

# City Swiss Club : 67th annual Banquet and Ball

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## CITY SWISS CLUB 67th ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

The City Swiss Club held its Annual Banquet and Ball on Friday, November 30th, 1923, at the Hotel Victoria (Edward VII Rooms), Northumberland Avenue, W.C. A short reception, commenced at the advertised time with a steady influx of participants, preceded the banquet. Monsieur C. R. PARAVICINI, the Swiss Minister, was in the Chair, having on his left Viscount Templetown.

The loyal toast having been duly honoured, Mr. ADRIEN RUEFF, the President of the Club, proposed "La Patrie" in the following words:—

Monsieur le Ministre, Mylord, Mesdames et Messieurs, Je suis très sensible à l'honneur d'avoir été chargé du discours à la patrie à ce 67ième Banquet annuel du City Swiss Club. La tradition veut qu'en l'occurrence je vous donne un aperçu de la situation économique de notre pays et je ne me départirai pas de la coutume ainsi établie par mes devanciers.

La Suisse a continué à subir en 1922 l'influence de la dépression de l'activité industrielle. Plusieurs de nos importantes sociétés ont dû s'abstenir de toute répartition à leurs actionnaires; les faillites ont atteint un chiffre de record. La concurrence des pays voisins aux monnaies dépréciées, les mesures prohibitives ou de contingentement d'importation de certains gouvernements, l'élévation des barrières douanières par d'autres; dans le pays même, la hauteur des tarifs de transport et le maintien des salaires à un niveau élevé, ont été autant de difficultés avec lesquelles nos industriels et commerçants ont été aux prises. Courageusement, ils se sont mis à l'œuvre pour les combattre. Leurs efforts se sont portés, d'une part, vers la réalisation d'économies dans leurs frais généraux par un emploi plus judicieux de la main d'œuvre, par une amélioration de l'outillage et de l'organisation intérieure; d'autre part, vers la perfection des produits, la plus grande exactitude dans les livraisons. Le Gouvernement, par l'allocation de subsides, vint à l'aide des industries les plus désemparées. Des concessions, sous forme de réduction de tarifs, ont été accordées par les chemins-de-fer. Devant l'effort commun, les organisations ouvrières ne pouvaient rester passives; elles ont consenti, dans une mesure, à l'augmentation des heures de travail réglementaires.

Les importations de la Suisse en 1922 se sont élevées à 1914 millions de francs suisses et les exportations à 1762 millions, chiffres qui sont inférieurs de 382 millions, respectivement 378 millions, à ceux de l'année 1921. Le montant global de nos échanges avec l'étranger, pour les neuf mois cours de cette année, comparé à celui de la période correspondante de 1922, accuse une amélioration sensible, laquelle, en raison de la baisse des prix survenue dans l'intervalle, est surtout visible si l'on considère le volume des échanges. Je vous ferai un aperçu de chiffres à cet égard. Par contre, vous serez intéressés d'apprendre que le nombre des sans-travail ou des personnes partiellement occupées, au bénéfice des allocations de chômage, qui était de 143,000 à fin Décembre 1921 a été ramené à 74,000 à fin 1922, il est tombé à 35,314 à fin Juillet écoulé pour se relever quelque peu ces derniers mois. De ces indications, il est possible de déduire que nos affaires ont repris; cette reprise aurait été plus prononcée si l'on n'avait dû compter avec l'insécurité des événements économiques. Elle n'a pas affecté pareillement toutes nos industries. Alors que quelques branches textiles et l'horlogerie, entre autres, enregistrent aujourd'hui des progrès, la situation dans l'industrie des machines et celle de la broderie, pour ne citer que les principales, n'a guère changé.

Permettez-moi de vous dire aussi quelques mots au sujet des relations de la Suisse avec le pays qui nous offre son hospitalité et dont la vie économique des dernières années présente une analogie remarquable avec celle de notre patrie. La Grande Bretagne a été pour nous, en 1922, le pays d'écoulement le plus important. Ses importations de Suisse ont atteint près de 350 millions de francs suisses sous la forme de produits des diverses branches textiles, d'horlogerie, de chocolats colorants, machines, chaussures, laits. Le chiffre que je viens de citer représente environ un cinquième de la valeur de notre exportation totale. Les importations suisses de Grande Bretagne qui consistent essentiellement en matières premières, telles que coton, laine, caoutchouc, charbon, bien que ne s'élevant pour 1922 qu'à 175 millions de francs n'en constituent pas moins un dixième de nos importations totales. La position paraît s'être encore améliorée au courant de cette année et il est à souhaiter qu'aucune mesure ne portera atteinte dans l'avenir au développement des échanges commerciaux anglo-suisses.

Le rôle que joue la Grande Bretagne dans l'économie nationale suisse n'est pas limité uniquement aux relations commerciales proprement dites. Il s'étend à une de nos industries florissantes d'avant-guerre, encore en pleine convalescence, celle des étrangers. Les voyageurs britanniques sont revenus très nombreux l'été dernier visiter les beautés naturelles de notre patrie, ainsi que ses stations climatiques, dont la réputation est universelle. Ils s'annoncent encore en plus grand nombre pour cet hiver. Je me fais un plaisir de souligner ce revirement qui ne peut que contribuer à resserrer les liens d'amitié existants entre les deux pays.

De l'aperçu que je viens de vous fournir, il ressort que si la Suisse n'est pas au bout de ses peines dans le domaine économique, les résultats acquis de l'effort commun n'en sont pas moins réjouissants et nous permettent d'envisager l'avenir avec plus de confiance qu'il y a quelques années. L'horizon nous apparaît à la fois lumineux et serein. Monsieur le Ministre, Mylord, Mesdames et Messieurs, Je lève mon verre à la Suisse, au pays qui tient une si grande place dans nos cœurs, et je vous invite à boire en son honneur et à sa prospérité.

His invitation was responded to with enthusiasm and adequately emphasized by a *bon cantonal et fédéral*, at the command of Mr. Georges Dimier.

The SWISS MINISTER rose to reply and said that it gave him much pleasure to congratulate the President of the City Swiss Club on the able way in which he led the affairs of the Club during his tenure of office, and that he was once more pleased to state that this worthy institution was, as much as ever, at the height of its fine traditions. "The City Swiss Club," he continued, "has for a long

time past been considered by our compatriots as the backbone of the Swiss Colony in London, and there is nothing astonishing in this view of the continuous and successful efforts of the Society to unite all the enterprising elements of the London Swiss." He said that the meetings regularly organised by the City Swiss Club, whether they are of a social kind or to promote common interests, are recognised as providing welcome opportunities to keep up connection and intercourse between our countrymen in all professions. He concluded by saying that the City Swiss Club may well be regarded as the prototype of a Swiss society abroad, and that, wherever the activity of the Swiss outside their own country is referred to, the name of this Club inspires the highest esteem. He proposed to the invited guests the toast of "The President and the Members of the City Swiss Club."

The very flattering remarks, made by Monsieur Paravicini on the past and traditions of the Club, elicited vociferous applause.

Mr. E. J. BRUDERLIN, the Vice-President of the Club, then welcomed the official guests as follows:

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier Monsieur PARAVICINI des aimables paroles qu'il vient de prononcer à notre adresse et de l'honneur qu'il nous a fait en acceptant le fauteuil de la présidence de cette cérémonie.

Je regrette de ne voir à ses côtés MADAME PARAVICINI retenue en Suisse.

Il n'est agréable de signaler la présence parmi nous de LORD VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN que nous interprétons comme un signe de l'intérêt qu'il témoigne à notre pays; de Monsieur FRANÇOIS J. BORSINGER, Secrétaire de Légation; de Monsieur A. PALLISER, Attaché à la Légation comme Conseiller Technique qui vous sont bien connus par les précieux services qu'ils rendent à notre Colonie; de Monsieur le Professeur EUGENE BOREL qui malgré la lourde charge que lui incombe sa présidence aux Tribunaux Arbitraux Mixtes Anglo-Allemands et Germano-Japonais est venu nous consacrer quelques heures.

Un chaleureux accueil est aussi accordé à Monsieur le Révérend RENE HOFFMANN-DE VISME, Pasteur de notre Eglise Suisse.

Je souhaite une cordiale bienvenue à Monsieur le Docteur DENT et Monsieur ANDREWS qui représentent ici l'Association des Membres britanniques du Club Alpiste Suisse ainsi qu'aux délégués de nos Sociétés-Sœurs: Monsieur CAMPART, de la Société de SECOURS MUTUELS; Monsieur NOIRI, de l'UNIONE TICINENSE; Monsieur ENDERMAUR, de l'UNION HELVETICA; Monsieur RIEDERER, du SCHWEIZERBUND; Monsieur DEBRUNNER, de la SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY; Monsieur JESS, de la SWISS INSTITUTE; Monsieur BAER, de la NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE; et Monsieur SCHMID, de la SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

Leur présence est une preuve des excellentes relations qui existent entre ces Sociétés et notre Club. Au "Daily Telegraph" et "Swiss Observer" qui représentent la Presse je tiens à exprimer mes remerciements pour leur participation à notre banquet.

Malheureusement plusieurs invités sont empêchés d'être parmi nous et je citerai notamment: Monsieur HENRI MARTIN, Conseiller de Légation et Attaché Commercial, et Monsieur CASTELLI, de la Swiss Bank Corporation.

A vous tous, Messieurs les Invités, je souhaite une bonne continuation de cette soirée et maintenant je demanderai aux membres du City Swiss Club, de lever leurs verres à la santé des Invités.

The toast to those whom the Club delighted to honour was—quite naturally—followed by the customary appeal on behalf of our less fortunate compatriots for whom no man in our colony has a better right and a greater heart to plead than Mr. GEORGES DIMIER, the venerable President of the Fonds de Secours; he said:—

Ever since the foundation of the City Swiss Club it has been customary to make an appeal at its Annual Banquet, amongst its guests and members, on behalf of the Swiss Benevolent Society of London. This Society, founded in 1870, has had to assist all the poor Swiss who made an appeal, and we feel proud to be able to say that, during that time, we have been able to relieve all appeals without exception.

Unfortunately, since the war our expenditure has increased very much. After the Armistice we hoped that we should have less poverty and therefore smaller calls upon our funds, but, owing to the unemployment crisis, a number of our Swiss members have not been able to find work, and we have had ever since 1918 a great many families to support.

In 1922 we helped:—63 families with 87 children, 26 widows with 32 children, 40 women, 67 men, and 5 children. We repatriated 42 to Switzerland, and have provided for our 20 odd pensioners in London.

In 1922 we spent, all told, £1,852. In 1921 £1,891—our record—and in 1920 £1,854. So far, in 1923 we have spent £1,620, and expect to reach £1,800 by the end of our financial year. This £1,800 will be made up as follows: About £375 for our pensioners, about £100 for repatriations, and about £1,300 for casual relief to the families, children, women and men.

Now as regards receipts:—

|                                                                                                                                                       |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Interest on our Capital and Fond Carlin (We received a special gift from the family Carlin, in memory of the late Mr. C. Carlin, our late President.) | £223 0 0  |
| Subscriptions from about 500 of our compatriots, amounting to about                                                                                   | £700 0 0  |
| Federal Council and Cantons                                                                                                                           | £ 80 0 0  |
| Contribution of the Swiss Church                                                                                                                      | £ 30 0 0  |
| Produce of Annual Charity Sermon                                                                                                                      | £ 15 0 0  |
| Proceeds from a Concert of the Swiss Choral Society                                                                                                   | £ 20 0 0  |
| Proceeds by the Sale of Flags by the Swiss Insititue                                                                                                  | £ 6 12 4  |
| Profit from the Swiss Sports                                                                                                                          | £ 20 0 0  |
| Produce of Ball and Concert of the Unione Ticinese                                                                                                    | £ 20 0 0  |
| Profit on Cinderellas of the Swiss Mercantile Society                                                                                                 | £ 10 10 0 |
| Proceeds of Concert, organised by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique                                                                                     | £ 80 6 0  |
| Secours Mutuels                                                                                                                                       | £ 5 5 0   |
| Total                                                                                                                                                 | £1300 0 0 |
| against £1800 expenditure.                                                                                                                            |           |

On behalf of our Committee and the Colony, I tender my heartiest thanks to all these Societies and to all our Subscribers.

Our income, therefore, not being sufficient to cover all our expenditure, we have, at the suggestion of our Legation, made an appeal to the Federal Government for extra help. The latter, in conjunction with the Cantonal Authorities, in view of avoiding the return to Switzerland of so many of our countrymen, voted a certain sum to prevent the return of these unfortunates, who would swell the number of the unemployed already there. We would have preferred not to ask for this extra support, seeing the difficulties our country has already to balance up her accounts. However, we trust that our expenditure will soon diminish and our subscriptions increase, and then we shall be able to dispense with this extra help.

Our Committee wishes me to express our deepest gratitude to our Minister, Mr. Paravicini, for the help he gave us all this year to obtain for us these special grants, and thus enabling us to carry on our work of relief.

We also thank the Chancellor of the Legation, Mr. Sterchi, for all the personal help he gave us in connection with the above.

I also wish to extend hearty thanks to all the members of the Committee, who give up their time every Monday evening to attend to our administrative work. They are:—Mr. Forrer, Hon. V.P., Mr. Dupraz, Treasurer, Mr. Riiter, Secretary, Messrs. A. Baume, R. de Cintra, Camper, Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, E. Neuschwander, Rohr, Rossetti-Droux, Schiess, Sterchi, and Rev. Urner.

We cannot speak too highly of the devotion of our Lady Visitor, Miss Muller, and we thank her for all she is doing in comforting our old people.

It is my pleasant duty to be able to record here all the help we have been receiving from everyone to whom we have applied, and I am only sorry the amounts received should not be sufficient to balance up our accounts. I would, therefore, ask all our friends present to-night to remind any of our compatriots of our existence and ask them to help us in our work.

To resume, you can see that our receipts fall very short of what we spend, and I trust you will do all you can to help us to tide over the crisis through which we are passing. Kindly ask yourselves if you have really done your duty to our mother country. Remember our expenses and think of all those poor Swiss who are getting barely enough to live, without any comfort or pleasure. It remains with you to give them a little help, and the more you give us, the easier it will be for us to bring a little joy and happiness to them.

Now, please do make a little sacrifice to help those poor old pensioners during their last days on this earth; to give a lift to these families whose fathers are laid up or out of work; and tender a helping hand to our boys and girls out of work or in trouble. They are all our Brethren and Sisters—come to their rescue, and you will go home, feeling you have done your duty as Swiss citizens should.

The collection, made at the conclusion of Mr. Dimier's appeal, produced an amount of about £200—perhaps not quite as much as some of us anticipated, in view of the large gathering as compared with previous years.

Mr. H. SENN, the President of the Entertainment Committee, was in charge of "The Ladies," whom he addressed as follows:—

An agreeable task has been allotted to me to-night, that of proposing the toast of the Ladies, and, as the proposer of this toast, I know you will all agree with me when I say at the outset how very much we regret the unavoidable absence of Madame Paravicini, who is at present in Switzerland and, I am authorised to say, enjoying excellent health.

Few subjects are of such universal and charming interest as that of the Ladies; but as a bachelor I feel I can only do justice to the subject from the point of view of a spectator. The fullest appreciation of the ladies must necessarily rest in the hearts of the married men. Therefore I shall not attempt a feat which is plainly outside my province. Apart from this I realize on what the Ladies' minds are bent when attending a function of this description. Certainly they do not wish to listen to long speeches, whether they be complimentary or otherwise, and under the circumstances I for one would be sorry to be found guilty of having erred in this direction.

It is my pleasant duty, on behalf of the City Swiss Club, to extend a cordial welcome to the representatives of the fair sex, and to thank them for having graced our banquet in such gratifying numbers.

We are delighted to welcome them for the distinction their company lends to our gathering, for the charm they impart and, last but not least, for the bright atmosphere they never fail to create.

The presence of the Ladies to-night has certainly provided the one thing needful to make our Banquet and Ball an assured success, in appreciation of which, with all the sincerity at my command, I propose the "Health of the Ladies."

On behalf of the Visitors, Dr. H. L. R. DENT, the President of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club, replied:—

After the great hospitality I have received to-night I am very nearly incapable of saying anything at all, but on taking up your menu, I see two words which galvanise me into speech—the one "City," the other "Swiss." Ladies and gentlemen, I was born and bred—and I am bound to die, when the time comes—within the sound of Bow Bells. I can say, "I am a citizen of no mean city," and I love my London; but if I were not as I am, English of the English, I would rather be a Swiss than the citizen of any other country. Switzerland spells for me Health, Happiness, Holidays. You have cities, also, of which you may be proud, Zurich, Berne, Lucerne, Lausanne, Geneva are names to conjure with. I admire them all. But much as I admire them, I admire the background of those cities more—the mountains, the running streams, the passes, and the glaciers. I have spent all my summer holidays amongst those snow-capped peaks. I have worshipped at the glittering shrines of Monte Rosa, Blumhals, the Jungfrau, and from many another peak I looked down. I have found books in their running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. The mention of those names reminds me of the story of the American who met a man from Lancashire. The American asked him whether he had seen the Yosemite Valley, the Niagara Falls, and several other world-famous places which he mentioned to all of which the Lancashire man replied "No." He then asked the American, Have you ever had "D.T.s"? The indignant American replied in

the negative, whereupon the Lancashire man said: "Well, lad, thou hast seen nowt."

Speaking for my fellow-guests, I think from the hospitality we have received we all run a great risk of seeing what the Lancashire man saw, and speaking for myself, I think I am fully qualified to become the exhibit required to fill the gap at the museum at Zermatt—the effigy of a stuffed climber.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, there is a story I have heard, that, when you are speaking after dinner, if you don't strike oil in ten minutes, cease boring. I shall now strike by thanking the proposer of this toast, on behalf of my fellow-guests and myself, for the exceedingly pleasant evening we have had to-night. I thank you very much indeed.

Prof. EUGENE BOREL, President of the International Tribunals created under the Versailles Treaty, also returned thanks in the name of himself and the other visitors, and said:—

Je suis heureux de pouvoir m'associer aux excellentes paroles que vous venez d'entendre et d'exprimer à mon tour la sincère reconnaissance de tous les hôtes du City Swiss Club pour l'accueil si cordial qu'il nous offre, et que nous savons toujours trouver au sein des réunions organisées par lui. Pour nous tous, cette fête si pleine de charme et d'entrain est particulièrement précieuse et bienfaisante à l'époque où le City Swiss Club à la bonne idée de la placer. Le grand pays dont nous goûtons et apprécions la large hospitalité à des beautés qui peuvent rivaliser avec celles d'autres contrées; mais personne ne voudrait soutenir que novembre et décembre soient agréables à passer sur les bords de la Tamise. Au sein des brouillards qui nous étreignent et qui sont, pour faire comprendre le spleen en attendant qu'on l'éprouve soi-même, la soirée du City Swiss Club a été depuis plusieurs jours comme un phare dans la nuit, comme un point lumineux vers lequel se dirigeait notre attente joyeuse et impatiente, de même que notre souvenir heureux et reconnaissant s'y reportera longtemps après que nous serons séparés de nouveau sous la forme agréable d'un banquet et d'un bal, cette réunion de la colonie suisse est véritablement un acte patriotique. La Suisse, dont on vient de parler en termes si éloquentes, et vers laquelle s'élèvent nos pensées et nos vœux, a besoin plus que jamais de l'appui de tous ses enfants. Les circonstances économiques que traverse notre peuple, de même que la grande nation britannique, font appel aux efforts courageux de tous les travailleurs et pour le labeur quotidien aux prises avec les difficultés de l'heure actuelle, ce n'est pas peu de chose que d'être soutenu par la gaieté, la bonne humeur que nous venons retrouver et retremper ici, dans l'atmosphère de solidarité qui se dégage de cette fête de la famille helvétique. Je bois à la prospérité du City Swiss Club et à la santé de tous ses membres.

Mr. Georges Dimier, after having called for the traditional "bans" in honour of the last two speakers, mentioned that he wished to express thanks to Mrs. Charles Chapuis and her sister for the beautiful silk bags they had presented to our Club, which were used for the first time for the collection made this evening. He also singled out for special mention the presence in our midst of Madame Stéphanie Steiger, the devoted Honorary Secretary of the Ladies' Committee of the Swiss House—a post which she had filled with such distinction ever since the foundation of this institution.

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Thanks to the promptness with which the dinner was served, and the much appreciated fact that the speakers respected the time-limit suggested by the Chairman, the official part terminated at an unusually early hour; dancing could have been indulged in before 10 p.m., had not the conversion of the hall for this purpose taken up some time. However, the followers of Terpsichore had nothing to complain about, for the excellent orchestra of the Victoria Hotel played continuously till 2.30 a.m. Much appreciated and freely taken advantage of was the free buffet, which seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of enticing dainties and refreshments. We believe, this year's banquet was a record, as far, at least, as the number of participants is concerned; nearly 320 sat down to dinner, filling the spacious dining hall to its full capacity. The Organising Committee had the satisfaction and recompense of seeing their strenuous efforts crowned with unqualified success—a feeling which must have been shared by our compatriot, Mr. E. DeVeigny, the manager of the Victoria Hotel, who deserves a special compliment for providing Swiss wines at "popular" prices.

Besides the guests already referred to, the following were also present:—

Aeschmann, C. (Mr. and Mrs.), Altwegg (Mr. and Mrs.), Barbezat, C. A. (Mr. and Miss), Baume, A. C. (Mr. and Mrs.), Bingley (Mr. and Mrs.), Boehringer, P. F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Borel (Mlle.), Brandenburger, F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Braun (Dr. and Mrs.), Bretscher, U., Bruderlin, F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Buser, H. (Mr. and Mrs.), Carmine (Mrs., Jr. and Miss), Chapuis, Ch. (Mr. and Mrs.), Chapuis, L. (Mr. and Mrs.), Corbat, A., de Coulon, Defrenne, J., Despond (Mr. and Mrs.), DeTrey, A. (Mr. and Miss), DeTrey, C. (Mrs.), DeTrey, J., DeVeigny, Dr., Deweck, Dimier, G. (Mr. and Mrs.), Dupraz, Eckenstein (Dr. and Mrs.), Einschin, Forrer, Frei, O. (Mr. and Mrs.), Frenken, L. A. (Mr. and Mrs.), Gampfer (Mr. and Mrs.), Gattiker (Mr. and Miss), Gellinger, Gerig (Mr. and Mrs.), Graedel, Guignard, C. W. (Mr. and Mrs.), Hafner (Mr. and Mrs.), Hoffmann-de Visme (Mrs.), Huber, H. (Mr. and Mrs.), Jenne, G., Jenne, H., Jobin, L. (Mr. and Mrs.), Laemli, G., Lauchheimer, L. Hardy, Lichtensteiger, F. W. (Mr. and Mrs.), L'Orsa (Mme.), Luterbacher (Mr. and Mrs.), Marchand, R. (Mr. and Mrs.), Marchand, G., Meschini (Mr. and Mrs.), Monastier, Neuschwander, E., Oltramare, J. (Mr. and Mrs.), de Palezieux, J., Pasquier, A. (Mr. and the Misses), De Pury Rappard, W. (Mr. and Miss), Rast, Dr., Ritter (Mr. and Mrs.), Roost (Mr., Mrs. and Miss), Ryf, R., Sandoz (Mr. and Mrs.), Schefer (Mr. and Mrs.), Schmid, A., Schobinger (Mr. and Mrs.), Schröter, (Dr. and Mrs.), Schubach (Mr., Mrs. and Miss), Senn, H., Sommer, F. G. (Mr. and Mrs.), Speiser (Mr.

and Mrs.), Steiger (Mr. and Mrs.), Stoker (Mr. and Mrs.), Studer, W. (Mr. and Mrs.), Suter, F. (Mr. and Mrs.), Urner, Rev. H., Valon, Veil (Mr. and Mrs.), Wagnière, Wälchli (Mr. and Mrs.), Walser, Paul (Mr. and Mrs.), Walter (Mr. and Mrs.), de Wattwill, Werner, de Wolff, Dr. P., Wuest, Wuthrich, Zimmermann (Mr. and Mrs.), Zogg (Mr. and Mrs.).

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

(The following report on last Saturday's Cinderella has been kindly sent to us by a lady correspondent.)

It would undoubtedly be difficult to find a jollier or more friendly gathering than that at the 2nd Cinderella Dance of the Swiss Mercantile Society, held on Saturday last, the 1st inst., at the Midland Grand Hotel, King's Cross, when 165 of the Swiss Colony and their numerous friends presented themselves to while away a few hours. They succeeded—in fact, the scene looked even more attractive than an act of "Brighter London."

Dancing actually commenced at about 6.45 p.m., and those who had the good sense to arrive early (about a sixth of the community were thus blessed) had ample opportunity of exploiting their fancy steps and jazzing to their hearts' content, without the fear of having to apologize every other minute to those who were unlucky enough to be near them, should they indulge in "high kicks" and exceed the "speed limit."

By 8.30 p.m. the whole affair was in full swing, and there was hardly a face to be seen that was not wreathed in smiles and full of *joie de vivre*. The fair sex had, as usual, arrived in full war paint, and their many charming frocks and wholly dainty appearances formed a very pleasing spectacle. Many of the stronger sex were seen to cast covetous and admiring glances in this direction. Now, to give the men a little encouragement, they, too, were a credit and did their full share to make the evening such a success. They were in exceptionally "high spirits," and it is feared that the carpet between the ball-room and the "bar" must have suffered heavily. At 8.40 p.m. many of the tables were already commandeered by numerous guests, who had apparently at this early hour found their appetites. However, they managed to keep up their flagging energies until 9 o'clock (the interval and supper time), when all made a bee-line for supper.

Everyone did ample justice to the very excellent fare, one party in particular (who had apparently been on hunger strike) demolished the sandwiches quicker than the "hard-working, but patient garçon" could procure them. While all were thus engaged, Mr. G. E. DeBrunner, President of the Society, proposed the toast of "His Majesty the King" and "Switzerland," in which everyone (despite their hunger) heartily joined. He also kindly brought to the notice of the party a very happy coincidence, it being the "13th Armistice" since the joining of forces of Mr. and Mrs. Wyss, of the Union Helvetia. Surely, several of the bashful young men, who might have arrived with the idea that marriage is always a failure, will, after this splendid example, be only too anxious to try their fate. At this stage all the guests became hilarious, but whether it was the effect of the very excellent wine or their usual flow of high spirits, I leave you to guess, but the incessant chatter and good fellowship was very encouraging. With little difficulty the hub-hub was effectively silenced for a few minutes, when a special treat was given by Mr. P. Mathys, who, with the aid of Mr. C. Mayr, sang a popular Swiss "Jodel." They were both highly applauded and much appreciated, besides being the envy of several "young bloods," who did their utmost to make a similar performance, but without noticeable success. One or two other Swiss songs were also sung, although unhappily the English guests were quite in the dark as to what it was all about; probably most of them assumed it was mountains and girls. Mr. A. Kamber very kindly tended a hearty welcome to all, and referred especially to the numerous English friends (whom he looked very pleased to see), and his speech was much appreciated.

By this time dancing commenced again. It is perhaps unnecessary to relate that the spirits of all (in more ways than one) were even more overflowing, and, much to the amusement of those present, several romantic young couples were seen, while dancing, to hide themselves behind the many curtains. (Luckily, no windows were open.) However, none of them were plucky enough to stay there for long, probably for fear of causing too much comment. Also others were found to be missing, but it is believed that they made very good use of the "stairs" and "settees" near by. I wonder?? Even the strains of the perfectly delightful orchestra would not induce some of them to vacate their lair. It is presumed that they took full advantage of the idea that "one is only young—once."

There is little doubt that it was sincerely regretted by all when the dance had to come to an end. It is rumoured that several present had enjoyed themselves too thoroughly to "go straight home."

I think all present will agree with me that the whole affair was a great success, and surely there cannot be any who are not looking forward with eagerness to the Fancy Dress Dance, which is to be held at the same place on the 5th January, 1924.

And here's a "Happy New Year" to the whole of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and may there be many, many more dances like the last. A. H.

### LA NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

#### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

on Wednesday, November 21st, 1923, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

1. The Treasurer advised the meeting of two admissions and two re-admissions, while he had no resignations to report. Five names were taken off the membership list, owing to departure from England without advice. Total membership, 357.

The report of the Grand Charity Concert shows that, with an expenditure of £26 12s., the handsome sum of £80 6s. net was obtained, and could be handed to the Benevolent Society.

The report of the dinner account was also agreed to by the meeting.

The accounts up to the 14th November showed the income for the year to be £661 3s. 4d., while the expenditure for the same period amounts to £517 14s. With the sum brought forward from last year, there is a credit balance in the bank of £382 3s.

2. The President read Circular No. 43 of the S.S.E. The address of the S.S.E. is now Fribourg, where a home has been found in the premises of the Fribourg Record Office. Seven new Groups have been founded: Anancy (Savoy), Antwerp, Brussels, Frankfurt s.M., Königsfeld i.B., Venice, and Charleroi. The result of the sale of the 1st of August cards, 1924, will benefit the movement of the Swiss Abroad. The S.S.E. sends a very warm appeal to all affiliated Groups in favour of suffering Swiss in Germany. Donations can be sent to the S.S.E., Compte de chèques postaux Fribourg Ila 80. From January, 1924, onwards the *Consular Bulletin* will be added to the *Echo Suisse*, as are already the communications of the N.S.H. This ought to go a long way towards adding to the merit of this publication. The day for Swiss Abroad at the Federal Rifle Competition of 1924 will be August 1st. Many Swiss shooters from abroad are expected. The S.S.E. is ready to accept suggestions regarding the programme of the Auslandschweizer-tag at the next Basle Samples' Fair.

3. Our forthcoming lectures are as follows: December 14th, our member, Mr. O. Braga, "The People of the Tessin: its Ideals and Aspirations," at 8.30 at 28, Red Lion Square. In February, a lecture by Dr. Saleeby on "Sunlight and Health," arranged in conjunction with the Swiss Mercantile Society at the Union Helvetia.

4. Following a favourable offer from the "Foyer Suisse," it was decided that the next Annual Meeting should take place in the big hall of the Foyer Suisse. Other proposals will be considered later.

5. A report by Mr. Kiefer, President of the Entertainment Committee, was read. The deficit of the last dinner was about £20. The moral effect, however, was very good. There were some complaints about too much smoking.

6. The Secretary made a few communications with regard to his work: (a) Certain propaganda for Swiss music has been made in the English musical press in connection with the informal concert of contemporary Swiss music, which took place on Monday, Nov. 26th. (b) Another review has appeared on the Helvetic Bibliography. (c) The campaign for translations is continued. (d) The British press will again be approached with a view to placing before the British public the Swiss point of view in the Zones Question. (e) A Red Cross propaganda page has been drafted for *The Swiss Observer*.

7. Dr. Agénor Kraft, the former French Secretary of the S.S.E., who is now living in London for a short period, gave a succinct causerie on the present state of the Auslandschweizer movement. There are 115 groups to-day, and there is now a certain likelihood that the Confederation will subventionise the S.S.E. in the future. The 39 members of the Parliamentary Group of the Swiss Abroad are very active in this direction. Mr. Baer, the President, thanked Dr. Kraft for his interesting information, which was most refreshing to hear.

Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

### Appel à la Colonie Genevoise de Londres.

Chers Concitoyens,—J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le dîner de l'Escalade sera célébré cette année le Mercredi 12 décembre à sept heures au Restaurant tessinois Pagani (Great Portland Street, Station Oxford Circus). Le propriétaire dévoué, M. Arthur Meschini, a promis de nous soigner "aux petits cignons," à des prix très modérés! Il y aura des vins suisses et la marmite traditionnelle de la Mère Royaume. Les productions d'usage seront les bienvenues. La réunion sera présidée par notre Concitoyen le Professeur Eugène Borel. On chantera la Chanson de l'Escalade et le Cè qué l'aino.

Prière de s'inscrire aussi tôt que possible auprès de notre ami:

M. Raoul de Cintra, 46, Cannon Street, E.C.4.

A tous Au Revoir le 12 décembre,

HENRI MARTIN,

32, Queen Anne Street, W.1.