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UNIONE TICINESE GENERAL MEETING.

For the "Ticinese" people Sunday, February 11th, was election day. Every able-bodied citizen, male, of full-age, will have felt it his duty — and nothing less would be expected of him by his fellows — to don his Sunday best and make for the polling station, and there to make his cross so that the candidates of his party be sent to the Parliament at Bellinzona, the Gran Consiglio, to make just laws, and to form an honest Government, the Consiglio di Stato, in order that the laws are carried out. Whereas an Englishman may be fickle in his party allegiance, not so a "Ticinese". He belongs to the party to which his father belonged and his grandfather before him. Incidentally this year the performance of this democratic duty involved some citizens in feats of endurance owing to the exceptionally heavy snow fall; at Fontana, near Airolo, an immaculate mantle 4.50 metres (15 feet) thick covered the ground!

Some electoral fervour penetrated to the London "Ticinesi" as they foregathered on the same Sunday afternoon at Swiss House, despite incessant rain, for the annual general meeting of the *Unione Ticinese*. Indeed Papa Bossert flattered the Society by cramming so many chairs in the room as would have sat an invasion. Alas, the expectation went unfulfilled.

On opening the proceedings the President, Mr. Carlo Berti, welcomed Dr. Guido Lepori of the Legation, and the Society's honorary Vice-President, Mr. Carlo Meschini, before calling upon those present to rise in remembrance of departed members.

The minutes of the previous meeting, following some marginal comment, were approved, and this was also the case, after some discussion of the re-drafted art. 10 of the Statute.

To the Auditors fell the painful duty to point out how much better the accounts for the past year would have looked if all members had paid up; nevertheless the accounts were adopted after a careful review by youthful Secretary, Ernest Berti.

Mr. Berti senior, evoked surprise when, vacating the chair for the election of the new Committee, he made a plea not to be re-elected adducing the need for rest after a busy 4-year term. Although it was generally felt that the *Unione Ticinese* owed a great deal to his inspiring leadership, the meeting, under the genial guidance of temporary chairman Carlo Meschini, granted Mr. Berti's wish in electing by

acclamation Mr. Peter De Maria to succeed him in the Presidency. Few will quarrel with such a choice for Mr. De Maria has for many years taken an active interest in the life of the London Colony; for 18 years Secretary of the *Unione Ticinese*, and for some years Secretary to the Swiss Sports Committee, and recently conductor of the Corale of the *Unione Ticinese*. The remaining committee posts were filled as follows:

Vice-President: G. Eusebio; Secretary: E. Berti; Asst. Secretary: P. Jacomelli; Treasurer: V. Berti; Collector: V. Ratti; Members: F. Bassi, C. Berti, E. Camozzi, G. Diviani and C. Rosselli.

Further business, such as the question of the annual "festa", the fixing of the rate for sickness benefit and admission of one new member was expeditiously transacted. Among the donations voted by the meeting we shall mention specially one of the London Colony's Fund for Avalanche Victims in Switzerland, to whom as we write have been added "Ticinesi".

A ready ear was lent to Mr. Virgilio Berti's motion for the setting up of a library and reading room.

Towards the close the meeting was addressed by Mr. Lepori who expressed appreciation for the work done by Mr. Berti's team during the past year, while wishing Mr. P. De Maria God speed and good luck in the performance of his responsible task.

J.E.

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