

Cronaca di Natale

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would not find an attack worth the costs; thus they are very badly informed on what is happening in the world.'

"He warns his successor of the greed of Swiss people. He says that 'the Swiss know only too well how to make money; they take all for themselves and keep a foreign Minister breathless until he is pumped empty; their constitution offers them so many subterfuges and means of procrastination that they will always get away with it.'

"I do not know whether the observations of Sir Patrick or Sir Lionel have been of a similar nature. But that was 200 years ago. I feel sure that historians of the future will find no reference to the stinginess of the Swiss in the reports made by diplomats of to-day.

"As for myself, I am in the happy position to praise unstintedly the hospitality and generosity of this great Nation which our guests represent. The lively sympathies shown to our people have indeed encouraged responsible circles to envisage a Swiss Fortnight in England during the autumn of next year. It will be a comprehensive economic and cultural manifestation putting 'Switzerland on show' and combining arts and other exhibitions, concerts, fashion shows and a charity ball, with a display of Swiss goods in the main business centres of London, Manchester and Glasgow. Here is not the place to say more about these plans yet. When the time comes for them to take concrete shape — this will be before our next annual dinner — I hope that we shall be able to count on the generous support and active help of all members of the colony and that our societies too will co-ordinate their activities in connection with this great manifestation.

"I mentioned already the generous reception and kind feelings offered so largely and openly to our compatriots in this country. Stanyan already mentioned: 'the Switzers learn with great ease the language and put on the manners and fashions of the country where they live; they study them at first to render themselves agreeable and by degrees make them habitual'. But more than such adaptability it is the admiration which we feel for your great Nation, its ideals and its destiny which made this country so greatly attractive to many generations of our compatriots. May I therefore conclude with the words of a Cantata which Albrecht von Haller, whose 250th birthday was widely celebrated here and in Switzerland, has made in 1748 to praise George II, his hero, 'the victor', as he says, in which our Swiss compatriots in this country to-day would readily join:

"Herr, unser Leben hängt an Deinem,
Für uns ist's, wenn wir für Dich flehen.
Oh lass noch lang Dein Beispiel scheinen
Nach dem gerechte Herrscher sehen.
Du dämpfst allein der Zwietracht Feuer,
Du hebst, wen stärker Unrecht fällt.
Oh halt noch lang Europens Steuer
Dein Wohlstand ist das Wohl der Welt.' "

The Ambassador's oration was loudly cheered.

To express thanks, on behalf of the guests, for the Club's hospitality, had been entrusted to Sir Lionel Lamb, a former British Ambassador to Switzerland.

Sir Lionel is, of course, no stranger to the Swiss Colony, having been the guest of the City Swiss Club and the Anglo-Swiss Society on former occasions. The applause which he received when rising was, therefore, particularly cordial.

Amongst the many diplomats who represented H.M. Government in Berne, he was undoubtedly one of the most popular. He knows Switzerland well and has, during some of the most difficult years — when he was *en poste* in the capital of the Confederation — proved to be a great friend of our country.

Sir Lionel is an excellent after-dinner speaker, and in his witty address he related some of his experiences during his long and distinguished career in the diplomatic service of his country; in particular he referred to the period when he was in Berne. Our country possesses in him a sincere friend, and his presence at the banquet was very much appreciated. On resuming his seat he was accorded a hearty ovation.

The last speaker of the evening was Mr. R. de Cintra, a former President of the City Swiss Club, who gave the Toast "La Charité". In moving terms he appealed to the Swiss members present not to forget their brethren who are in need. His appeal found a generous response, over £100 being collected for the Swiss Benevolent Society.

* * *

The official part of the evening thus came to a close, and after a short interval dancing began with an enticing Viennese waltz played by the excellent dance orchestra of Les Brown. Young and old joined in the many dances which followed in quick succession.

Midnight came and passed, and still the dancers carried on allowing themselves no respite. But all good things must come to an end, and shortly before 2. a.m. the band played "Auld Lang Syne", a circle was formed, and the President and his charming lady were ushered into the middle of it, and were accorded three cheers.

This was followed by the rendering of "God Save the Queen", and the 93rd banquet of the City Swiss Club came to a finish. It was a most successful and enjoyable evening, and the committee, who had so efficiently arranged this annual festival truly deserve the thanks of all who were present.

ST.

CRONACA DI NATALE.

Nella notte su martedì, 2 dicembre, approfittando dell'interruzione di corrente sulle linee tranviarie e filoviarie, gli operai dell'Azienda elettrica comunale di Lugano hanno dato inizio alla sospensione delle ghirlande luminose in piazza Manzoni dapprima e in via Luvini-Perseghini in seguito. Si tratta di 250 metri complessivi di festoni illuminati. In seguito, sopra piazza della Riforma è stata tesa la rete di filo invisibile che sostiene i pendenti luminosi.

Il grande albero è stato innalzato nell'angolo della Piazza formato dagli edifici del Credito Svizzero e della Banca dello Stato. Fu tagliato martedì mattina, 2 dicembre, a Cureglia e quindi preceduto da una staffetta della Polizia stradale fu trasportato in città. L'albero è alto 12 metri, ed è tutto decorato a festa.

E' la prima volta che la città di Lugano si è decorata a festa per le Feste di Natale e questa bella iniziativa è dovuta ai generosi contributi dati dai commercianti della città.

Poncione di Vespero.