

Schweizerbund

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SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB).

At a meeting held on the 15th of May at Charlotte Street, W.1, the President reported on the position of rebuilding the premises and reorganisation of the Club.

He reported that the Architects have prepared specifications and plans for rebuilding of the entire premises according to which the rebuilding cost would be £3,800. In view of the fact that the Club has already paid £1,875 for rent and deposit for dilapidations, this project needed careful investigation, especially since the lease was only for seven years. The President also reported that it has come to his notice that the long felt want for a Swiss Centre for the Colony might materialize after all, in which case he did not feel inclined to recommend an outlay of such a large amount.

To investigate the position of the Swiss Centre at the source, he called at the Federal Political Department in Berne on the 8th May and was received by Legationsrat Micheli, who informed him that, as far as the Swiss Confederation was concerned, nothing could be done in this respect financially. The President outlined to Legationsrat Micheli the rebuilding programme of the "Schweizerbund" and was promised full support by the Political Department to expedite the necessary building permit. (Which in the meantime has been granted.) The Club did not expect this support to come forward so quickly, but in the meantime, the President received a letter from the Swiss Legation in London, confirming his visit to Berne and informing him that the Board of Trade has already sanctioned the import permit of wood and furniture for the "Bündnerstube." For this prompt and welcome support the "Schweizerbund" is truly thankful to the Political Department in Berne, as well as to the Swiss Legation in London.

The manufacture of the furniture by the Chalet Fabrik Murer in Beckenried, however, will take some time, so that the Club premises will not have its "Bündnerstube" for a few months yet, nevertheless, it is hoped that the Club will be suitably altered for the 1st of August. Unless the landlords are extending the lease to 14 years, it is not intended to go through with the whole building programme but rebuild the Restaurant, Hall, Kitchen and other places where rebuilding is absolutely necessary.

If ever possible, the Club will not be closed entirely; it is intended to provisionally open the bar in the Billiard room or first floor, a notice will be posted at the door in due course.

The President then reported on the reorganisation

of membership. At the beginning of the year the membership consisted of about 400 Gentlemen and 100 Ladies; after a number of members, not having paid the subscription for years, have been weeded out, the Club now consists of 280 Gentlemen and 80 Ladies. The members have been divided into (a) Active Members, (b) Passive Members, (c) Lady Members, (d) Temporary Members, (e) Sunday Members, the latter being admitted to Sunday dances only. This of course, apart from the Honorary Members of which there are 15, the oldest one of which Mr. Eichenberger, who has been a member for over 50 years.

It was proposed by the President that, before rebuilding is completed, not much can be done to draw more members of the Society, but no effort will be spared afterwards to persuade especially Swiss to join our Club to make it a society worthy of the Colony. Temporary arrangements for affiliated societies have already been made to make their headquarters in 74, Charlotte Street, amongst which are the "Secours Mutuels," the oldest Swiss Society in London, the Swiss Male Choir, the Swiss Orchestra, The Swiss Mercantile Society, West London Male Choir and the Committee trusts that other Swiss Societies who have no home of their own will complete a happy family circle as it was many years ago.

The President then mentioned that his attention had been directed to an article which appeared in the "Swiss Observer" in connection with the "Swiss Youth Club," in which a correspondent stated, that this institution was the "only place in which Swiss girls can go to dances unaccompanied."

He said that these remarks were not justified, and cast a slur on the Club and some of the institutions connected with it, and that he must energetically protest against these assertions. (Our correspondent has since assured the President of the "Schweizerbund" and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" that he, when making this statement, did not have in mind the "Schweizerbund," we took this for granted, otherwise we would not have published his article. Ed.)

It was further announced that the Basler Jodlergruppe, consisting of 20 Gentlemen and 2 Ladies will, on invitation of the Schweizerbund, come to London on the 30th July, and entertain the Swiss Colony on the 1st of August Festival in the Coliseum. A reception party will be given to them on Saturday the 31st July, at the Dorchester Hotel, to which all Swiss Societies will be invited.

E. SIEGRIST, President.

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