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UNIONE TICINESE.

Tea Dance.

After having attended for the last eight months a large number of Swiss functions of one kind or another, I felt badly in need of a stimulant; this stimulant was happily provided by the Unione Ticinese at their Tea Dance, which took place on Sunday, May 20th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

I can only repeat what I have written on a previous occasion, namely that our Ticinesi are most practical people; whilst other Swiss Societies, whenever they wish to collect money for some charitable purpose, send out circulars, which very few ever read, or send somebody round to relate a tale of woe, our brethren from the sunny south simply ask their members and friends when need arises to take part in a "hop" during which they painlessly extract a few shillings from each pocket without making the giver feel uncomfortable, and strangely enough, well over 500 people flock to these entertainments to be relieved of their money.

What is the secret of the success which accompanies every function of the Ticinesi? It is simply this: firstly they have an unbounded spirit of joviality, there is no stiffness about them, they give themselves without restraint and get a kick out of simple things, secondly they have a deep rooted attachment to their native land, and a sense of responsibility towards their own Society. No slackers are tolerated, everyone has to pull their weight.

Five-hundred and twenty-five people, to be exact, attended last Sunday's function which started soon after 4 p.m. As usual, Harry Vardon and his Band provided very efficiently, if rather a bit too noisily for my liking, the musical fare. They were successful in luring young and old in great numbers on to the dance floor, and oh!, how jolly they looked whirling round and round, it was sheer delight to watch them, and how pretty the Ladies looked, some were rather *décolleté* others "fully dressed", but all smiling and happy as if they did not have a care in the world.

After an excellent and sumptuous tea was served, Mr. P. De Maria, the President of the Unione Ticinese, addressed the company; he voiced his regrets, that the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté were unable to attend owing to another engagement. He warmly greeted the Minister's deputy in the person of M. G.

Lepori, Secretary of Legation, who was accompanied by his charming wife.

The President welcomed the numerous guests wishing them all an enjoyable afternoon and evening, and in conclusion paid a sincere tribute to his predecessor in the Chair, Mr. C. Berti and Mrs. Berti and to the organising committee.

Loud applause greeted the announcement by Mr. De Maria, that Monsieur Lepori would reply to his address.

I have had the privilege, on various occasions, to hear some of our distinguished Ticinesi speak at functions in the Colony, amongst them the late Federal Councillors Dr. G. Motta, Dr. E. Celio and National Councillor A. Pini, they were all orators of distinction, and to this list of famous speakers, I am now happy to add Monsieur Lepori, who, in Italian addressed the gathering.

The speaker brought the Swiss Minister's and Madame de Torrenté's greetings and thanked the members of the Unione Ticinese for the kind reception which they had accorded to his wife and himself.

He expressed his satisfaction at being with his compatriots from his native canton. "A Unione Ticinese gathering", he said, "is not just a meeting of people, but an event which brings the London Ticinesi together in brotherhood and harmonious friendship."

Monsieur Lepori alluded to the recent change of leadership in the Society thanking Mr. C. Berti for the great work he had rendered during the last four years, when he was at the head of the Unione Ticinese,



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and wished the new President, Mr. P. De Maria, the best of luck in his responsible office.

In conclusion, the speaker said, that our mother-land requires all the attachment and love her sons abroad can give it in these trying times. He said: "let our closing thought be, God bless the land we all love so deeply." (*Applause.*)

The Cabaret Show which followed began with Mr. Umberto Allodi's playing on his concert accordion excerpts from the opera "La Traviata", the "William Tell" *ouverture* and a *pot-pourri* of Neopolitan airs. The almost riotous applause which followed Mr. Allodi's performance was fully deserved.

Mr. De Courcy, the well-known conjurer from the Savoy, and a Ticinesi, astounded his audience by his clever card tricks and by making a live canary disappear together with its cage into "thin air."

But the *clou* of the programme was the appearance of the famous "Corale" of the Unione Ticinese; dressed in their picturesque national costumes, they sang very lustily and melodiously those seductive tunes which we all have heard, at one time or another, when visiting our beautiful little canton of Ticino. Mr. P. De Maria, the conductor of this little mixed choir, is to be heartily congratulated on his achievements; it was a fine performance which richly deserved the thunderous applause which was accorded.

Dancing then continued until 10.30 p.m. when everyone left the Dorchester Hotel with the happy feeling of having spent an enjoyable afternoon and evening.

ST.

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FOOTBALL NEWS.

Wales 3 Switzerland 2

Wales avenged the 4-0 defeat in Berne two years ago by winning by three goals to two at Wrexham on the 16th of this month.

With only 20 minutes to go the Welshmen had a three clear goals lead, but two quick scores by Switzerland changed the trend of affairs.

Wales only goal before the interval was scored by Burgess (Spurs), their captain, left half and outstanding player. After fifteen minutes of the second half Ford (Sunderland), scored the second, and five minutes afterwards the third Welsh goal. Within 10 minutes Switzerland had reduced the lead with a nice goal scored by Ballaman; not long afterwards Switzerland scored again, this time it was Antenen who got the ball into the net.

Switzerland gave a perfect lesson in keeping the ball on the ground, rolling it accurately into the open spaces, but when it came to shooting Wales had the pull. Willi Steffen of the Rest of Europe and Chelsea fame was the outstanding player in the Swiss team.

The spectators, numbering 20,000, amongst them the Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté, saw a grand match with good football from both sides, with style of play completely different.

Teams:— WALES: Hughes (Luton Town); Williams, G. (Cardiff City), Sherwood (Cardiff City); Paul (Manchester City), Charles (Leeds United), Burgess (Tottenham, capt.); Griffiths (Leicester City), Kinsey (Norwich City), Ford (Sunderland), Allchurch (Swansea Town), Clarke (Manchester City).

SWITZERLAND: Eich; Steffen, Bocquit; Neury, Lusenti, Quinch; Ballaman, Antenen, Bickel, Von Lanten, Fatton.

Referee: Mr. M. G. Mitchell (Falkirk).



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