

Swiss Choral Society

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being distorted—we shall not permit any further humiliation. We Ticinesi do not want to become the chamber-maids of a tyrannical régime, even if, by chance, there should happen to be some invertebrates who are willing to do so.

“Already on other occasions we have been used to express our opinions without wrapping them in tissue paper, we have clearly and frankly expressed our disgust at the tactics followed by the Federal Council towards the Fascist Government as a procedure which brings our national dignity into disrepute and tramples our sentiments underfoot. Now, more than ever, we feel the need of manning our entrenchments, before it is too late. We await, however, the result of the trial with quiet nerves and full of hope that Swiss democracy will be spared the shame of further humiliations.”

Although the outspokenness, of which the above is a sample, is more typical of the radical and socialist press, is a sample, even the responsible clerical-conservative papers, like the “Popolo e Libertà” are unanimous in regretting the exaggeration brought about by the Federal Council and are not above criticising their ex-Council.

O.B.

WINTER TRAIN SERVICES.

ENGLAND—BERNESE OBERLAND—VALAIS.

During the Winter Season 1930/31, i.e., during the months of December and January a Twice Weekly Sleeping Car Service will be instituted between Calais—Laon—Belfort—Delle—Berne—Lötschberg—Brigue—Zermatt and back to Boulogne.

Calais dep. every Tuesday and Friday as from 19th Dec. till 30th Jan., and on Dec. 20th, 22nd, 24th and 27th.

Brigue dep. every Wednesday and Saturday as from 20th Dec. till 31st Jan. and on Dec. 21st, 23rd, 25th and 28th.

The times are:—

London	dep. 16.00	Zermatt	dep. 12.30	16.15*
Calais-Mar.		Stalden	dep. 13.54	17.44*
Boulogne-Mar.	dep. 20.15	Brigue	arr. 14.30	18.20*
Belfort	dep. 6.01	Brigue	dep. 19.52	
Delle	dep. 7.46	Kandersteg	dep. 20.42	
Berne	arr. 10.32	Frutigen		
Spiez	arr. 11.30	(Adelboden)	dep. 21.04	
Reichenbach (Kiental)	arr. 12.10	Reichenbach (Kiental)		
Frutigen		Spiez	dep. 21.55	
(Adelboden)	arr. 12.15	Berne	dep. 22.49	
Kandersteg	arr. 12.37	Delle	dep. 1.12	
Brigue	arr. 13.20	Belfort	arr. 1.23	
Brigue	dep. 13.40	Calais-Mar.		
Stalden	arr. 14.40	Boulogne-Mar.	arr. 11.11	
Zermatt	arr. 16.00	London	arr. 15.30	

*From January 1st until January 31st.

On the section Calais-Spiez and Brigue-Boulogne this sleeping-car will go by the scheduled trains. On the section Spiez-Brigue a special fast train will run on the days of arrival of this sleeping-car, thus making up the connection with the Brigue-Zermatt line. The same train will take the ordinary 1st and 2nd class carriage Calais-Kandersteg-Boulogne as far as and from Brigue, so that apart from the sleeping-car there will be available for the journey to and from Zermatt a 1st and 2nd class through carriage going to and from Brigue.

WINTER SPORTS TICKETS ON THE SWISS RAILWAYS.

Again this winter most of the Swiss transport companies will issue sports tickets from November 15th till March 30th. The single fare also being valid for the return journey. These tickets are issued to any applicant and they entitle the holder to the journey out on Saturdays and Sundays and to the return journey on Sundays and Mondays by noon (12 o'clock). A prospectus is now being prepared giving all the winter sports stations to which sports tickets are issued and telling the reader about the issue of these tickets on the Christmas and New Years festival days. It will be sent free of charge to places abroad by the commercial department of the Swiss Federal Railways or the Swiss National Tourist Office at Zurich.

(Details of other special Winter Services will be published in next week's issue of the “Swiss Observer.”)

Sens Pratique.

L'électricien vient de terminer la pose de ses fils; le contact est établi. Il n'y a plus qu'à unir. Mais diable! où est le pôle positif, où le négatif?

“Hé Charley.”

L'apprenti accourt.

“Mets ton doigt là!... Bon... Tu ne sens rien?”

“Rien fait Charley.”

“Alors ça va, mais surtout, ne touche pas l'autre, fil! Tu serais foudroyé!”

“Est-ce vrai, qu'hier soir, vous avez traité ce gentleman de vieil idiot?” demanda d'un air indigné le commissaire d'une petite ville d'Angleterre, au prévenu arrêté pour tapage nocturne.

“Je ne me rappelle pas, monsieur, mais plus je le regarde, plus cela me semble possible,” répondit poliment le prévenu.

Doings in Our Colony.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY. ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

“Wo man singt da lass dich fröhlich nieder, Böse Menschen haben keine Lieder.”

These were almost the last parting words my father, who was himself an enthusiastic singer, gave me on my way, more than twenty years ago, when leaving the paternal home, to seek fortune in foreign lands.

The truth of these words has never before struck me so vividly as last Friday at the splendid gathering of the Swiss Choral Society, which took place at the First Avenue Hotel. Looking around I could see nothing but happy, smiling faces; forgotten were worries and troubles, everyone came there to pass a few care-free hours and to pay tribute to a Society which has on so many occasions gladdened our hearts with their beautiful songs, and has thus kept in us an evergreen memory of our beloved homeland.

It must have been very gratifying to the energetic President and his hard-working committee to see such a numerous array of guests and friends, as well over 200 people sat down to a most sumptuous dinner. I feel almost tempted to give the full contents of the menu, but space and a kindly feeling towards those who were not able to be present, prevents me from doing so; all I will say is, that it was a “princely” feast and I do not think that even this week's Lord Mayor's Banquet could have beaten it. But can we wonder, when we hear that our good friend, Mr. A. Indermaur, as Chef de Cuisine, was in command, and well did he deserve the praise bestowed on him.

The company present included, apart from the members and many friends of the Society and their ladies, Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg, Chargé d'Affaires, representing our Minister, who, owing to absence from this country, was prevented from being amongst us, and representatives of all Societies and Clubs of the Colony, namely:

City Swiss Club: Mr. & Mrs. Chapuis; Swiss Mercantile Society: Mr. & Mrs. Paschoud; Société de Secours Mutuels: Mr. F. Forrer; Union Ticinese: Mr. Braga and Mr. Lucca; Nonvèle Société Helvétique: Mr. J. Hansemann; Swiss Rifle Association: Mr. H. Sem; *Swiss Observer*: Mr. & Mrs. A. Stauffer; Union Helvética: Mr. Sermier and Mr. E. Kunzler; Swiss Club (Schweizerbund): Mr. J. Christen and Mr. H. Humbel; Swiss Orchestral Society: Mr. & Mrs. Pellet; Swiss Gymnastic Society: Mr. A. Grammer; Société Culinaires: Mr. & Mrs. Juriens; as well as the Rev. C. T. and Mrs. Hahn, Doctor Egli, Mr. E. A. Seymour and Mr. Siegel of the West London Male Choir.

Having had the privilege to take part as a guest, I cannot help but to allude to the great generosity with which the S.C.S. treated its special “invités,” even to champagne, liqueurs, cigarettes and cigars, nothing was forgotten, and the ladies who adorned this festival were presented, by the charming little daughter of the President, with pretty embroidered handkerchiefs, behind which they could hide their blushes for having received such a thoughtful special attention.

The tables were beautifully arranged with lovely flowers and adorned with artistic menu cards, which contained, apart from the menu, a list of toasts.

The speeches were of a passable length and were preceded by the customary toasts for the King and our homeland, proposed by Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg.

Mr. F. Conrad, President of the S.C.S., addressed the company in the following words:

On behalf of the Swiss Choral Society I extend to you a most hearty welcome to tonight's Function.

Owing to his being in Switzerland we are deprived of the pleasure of having the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paravicini amongst us.

But we are very glad indeed to welcome Monsieur de Sonnenberg and I want to express my sincere thanks to Monsieur de Sonnenberg for the spontaneous way he has accepted our invitation to be present to-night.

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DALCROZE EURHYTHMICS

The CHRISTMAS VACATION COURSE will be held DECEMBER 29th, 1930 to JANUARY 3rd, 1931 inclusive, at the London School of Dalcroze Eurhythmics, under the direction of Miss ETHEL DRIVER, L.R.A.M., Dalcroze Diploma, assisted by Miss CONSTANCE HOOK, L.R.A.M., Dalcroze Diploma and Miss HEATHER GELL, Dalcroze Certificate. Classes for Beginners and Non-beginners. Prospectus from The Dalcroze School, 29, Store Street, London, W.C.1 (Tel: Museum 2294).

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ADVERTISE in the “SWISS OBSERVER”

During the last 12 months we have lost our Conductor, Mr. Meyrowitz, who has joined the Carl Rosa Opera Company for a tour of the British Colonies. However; we were lucky in securing the services of Mr. Seymour and I feel sure that the Choir will continue to flourish under his very able leadership.

As you are all aware this is the first term of my being president of the Swiss Choral Society and I need hardly assure you that it was with considerable anxiety that I took on this responsible task. I take the opportunity to emphasise the good foundation laid down by my predecessor, Mr. Bommer, and we must thank him for his work and devotion on behalf of the Choir. I myself want to express my best thanks to all the members and friends for the generous support they have given me since I have been President of the Choir.

During the past year we have been invited to help various sister societies and have sung at the Fête Swiss, Bundesfeier, at the lecture given by Professor Dr. Schroeter, and have been further invited to sing at the dinner given to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, at the Café Monaco, on the occasion of his completing ten years of excellent work for our country at the Court of St. James.

To-night's gathering is a good omen for the interest taken by the Swiss Colony and their numerous friends in our activities and, therefore, consoles me when I have to state how sorry I was that the Annual Concert last April was rather poorly attended. But as I feel sure that you all know the amount of time and effort put into the preparation for this concert, I think I am right in asking you to do your best and give us a full house next time. The members of the Society do take things seriously and will put up a very good show indeed. The Choir consists to-day of 33 active members, a number not large enough for a colony like ours, I therefore take the liberty to appeal to the good ladies to encourage their husbands to join us and to the gentlemen I will say, please listen to the good advice of your better-halves and to be obedient for once, even if it is the first and last time in your life, in so doing you are helping yourself and the Colony in general.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Swiss Choral Society wishes you all to be merry and happy to-night, and carry out that good old saying of our homeland:

“Wo man singt da lass dich fröhlich nieder,
Böse Menschen haben keine Lieder.”

Or in other words: Where there is joyfulness there shall be no discord, but friendship shall prevail.

Therefore, to you, Monsieur de Sonnenberg, to you Ladies and Gentlemen, I once more extend our welcome and sincerely hope that you will all enjoy this evening.

In conclusion I address myself to the members of the Choir and want to appeal to them to be loyal to their singing, the spirit of harmony and team work, which are so well expressed in the following Saengerspruch:

Freunde in die Reih'n! gruesset heut die
Saenger Rund Lied und Freundschaft
sollen weihen zu der Stunde neu dem
Bund.
Saenger unsrem Lied, heut aufs neu, Unsre
Treu.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.

Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg then rose expressing his thanks to the President and Committee for having given him an opportunity to be present as the personal representative of the Minister. He mentioned that Monsieur Paravicini would have liked very much to be present but owing to his being kept in Switzerland, he was unavoidably prevented from addressing the gathering to-night. He was not going to try to sing, he said, as diplomats were on the whole very bad singers, and he could hardly imagine a choir of diplomats singing in appreciable harmony together. He assured the S.C.S. that the Legation has done and would do its utmost to encourage them in their commendable efforts, and he made it a special point to pay the Society a high tribute for the unselfish and patriotic way in which they have, on numerous occasions, supported other Swiss Societies. He closed his address by asking the guests to drink to the prosperity of the S.C.S., a toast which was responded to with great enthusiasm.

Mr. J. Gerber thereupon, on behalf of the S.C.S., extended a special greeting to the invited guests, he said:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time has come again when the Swiss Choral Society—the nightingales of the Swiss colony in London—fling open the portals to welcome their distinguished guests and friends to their Annual Banquet and Ball.

You must excuse me if, in consequence of having been asked to propose the toast of Our Guests, I exaggerate in my own mind my feeling of personal importance but, looking over this vast gathering, I cannot help a feeling of

great pride for our Society, and I am sure that each member present shares this feeling with me.

Our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, being at present in Switzerland, where the snow has already fallen deep down the mountain sides, Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires de Sonnenberg has very kindly consented to take the Chair to-night. Mr. de Sonnenberg, I wish to thank you, on behalf of the Committee and the Choir, very sincerely for honouring us with your presence this evening. It is the first time that we have had the pleasure of welcoming you at one of our functions. The side of our activities to which you are introduced to-night is, of course, not the only or more important one. There are other qualities in this choir of ours concerning which, however, my natural modesty does not allow me to speak, but I trust that, in the course of time, you will become acquainted with them too.

As regards to-night's function, I sincerely hope that you will spend a very enjoyable time with us and that this gathering will be for you one of the pleasant memories of the social life of our colony in general, and the Swiss Choral Society in particular.

The Choral Society is always ready with a full and open heart to help and give support wherever it is wanted, and appreciates, on the other hand, with deep gratitude all expressions of friendship and good will which it receives from the other societies, and the Colony as a whole.

And as all good things are three, the next speech was dedicated to the “Ladies” and the spokesman who had to fulfil this delicate task was Mr. A. Wyss, Hon. Member of the S.C.S. He assured the fair ladies present how much pleasure it had given him to welcome them on behalf of the S.C.S. and mentioned that he went that morning for a walk into Regent's Park to get an inspiration for to-night's speech, and there he saw a canary-bird in the Zoo. He asked if she was a lady and being answered in the affirmative he told her that he was seeking for sweet and honeyed words about the ladies. The canary-bird then told him many nice things which he would try to remember now.

After-dinner stories have become quite a regular feature now, and the speaker regaled us with the following one as regards the difference between a lady and a diplomat:

If a diplomat says “yes,” he means “perhaps”
If he says “perhaps” he means “no”
If he says “no,” he is no diplomat.

If a lady says “no” she means “perhaps”
If she says “perhaps” she means “yes”
If she says “yes” she is no lady.

He closed his witty address with a toast to the fairest of the fair which found a hearty response.

The last toast was the reply “For the Guests” and Mr. C. Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, spoke as follows:

When I expressed to your President my intention of being present at this Banquet, he insisted that I should respond to the toast of “The Guests.” How could I refuse the request of such a charming person? I suppose that you are like me, “a puppet under his magical influence!”

However, I feel rather like the nervous bridegroom who, on being told at the wedding breakfast that he would have to reply to the toast of the “Bride and Bridegroom,” rose and, looking at his wife, said “This thing has been thrust upon me.”

Now, I need hardly say that we guests are very, very happy to be here to-night; your hospitality has been such that, I cannot help recalling the old English proverb, which runs, “After supper walk a mile”—after such a Banquet, our medical advisors would recommend us to walk twelve miles.

Mr. President, and members of the Swiss Choral Society, we think of what the Swiss Colony in London owes to your society. We think of your ever ready help at all our patriotic gatherings; permit me here to tender heartfelt thanks on behalf of all London Swiss, for your infallible support and invaluable co-operation.

You have won your place in our hearts with your songs. Your songs bring back to us memories—memories I would not sell for untold gold—memories of our beloved Switzerland, memories of our forefathers who have

cheerfully given their lives so that we may be free of bondage. Memories of the woods, green alps and blue lakes, foaming waterfalls and laughing brooklets, wonderful and delicate wild flowers, rocky peaks piercing the blue of heaven, snowy domes kissed by the rising sun. Memories of all that is dear to us, our parents, who are peacefully enjoying eternal rest.

“Breathes there a man with a heart so cold, who could not love such a land.”

On this note, I will conclude, and on behalf of the visitors will thank Mr. John Gerber, the proposer of this toast, and you for the manner in which you have received it, and also for the splendid welcome extended to us this evening.

I raise my glass, and will ask my fellow guests, to drink with me to the further successes and prosperity of the Swiss Choral Society.

All the speeches received well-merited applause. The Banqueting room was then cleared and dancing followed until 2 a.m. During the evening the Choir rendered two songs, entitled: “Teure Heimat” and “Zieh mit” which were sung with great feeling and the thunderous applause was enough proof of how much the company appreciated their splendid effort.

This truly enjoyable and happy evening will linger for a long time in the memory of those who had the good luck of being present. The Swiss Choral Society can be proud of its success and all the good wishes of the colony will accompany them on their further journeying.

Loaded with unforgettable impressions and all the good things which a generous host had so kindly provided I said valet to these hospitable “dwellings” with an immense longing to fly home “on wings of song,” but alas, the “Southern” took me back, and that is enough said. Sr.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Une cinquantaine de membres se sont réunis chez Pagani le 4 novembre pour la réunion mensuelle. L'enthousiasme est tel qu'un membre, paraît-il, est arrivé de la Suisse à 7 heures du soir et s'est précipité immédiatement au Club. En effet, nous revenons aux beaux jours. Après les santés d'usage, le Président avec son éloquence habituelle, a souhaité le bienvenu à Mr. le Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme et à Monsieur le Pasteur Hahn.

Ensuite, on a repris la discussion sempiternelle au sujet du Banquet et cette question ayant été liquidée tout au moins à la satisfaction des orateurs, nous pourrions parler d'autre chose jusqu'à l'année prochaine lorsque nous recommencerons de plus belle. L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, le Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme nous fait une causerie sur l'histoire de l'Eglise suisse à Londres.

Ayant examiné les archives du Consistoire, il nous dit que la première mention d'une église suisse date de 1722, lorsque plusieurs suisses ont présenté une pétition au Roi Georges Ier qui leur accorda un terrain près de Charing Cross pour y bâtir une église. Ce projet n'ayant pas abouti faute de fonds, ce n'est que vers 1762 que l'on a pu réussir à construire une église. Enfin le premier service a eu lieu le 26 avril, 1762 et l'année suivante on a commencé à accorder des soins aux indigents et on a fondé l'oeuvre, qui est aujourd'hui le fonds de secours suisses.

La fin du 18e siècle et le commencement du 19e siècle est une période très intéressante. Prise dans le tourbillon européen, la Suisse connaît les mauvais jours et en 1793, faute de Représentant officiel, c'est le Consistoire qui délègue les laissez-passer aux Nationaux suisses pour les permettre de voyager.

Après la chute de l'Empire c'est encore le Consistoire qui intervient auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères en Angleterre, Lord Bathurst, en faveur des malheureux suisses qui avaient été englobés dans les armées de Napoléon et qui gisaient misérablement dans les geôles britanniques. Il a eu gain de cause et les citoyens suisses furent en conséquence libérés.

Les années passent et en 1854 le bâtiment actuel à Endell Street est construit.

Je ne peux donner qu'une esquisse de l'admirable causerie du Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme, causerie très goûtée par ses auditeurs.

A la fin de la soirée, nous avons appris une triste nouvelle. Le grand Fribourgeois nous quitte. Il nous manquera car il est un des membres les plus populaires et il sera regretté par tout le monde et surtout par la gauche dont il était une étoile. ck.

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

The 74th Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club will be held on Friday, the 28th November, at the May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Street, W. (see announcements).

An innovation will be made this year by having separate tables which, after dinner is over, will all be re-arranged round the Ballroom, so that each party will be able to occupy the same table and be sure of suitable accommodation throughout the evening.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

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