

A new target for 1958

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it is still by no means sure whether an agreement on the free-trade area will easily be reached with the six States of the common market.

"Looking back from afar towards our dear home country, it looks to us like a jewel, limpid and with crystal clear lines. Such contrasts and dark spots as there may be found and of which we often hear when we are at home, look to us like so many expressions and shadings of its richly varied aspects. Our people live within narrow boundaries, they know each other and are able to talk to each other. Let us hope that the spirit of the Gruetli, that same spirit which is a constant source of inspiration when you gather each year for your Landsgemeinde at Hardcastle Crags may always be conscious in the minds of our people at home and thus we shall face an unknown future with confidence and without fear."

Loud and long applause greeted the address of the Ambassador.

The next speaker was Mr. Max Buechi, Swiss Consul in Manchester, who paid a sincere tribute to the President on the occasion of his having accomplished 25 years as a member of the committee. He said, "Time and time again I have had an opportunity of working in close association with Mr. Monney, and I have gained a fair idea of the amount of work and time he has put into making the various functions a success, and that he has succeeded in making them just that, no one will contest." (Applause).

The speaker in conclusion referred to the Ladies' Club, which after ten years has now become a section of the Club, saying that by including the ladies the Club has become more vital and jollier.

Mr. Buechi expressed his own and the members' gratitude to Miss Alice Rietmann, who for the last ten years had acted as Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Club, for the long and unselfish service she had rendered.

The Consul's address was much cheered. During a lull in the proceedings, Madame Daeniker presented the Challenge Cup to the winner, Dr. H. R. Bolliger, Vice-President of the Club and a member of the Rifle section. The recipient thanked the members for having honoured him thus, making a strong appeal to the company for more active support of this branch of the Society.

* * *

After a short interval dancing began. The men unfortunately being in the minority many of the attractive ladies had to content themselves by watching their more fortunate sisters, but very gallantly the Ambassador stepped into the breach, as did also a number of "elderly gentlemen".

At midnight this happy party came to a close, and before closing this narrative, I would like to assure my readers residing in the Metropolis that our countrymen in Manchester know how to entertain, know how to make everyone feel at home; their feelings towards their homeland are as warm as ours, and the hospitality which they extended to all who came from outside Manchester proves that they have their hearts in the right place. We can be proud of the Swiss Colony in Manchester.

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On Sunday, following the banquet, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker were the guests of Consul and Mrs. Buechi at their home, which has been acquired by the Swiss Confederation.

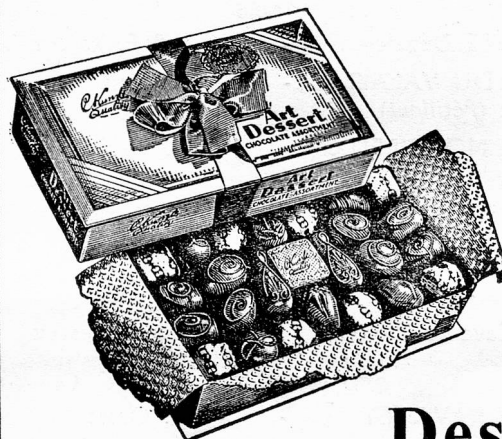
A NEW TARGET FOR 1958.

A meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society took place at Swiss House on Monday, 11th November. The President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, was in the chair. Most of the items on the agenda were connected with routine business. One thing transpired very clearly from the meeting, namely that the Society are still very much in need of financial support. The funds which were so handsomely increased by the generous Sandoz Legacy have, of necessity, dwindled again owing to the purchase of the Hostel for Girls. The reduction in capital due to this commendable investment means, of course, that interest and therefore capital have been severely decreased. On the other hand the 70-odd pensions which the Society pay out regularly are at the moment below the Government proposals for State pensions and must of necessity be raised in the near future. The subscribers to the S.B.S. have for the most part been loyal and generous and it would not be fair to ask them for more money. But one thing they can all do is to find *one new subscriber* each in the next year. This will cost them nothing, but it would more than make good the regrettable steady loss of faithful supporters through death which the Society have had to bear, and it would bring in the much needed funds to increase the pensions adequately.

It is a small thing to ask and requires little effort. The success, however, of such a subscription drive will ease the burden of the Society considerably. So let us all aim at this target and try to reach it. The pleasure will be ours.

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