

Unione Ticinese

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AN AFTERNOON BY THE UPPER RHINE

By an OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

Here in the upper reaches of the great river the name "Father Rhine" would be entirely out of place. The brown, roaring stream which sweeps along between the low foothills of the Black Forest and the last outposts of the Jura is better called Young Rhine, a mighty youngster filled with giant energy. And the engineers and electricians have made it their business to catch the youngster, direct his steps, tame him and make use of him to their own purposes.

Between Schaffhausen and Basle there is room for thirteen power stations—all dependent on the power supplied by the Rhine stream, and it has been estimated that if these were completed a living would be provided for no less than 200,000 people. The figure is a broad guess based on a normal average of dependents for the workers who would be employed. It serves, however, to give some slight idea of the great potential importance of these power works in the future.

It was to visit the power station at Laufenburg that the members of the "Statistische-Volkswirtschaftliche" Society set out from Basle for their annual excursion this year, and the writer had the privilege of accompanying them.

At Laufenburg the management of the power works conducted the whole party round their marvellous turbine rooms and on to the great dam which stems the Rhine and regulates the supply of water for the turbines. Little as the intricate mechanism of the turbines and the details of the network of high tension cables which carry the current to its destination could be understood by many of the laymen present, the general impression of gigantic force was, nevertheless, very striking. The revolution which has been brought about in nearly every economic sphere by the introduction and development of electricity and of the electrical industry is, as everyone knows, a very new phenomena, but it still came as somewhat of a shock to be reminded later in the day, by Mr. Robert Haas, the general manager of the Rheinfelden works, that it was at the Frankfurt Exhibition in 1890 that the first public demonstration was given of the transference of power by cable over a distance. And now there is hardly a village in Switzerland without its electric lighting, its telephone and telegraph, its electric heating and cooking.

The social side of the Society's excursion was arranged with that wealth of detail and breadth of hospitality which are characteristic of such events in Switzerland and never fail to amaze the English visitor. And surely it could only be in Switzerland that a party of serious and energetic business men and their wives, after a visit to the Laufenburg works, a generous "snack" of cold meat and wine at 4 p.m. (enough to finish off the average Englishman), a lecture on the Electrical Industry on the Upper Rhine, a dinner with speeches and singing from a glee party of some of the best singers in Basle, could still, at 10.30 p.m., "pull up" on the way home and adjourn in a body to drink beer and be entertained by one of their number, who sang comic songs to his own accompaniment on a concertina. Your Swiss reader may consider it a good—but not unusual—Saturday afternoon, but your Englishman can only look back on it with gratified amazement.

THE SWISS AT THE HENLEY REGATTA.

Ill-luck seems to accompany any attempt on the part of our compatriots to carry off one of the coveted prizes at the Henley Regatta. The heats for the Silver Goblets were rowed off last Wednesday afternoon; the Swiss boat, after an excellent start and leading for quite two lengths during the first half of the course, was compelled to give up, thus leaving the London competitors to finish alone. The cause was the sudden collapse of Siegentaler, who at seven o'clock in the evening had not recovered from his indisposition.

The race was watched by a fair sprinkling of members from the London Colony, amongst whom were Dr. Rezzonico and Mr. Hilliker, from the Swiss Legation. The surprise and disappointment at the result was general, even on the part of the two English competitors, as it was freely whispered that the Swiss would carry the day. The explanation is, no doubt, to be found in the under-rating, on the part of the Swiss, of the tough proposition they are up against in this country. The Swiss team competed on the Continent on Sunday, and arrived in this country on Monday afternoon; nobody can dispute the fact that they could not be in the pink of condition two days afterwards. Quite apart from the changed atmospheric conditions and the variation in the diet, they had not sufficient opportunity for practice on the Thames and to become intimate with the vagaries of the waters at Henley.

The City Swiss Club is giving a dinner to our Swiss oarsmen, Messrs. A. Reinhard and W. Siegentaler, and their manager, Dr. Albert Riegweg, next Saturday at 7.45 p.m., at Pagani's Restaurant, W.1. A hearty welcome will await them and, we hope, encourage them to repeat their gallant effort on a future occasion.

LA FETE DES FLEURS.

Il est maintenant deux occasions certaines pour tout bon suisse-allemand de se rendre à Genève. La première qui amène surtout des hommes d'affaires et des célibataires...ou encore des hommes mariés en quête d'une courte vacance de famille, est le Salon de l'Automobile et du Cycle. Il y vient, bien des gens qui savent pertinemment qu'ils ne pourront pas de longtemps se payer le luxe d'une voiture. Ils échafaudent des rêves et ce ne sont certes pas les moins assidus!

La seconde occasion est une fête de la famille. On y vient avec Madame et les enfants; c'est même un cadeau que tout ce petit monde réclame à corps et à cris et qui, une année durant, demeure dans les mémoires comme une journée fabuleuse de conte de fées!

Il s'agit de la Fête des Fleurs, qui est maintenant, non plus un événement genevois mais une manifestation helvétique. On n'y rencontre point de délégués officiels, on n'y prononce pas de retentissants discours pleins du subtiles sous-entendus, mais on s'y amuse follement et durant deux après-midis et deux soirées, on retrouve—avec l'esprit genevois en plus—la même atmosphère qui régnait à Bâle au moment du Carnaval: une gaieté débordante et de bon aloi, une fantaisie désordonnée, de charmants jeunes gens et des femmes toutes adorables!...

Or donc Samedi matin débarquaient en gare de Cornavin des trains spéciaux, et bondés de nos amis Confédérés, tandis que la route suisse n'était plus qu'un long cortège d'autos aux plaques inconnues chez nous. De la zone, de France, de Lyon surtout même défilé ininterrompu, qui donna fort à faire à nos aimables douaniers. Un officier ne m'a-t-il pas chuchoté que le nombre de visiteurs dépassa pour les deux jours le chiffre fantastique de 50,000! Ajoutez à cela que la population genevoise qui, d'ordinaire se lasse très...ou trop rapidement de ce qu'on lui offre, goûte tout particulièrement cette manifestation et s'y rend avec enthousiasme.

Messire Le Temps, cependant, fut comme à l'accoutumée, un farceur de la plus belle espèce. Chaque fois que les "Intérêts de Genève," organise une journée, il leur joue la triste espigèlerie de ne pas être de la partie. Cela va tout de même mieux depuis un récent changement de présidence, mais sous le règne d'un grand couturier à la barbiche poivre-et-sel, bien en pointe, il était impossible d'éviter une pluie diluvienne. Depuis sa démission, il fut possible de causer avec le maître des vents et des tempêtes, et le toujours très obligeant Directeur Monsieur Trachsel, obtint de cet inclément Personnage qu'après les plus terribles menaces il se tint tranquille. Nous n'échappâmes pas à la tradition et il pleuvait à torrent samedi entre 1 et 2 heures, puis à la dernière minute les choses s'arrangèrent et la Fête se déroula par un jour agréable.

Lorsque le Quai du Mont-Blanc et le Quai Wilson sont transformés en un jardin romantique, que des arches nombreuses et fleuries, éclairées le soir par des guirlandes électriques, mêlent leur grâce à la nature enchanteresse, vous vous croyez transplantés en une Côte d'azur qui certes vaut la véritable.

Et le public, un moment découragé, reprend bientôt la direction du quai. Voici les autorités qui gagnent la Tribune officielle. Comme les élections récentes ont changé bien des figures, "on" se les montre du doigt et papa donne à son fils une nouvelle leçon de civisme. Tandis que dans les chars, sur les trottoirs, on met la dernière main aux fleurs jolies, nous sommes inondés par des flots d'harmonie. De tous les côtés les fanfares sont massées qui égrenent les airs les plus entraînants. Et voici enfin le corso. Derrière la Musique des petits Ondins en costumes de marins d'eau douce c'est d'abord les enfants, les tout petits enfants. Et j'avous bien franchement que c'est toujours pour moi le plus beau moment de la manifestation. Voir s'avancer sous ces petites robes légères, dans un amas de fleurs fraîches, cette candeur et cette naïveté! Un bébé qui trottoine, de petites fées, des Amours, de minuscules japonaises, partout un bon sourire, tandis que les parents suivent fiers et enchantés! Puis les trottoirnettes les bicyclettes, les groupes à pied, enfin les atteleages et les voitures automobiles. Dès lors le public trépigne. "Le Rouet" objet chéri de la Reine Berthe, est devenu entre les mains de Madame Salzmann, un chat couvert de lys immaculés et splendides. Un "Paon" merveilleux dont les ailes s'étendent loin au-dessus des spectateurs admiratifs, passe avec noblesse; enfin cet remarquable "Retour de Corrida" montre autour d'un char lourd d'andalouses jolies et fleuries, des picadors de fort belle allure. Et c'est bientôt la bataille de confettis; c'est tout un peuple en liesse; c'est la joie sur tous les visages; c'est la Fête des fleurs pour 1927!...

Un reverberé du Quai.

UNIONE TICINESE.

PASSEGGIATA ANNUALE.

Il tempo era veramente ideale, non poteva essere migliore: una completa gloria di acqua e vento e nubi! Ma immusonito come era il cielo

i gitanti invece erano in perfetta allegria, animati da quel nostro spirito latino che sa scuotere ogni più nera melanconia, quando in compagnia.

Partimmo dunque con un totale eclisse di sole ma dai nostri animi non era eclissata dama allegria.

Alle dieci precise (come il Comitato organizzatore, l'Unione Ticinese, in caratteri cubitali aveva stampato sui biglietti) ci trovammo riuniti innanzi alla sede della Società. Eravamo quasi una sessantina di ticinesi...a spasso!—intendiamoci questa frase va usata nel suo vero senso, non metaforicamente!

Due comode e grandi auto-vetture ci aspettavano. Eravamo così bene accomodati dentro tanto che non ci accorgevamo che Giove Pluvio stava mandandoci le sue benedizioni dall'alto!

E si partì: lasciando dietro di noi non solo le noie della vita a gli "interni affanni" ma anche Londra con le sue vie movimentate, la sua vita febbrile. Andavamo verso la campagna, all'aria libera, verso Epping Forest che era la nostra meta e una delle più belle foreste nelle vicinanze della metropoli. Un paio di orette chiusi nelle auto, mentre queste attraversavano vaste praterie, ombrosi e folti boschi, mentre filavano su vie strette di campagna, sentieri più altro. E noi cantavamo, scherzavamo, così proprio come tanti scolaretti in vacanza. Ed eravamo infatti scolaretti: la nostra maestra essendo la spensieratezza.

Quando verso le dodici arrivammo al King's Oak Hotel, High Beech, il tempo, vedendo che noi da veri ticinesi e quindi da "bravi soldaa" lo avevamo sidato tanto coraggiosamente, cambiò di partito e così, adagio adagio, non troppo apertamente ma abbastanza visibilmente, il sole si mise a fare capolino tra le nubi. Naturalmente noi non desiderando spaventarlo ci tenemmo zitti zitti ma però in cuor nostro lo ringraziammo ben sinceramente. Così pottemmo girare per quella selva che se proprio non era "oscura" era però deliziosa: l'erba emanando quel suo particolare buon odore di fresco, formava un soffice tappeto verde trapunto qua e là da fiorellini gialli, azzurri, bianchi. Le rose selvatiche, le ricche felci, i gorgheggi festosi degli uccelletti nascosti fra i rami, tutto era in perfetta armonia per accrescere la nostra felicità.

Mi ritornarono alle mente le parole di Gozzi:

"O selve amiche, o spiaggia solitaria
Della mente e del cor pace e tesoro,
In cui l'ombra a vicenda e l'aperl'aria
Son della vita natural ristoro..."

La spiaggia veramente non c'era, ma lagggiù in lontananza, una distesa pianura che si confondeva con il cielo e leggermente velata dalla nebbia, poteva benissimo dare l'illusione dell'esistenza di un lago—Lago Maggiore—come noi lo battezzammo, perchè in quei momenti il pensiero nostro era volato al Ticino lontano e così senza volerlo fare apositamente, tutti quanti pensavamo ad altre pianure, ad altri boschi, ad altri fiorellini!

L'ora sentimentale passata, si dovette pur ritornare anche un po' prosaici. C'era una certa parte del nostro corpo che reclamava forte i suoi diritti...All'albergo, in una vasta sala ben decorata, trovammo tavola bandita. E pranzammo con vero appetito, gustando quei buoni manicaretti che sembravano i migliori che avessimo mai provato! Non era quest'occasione propizia per i discorsi, ma il Presidente dell'Unione Ticinese, Sig. W. Notari, con poche ma ben appropriate parole volle ringraziare il Sig. Marchand, del City Swiss Club, che molto gentilmente volle onorarci con la sua presenza, nonostante il fatto che era ritornato a Londra, dall'estero, soltanto la sera antecedente, e che non meno gentilmente aveva portato diversi graziosi oggetti da venir distribuiti quali premii ai vincitori delle gare che si sarebbero tenute durante il pomeriggio, all'aperto.

Però il tempo, volendo forse smentire che solo la donna "è mobile" e pur appartenendo al sesso maschile, aveva mutato "d'accento e di pensiero" e una pioggerella fina fina veniva giù, senza badare ai nostri rimbroterti. Così, noi, sempre per far dispetto a messer lo sole, ci misimo a ballare...La nostra Società era proprio stata previdente in tutto e aveva fatto venire anche l'orchestra. E allora messer lo sole, per far dispetto a noi, vedendo che ci divertivamo un mondo ballando, si fece ancora vivo e splendente nella sua piena gloria! Naturalmente le danze vennero sospese e ci unimmo tutti sul vastissimo prato, dietro all'albergo, preparandoci per le gare. Ci furono le corse con l'uovo (fatto di gesso questo peronò non desideravamo fare troppe frittate, tanto più che avevamo già così ben pranzato!), le corse a tre gambe, le corse con le patate (anche queste fatte di gomma!) ed intercalate a capitomboli...graziosi, ed a gustose risate! Ed i vincitori di queste gare si portarono via artistici premii, tra i quali scattolette per cipria in legno eseguite dagli allievi della Scuola d'Arte di Ginevra.

Si giocava a rimpiattino con il tempo: due gocce di pioggia e si ritornava in sala a ballare. Il sole ritornava a brillare si correva fuori a saltare, a fare "un po' i matti" insomma! E a quanto pare questo decise completamente il titubante pianeta, perchè continuò a regalarci i suoi raggi sino a sera inoltrata. Non dovevamo dimenticare d'accennare anche che verso le cinque ci sedemmo di nuovo a tavola per gustare un eccellente thé.

Si ritornò, sempre nelle auto-vetture, verso le otto di sera. Ma non direttamente per Londra. Il Presidente nostro ebbe un'idea altamente apprezzata da tutti quanti e ci fece fare un giro in quei dintorni, per poter così lasciarsi ammirare e godere quelle regioni.

E si cantava sempre! Tutto il repertorio delle canzoni popolari ticinesi prima, poi di quelle italiane ed inglesi...ma si ritornava sempre alle ticinesi!

Era opzione generale che l'Unione Ticinese ci aveva fatto passare una giornata indimenticabile e a tutti rincresceva sommarmente il dover ritornare alla vita febbrile quotidiana.

E siccome in questo mio articolo usai tutta la punteggiatura tranne il punto interrogativo, finirò adoperando questo...Unione Ticinese quando ancora una di queste tue feste tanto apprezzate e sempre così ben riuscite? ELENA LUNGH, I.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Miss Ruth Matter, Aargau: "International Horse Show." Miss Isa Giger, Goutenschwil: "The Land of St. Francis." Mr. E. Hunziker, Winterthur: "London." Mr. Paul E. Hug, Bienne: "Idealism." Miss Leny Stähelin, Zurich: "Nature." Miss Irma Gantenbein, Küssnacht (Zch.): "A Description of Constantinople." Miss Jeanne Faas, Zurich: "Girls and Boys of Nowadays." Mr. H. Schrepfer, Zurich: "Egoism." Mr. E. Honegger, Horgen: "Something about my Country." Mr. Fritz Bächtel, Zurich: "Hamburg: Town and Port." Mr. W. Bauer, Zurich: "Along the Thames." Mr. H. Schrepfer, Zurich: "Electric Temperature Measures." Miss Jean Faas, Zurich: "Visits to Places in London." Mr. E. Honegger, Horgen: "Electricity and the Household." Miss Brigitte Koelliker, Bienne: "English Life; Swiss Life."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Is a Religion absolutely necessary to the intelligence of men?" Proposer, Mr. Otto Tillmanns, Zurich; Opposer, Mr. Otto Boesiger, Langenthal.

"Are the laws of nature in conformity with the principles of Socialism?" Proposer, Mr. C. Karrer, Aesch (Basle); Opposer, Mr. A. Wirz, Schöffland.

"Does the British character appeal to you?" Proposer, Mr. Paul Schindler, Zurich; Opposer, Mr. Albert Attinger, Zurich.

On Friday evening a conference was given by the Headmaster, Mr. O. Ph. Masterman-Smith, on "British Constitutional Government at Home and in the Dominions." The attendance numbered nearly 200.

THE FOYER SUISSE.

The annual meeting of the Trust was held at 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1 on Monday, the 21st June, 1927, under the chairmanship of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini. The agenda consisted of the ordinary statutory business of the Company, i.e., Financial Report, Secretary's Report, Election of Council of Management. The accounts for the financial year 1926-27 were presented by Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.L.A.A., and questions on the subject being fully answered, were duly accepted.

The following gentlemen were again elected to manage the affairs of the Trust for the coming year: Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, President; G. Hafner, Vice-President; H. Barth, Hon. Treasurer; C. Bertschinger, Hon. Secretary; F. G. Sommer; H. Joss; J. Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon was also re-elected as auditor for the same period. The Hon. Secretary's report, printed below, was read and unanimously approved and accepted.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,—I have to-day the pleasure of putting before you the 9th Annual Report of the Company and the 4th year of the full actual operation of the Trust as registered at Somerset House on the 10th December, 1917.

After the strenuous pioneering work of the first three years we have D.M. reached a somewhat quieter period during the past twelve months. This has happily enabled some of us to test our positions and reflect on the correctness of our earlier outlines and visions. The result of this exercise has been most clear and unmistakable, and the Foyer Suisse as it stands to-day is the answer to a great need of our fellow countrymen. We are doing work of great public utility, and the continued financial prosperity is the natural reward due to all efficient, honest and unselfish efforts.

The Council has met four times during the year to receive the report of the House Committee and discuss and manage the current business.

Another £500 has been spent during last Autumn in order to complete the two basement rooms in Nos. 14 and 15, Upper Bedford Place. The first is reserved for the Scout Troop of the Union Chrétienne, and the other is the new public restaurant and tea room.

Some 450 young men of Swiss nationality have,

during the past year, made use of the domiciliary services of the Foyer, which again is a splendid proof of the popularity of the institution.

The splendid growth of the social activities, which was the chief feature of our previous report, has fortunately been maintained during the winter season. A general programme of social events was again published by the Secretary, and all the numerous groups which make use of the premises can report a normal year's work. As usual the Réunion de jeunes filles, Schwyzerchränzli, Réunion de couture des Dames, Nähverein, Ecole du Dimanche de l'Eglise Suisse and the Réunion de Catéchumènes have all had accommodation free of charge.

The Swiss Y.M.C.A., Union Chrét. de langue française and the Swiss Choral Society have all used our premises, as hitherto.

Contributions to other institutions in cash amount to £140, while the services rendered in reduction of rent, rates, taxes and provisions of lighting, heating, cleaning, etc., amount to at least £300 per annum.

Unfortunately we have to record through death the loss of a member, the late Mr. G. Aguet, who has rendered the Trust very valuable services. The faithful services rendered by our manager, Mr. W. Meyer, and his untiring devotion to duty, night and day, and seven days per week, as well as that of his staff, deserve the fullest appreciation and thanks of the Trust.

Special thanks are also due to Mr. F. Ineichen, who continues to assist in an honorary capacity, also to Mr. M. Goodman, our Solicitor, and Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.J.S., F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., our Accountant.

C. BERTSCHINGER, Hon. Sec.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Swiss Benevolent Society inform us that the appeals published in our paper have borne fruit. They have received up to date the following gifts: Writing table, carpet, aluminium kettle, enamelled bowl, brushes, soap dish, ash tray. They express their sincerest thanks to the generous donors. They are still in great need of some tables (folding for preference), some chairs, one typewriting table, one clock, two paper baskets, a large letter box. Any such gift would be gratefully received at 34, Fitzroy Square.

PUBLICATIONS

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Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 5 JUILLET au Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. Cette assemblée sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h. précises (7/6 par couvert) et suivie d'une danse.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C. 2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2
(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 3 Juillet, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme: "Il y avait encore du bon et juda." 2 Chron. xii, 12.—Ste. Cène.
6.30.—Service de Ste. Cène.

N.B.—La "Garden Party" de Jeudi, 7, au presbytere, est supprimée pour cause de maladie.

BAPTEMES.

Marie Louise HOCH, née le 30 Oct., '22, et Fanny Jeanne HOCH, née le 3 Aout, '24, filles d'Ernest Louis et de Louise née Nussbaum, de Bale-Ville—le 19 Juin, '27.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mounview 1798).
Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, den 3. Juli 1927.—11 Uhr vorm: Predigt

BEERDIGUNG.

Walter GUGELMANN von Attiswil (Bern), geboren 23. Okt. 1889—gestorben am 23. Juni 1927. Ab-dankung in der Eglise Suisse und im Hendon Cemetery am 28. Juni.

Die Abendgottesdienste finden erst wieder im kommenden September statt.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 Uhr in der Kirche. Mittwoch, 3—5 Uhr, im Foyer Suisse. Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc., an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4. Telefon Chiswick 4156.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, July 2nd, at 7.45.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Dinner given to the Swiss Competitors at the Henley Regatta. At Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland St., W.1.

Tuesday, July 5th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

Thursday, July 7th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS: Delegates' Meeting at 74, Charlotte St., W.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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