

Chansons en images

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

July 5th, 1932.

As I write this article, the sun is shining and we are experiencing a spell of real summer weather, but on Tuesday last the sun refused to shine and I was unable to enjoy the gardens at the Brent Bridge Hotel which help to make the summer meetings of the City Swiss Club so successful.

I was obliged to fall back on the Riviera-like decorations of the dining room and imagine that we were basking in the sunshine of the electric lights, and admiring the blue of the sea upon the walls. Kyburg alone could do justice to the scene and give an adequate description thereof.

Over fifty members and guests were present, and although the attendance was not so good as in June, I can assure those who stayed away, that they missed a very pleasant evening.

The dinner was excellent. Mr. Brent Bridge had surpassed himself and I almost felt as if Mr. Pagani would have to look to his laurels. After dinner the usual numbers were distributed among the ladies and the fortunate winner was presented with a magnificent box of chocolates made entirely in England by the famous Swiss firm Kohler, thus providing an example of that well-known saying, British Best and Swiss Supreme.

The President's speech was a pattern of brevity, and after the tables had been removed we gave ourselves up to the delights of dancing. I am informed that the Orchestra on this occasion was above reproach, and although I am unfortunately one of those to whom music is a mystery, to my untutored ear the musicians seemed to be inspired with energy and the services of one of our most eminent members, who, I understand, came to the rescue on a previous occasion, were not required. I think the music must have been satisfactory, because I noticed that one of our best dancers, who is usually inclined to be critical, was dancing with much grace and energy.

Mr. Chapuis was kind enough to act as M.C. and when he does so, we are sure that things will go with a swing, and so they did after a Paul Jones and a Polonaise had helped matters along. In spite of the rain, the ladies' frocks reminded us that summer was with us at last, and I noticed one delightful creation made of material which I am informed was of real Swiss manufacture. (I mention this fact just to remind readers that I have not abandoned my pretensions to be a dress critic.)

One young lady had brought a Yo Yo with her and although I am unable to perform on this exasperating instrument, I thought it my duty to obtain the opinions of those present on the subject of Yo Yo manipulation for the benefit of the readers of the Swiss Observer. As you all know, this paper endeavours to be thoroughly up to date, and to keep its readers informed as to everything of interest which occurs and now that Kyburg so rarely acts as mentor, I have to do the best I can.

Mr. ST. said — Well, his remarks were not suitable for this paper, and I do not want to get into any more trouble. I do not know what his grievance is, but he did not appear to be an enthusiast.

Mrs. C. said she loved it. Mr. B. said that after due consideration of the efforts required, he preferred dancing as being less strenuous and requiring less skill. I imagine this opinion was inspired by the efforts made by ck to make the beastly thing work. Mr. W. said that he thought Yo Yo was an excellent form of esthetic exercise, etc., etc., but as I cannot read his remarks which I took down on the back of a menu card, I am afraid his opinion will be lost to posterity unless he can remember what he did say and will write to the Editor.

One of my friends who cannot use a Yo Yo, but thinks he can drive a car, was telling me that a few days previously, he had been trying to enter the wrong end of a one-way street, when he was stopped by a policeman. In reply to his protestations of innocence the officer informed him "that if he was able to drive a car, he was supposed to be able to read." I believe my friend completely collapsed. I can sympathise with him, because I nearly got into trouble myself last week, and when I tried the innocent ignorance plea, I found myself being threatened with a summons and so thought it more discreet to subside. I shall have to give up driving and try to learn to use a Yo Yo, but perhaps I should only get into trouble of another kind.

I am sorry that we are not going to have a meeting at Hendon next month, but I suppose members will be thinking about holidays soon, and I can only wish them good luck and better weather than last year.

ck.

1st of August celebration of the SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

at Hendon.

We are informed by the Committee of the Swiss Rifle Association, that this year again, they are holding the 1st of August celebration at their Shooting Range at Hendon.

In taking this laudable decision they have no doubt been encouraged by last year's great success, and it is hoped, many of our compatriots, who wish to keep this day as a remembrance day of our country, will meet at Hendon.

The Committee of the Swiss Rifle Association is extending a hearty invitation to the whole Swiss Colony to spend our next "Bundestag" at their Range.

We hear that efforts will be made, though on modest and *al fresco* lines, to offer some measure of enjoyment, supported by a well equipped Refreshment Dept.; of the *goodness* of which we can speak from past experiences.

We wish the Swiss Rifle Association success in their undertaking, and trust that our readers and their friends, will readily respond to their appeal to make this year's 1st of August again a patriotic demonstration. Further details as to arrangements will appear in subsequent numbers of the Swiss Observer.

CENTENARY FEDERAL GYMNASTIC FESTIVAL, AARAU 1932.

The Swiss Observer had on Wednesday night an opportunity of seeing part of the team of the Swiss Gymnastic Society at work for their last rehearsal.

They did their work at the Parallel Bars (freely chosen apparatus) in three degrees of difficulty in very good style; execution and working together went very well indeed, and an 18 would be a fair reward for their labour as shown on this occasion.

The marching and drill exercises — which, by the way, will be done in Aarau simultaneously by 50,000 men — were as good and as well executed as one could possibly expect it from a team having had Swiss facilities for training and not London conditions; an 18.5 should be earned for this work as well.

It the relay race and jump — straddle over a comrade with jumping board removed 1.50 and 2m from the human horse — go anything like as well, and the writer was informed that this is the case, the Society should bring back a laurel beyond question. Naturally, luck and Festfieber are two items that must never be left out of calculation, but the Swiss Gymnastic Society has, once again, shown that it is capable of putting a good team in the field no matter how great the difficulties may be, and everyone in London will wish them good speed and good luck in Aarau on Sunday afternoon next at 3 p.m., when they are due to compete.

The party left Victoria Station on Friday night at 11 p.m., about 25 strong, including friends, and will reach Aarau on Saturday evening, where the barracks will be their head quarters.

The writer was specially asked to express the Society's deepest gratitude to all friends and supporters who so generously came to their aid, including the Swiss in Birmingham and a well-wisher in Stein a Rhein, to enable the Society to make the trip in these terrible times; they may all be rest assured that the team will not fail them, and worthily uphold the prestige and honour of those who trusted them.

A "PICNIC" BY CAR.

Encouraged by the great success which the two outings proved to be last year, we again wish to invite members of the Swiss Colony, who are owners of cars, to join us in an outing.

This time we suggest a run in beautiful Surrey. Meeting place to be at Ham Common, (near Petersham on the Road from Richmond to Kingston.) at 10 o'clock sharp. The route will be as follows: Proceed through Kingston, Esher and Ripley, meet again at Guildford side of Ripley, and then travel to Newlands Corner and Shere, bear right in Shere village for the Ewhurst Road, and before passing over Railway Bridge turn right for Farley Heath and Blackheath, where the Picnic will take place.

The return journey will be decided then and there.

All those who wish to join in this outing, should write to the "Editor, Swiss Observer."

SWISS RALLY AT WHIPSDNADE.

M. P. Brun, President of the Swiss Club Birmingham, on behalf of his Society, wishes to express his great appreciation to all those who took part in the Rally, especially to the various London Societies, which, through their well organised participation, have greatly added to the success of this new venture.

CHANSONS EN IMAGES.

Our well-known countryman from Geneva, Gustave Ferrari, the great interpreter of old French Folk Songs, who was for a considerable time of his life Yvette Gilbert's partner, has given a very enjoyable recital at the Ballet Club Theatre, Notting Hill Gate, with Maisie Seneshall. The latter is a talented discovery of Mr. Ferrari's, originally a commercial artist and sculptor. He trained her as a diseuse and she has appeared with him in their unique programme of "Chansons en Images" on the Continent with great success. I believe she is of Scottish origin, and the way she has entered and adopted a new world and language so unlike her austere native land, the world of French song from 1400 to 1800, is really amazing. Still I am not so sure whether her own personality did not find stronger immediate expression in one or two English songs that were given.

Gustave Ferrari and Miss Seneshall delighted the audience with an almost inexhaustible choice of chansons, gay, somber, naughty and quite proper. He acts his songs most expressively while still playing his own accompaniment. Miss Seneshall contributes exquisitely designed dresses to each of the period groups of songs. A few titles will indicate the variety and interest of their programme: "Gentil Gallant de France," "Je suis trop jument" and "Mon mari m'a diffamé" of the 15th century; "Le joyeux moine," "Au clair de la lune" and "Le Jaloux et la mentense," of the 16th and 17th century; "Air sur trois notes" (Rousseau), "Je suis lasse d'être fille" and "Auprès de ma blonde," of the 18th century. Those who have a love for the Folk Song should not miss to go to the next recital. I was specially delighted with the following Victorian song of love-making in Zurich. It is so ridiculous and yet not too bad a likeness of our characteristics.

BY THE MARGIN OF FAIR ZURICH'S WATERS.

Air à la Suisse, sung with greatest applause by Mme. Vestris.

*By the margin of fair Zurich's waters
Dwelt a youth whose fond heart night and day
for the fairest of fair Zurich's daughters
In a dream of love melted away.
If alone no one bolder than he,
but with her none more timid could be,
"Oh list to me dearest I pray,"*

*When she did so he only would say:
"yoi-dee, yoi — do!" (Yodel)
A lady, well away,
That was all he would say.*

*By the margin of fair Zurich's waters,
At the close of a sweet summer's day,
To the fairest of fair Zurich's daughters
This fond youth found at last tongue to say:
"I am in love as thou surely must see,
Could I love another but thee,
Oh say then wilt thou be my bride?"
Can you tell how the fair one replied?
"yoi-dee, yoi — do!" (Yodel)
I leave you to guess, of course she said yes.*

Dr. E.

NEWS AROUND TOWN.

Amongst this weeks visitors staying at the fashionable ROYAL COURT HOTEL in Sloane Square, are:

- Don Carlos de Bourbon Count of Trubia,
- H. H. Prince Henri of Orleans,
- H. H. Prince Gabriel de Bourbon,
- H. H. Prince Eugène de Ligne,
- Madame la Viscountess de Cuverville,
- Mrs. Rafael Sabatini,
- Madame Claire Croiza,
- and others.

King Alfonso paid a visit to Don Carlos at the Hotel.

PERSONAL.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to M. Adrien Rueff of the Swiss Bank Corporation, on the occasion of his marriage to Mile Eve Saunders, which took place on the 9th inst.

THE SWISS HOTEL
53, OLD, COMPTON STREET, W.1.

ANNUAL OUTING

Sunday, July 24th 1932
(Leaving The Swiss Hotel by Motor Coach
at 9.30 a.m. sharp)

PICNIC on Ranmore Common, Surrey.
TEA at the "Hand-in-Hand," Box Hill.

Please book seats in advance not later than July 21st.

Price 12/6 each.

Cordial invitation to all
Mr. & Mrs. A. WYSS.