are much of a muchness nowadays, this Banquet, however, distinguished itself from the purely Swiss functions, by the fact, that, apart from the customary loyal toasts, no speeches were inflicted upon the revellers, not that I would advocate dispensing with speeches altogether, it has been my privilege to listen to many delightful after dinner speeches, but others were less amusing, and not a few were, the least said, trying.

Before the dinner a reception was held by the President of the Society, and the Swiss Minister accompanied by their Ladies, after which the company adjourned to the richly decorated Ball room of the Dorchester.

A huge Xmas tree reminded the company, that the festival of peace and goodwill was on hand, and the various cantonal flags exhibited on the tables added to the "Stimmung."

The dinner too bore a festive character, consisting of roast turkey and Xmas pudding, which are so intimately connected with this time of the year. Excellent vintages from the sun-kissed vineyards of our country were served and thus evoked in many of the company pleasant memories of recent holidays spent in Switzerland.

A festival of this kind would be incomplete without the Ladies, their gay laughter and radiant beauty were one of the features of the evening.

An excellent cabaret was provided for, but the *clou* of the evening was, when a huge cake, depicting the "Matterhorn" was brought in to the music of Mr. Gandon's accordion band. Dancing went on with remarkable perseverance until midnight, when this most successful festival came to a close.

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Amongst the guests of the Society were:— The Swiss Minister and Mme. de Torrenté, Captain and Mrs. T. D. Richardson, Chairman, National Skating Association, Mrs. Philippa Martin, M.S., F.R.C.S., E. K. Martin, M.S., F.R.C.S., Sir Malcolm and Lady Trusram Eve, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., K.C., President Ski Club of Great Britain, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Steel, C.B., President Association of British Members of Swiss Alpine Club, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Keller, Vice-President City Swiss Club, Dr. H. W. and Mrs. Egli, President, N.S.H., Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor, Swiss Observer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Meier, President, S.M.S., Dr. W. Amstuz, Swiss British Society Zurich.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

The traditional Christmas Dinner of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, December 12th, 1950, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, and was attended by about a hundred members and friends.

Mr. R. Dupraz, President of the Club, extended a hearty welcome to all those present and after an excellent dinner, and a few speeches, the Meeting was closed soon after 10 p.m., the President wishing all the members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. (London Group.)

The Meeting of the above Society, which took place on Tuesday, December 19th, 1950, at the Vienna Café, Berkeley Arcade, N.W.1, was not well attended, no doubt, due to the approaching Xmas holidays.

It was a great pity, and all those absent missed a very interesting lecture by Dr. A. R. Lindt, Press Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, who spoke on "His work as Swiss Delegate on the United Nations Children's Fund at Lake Success."

The President, Dr. H. W. Egli, thanked the lecturer for his excellent résumé which was greatly enjoyed by all those present.

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