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UNIONE TICINESE.

Domenica 4 corr. l'Unione Ticinese teneva la sua prima Assemblée Annuale per svolgere un ben nutrito ordine del giorno. Letto ed approvato il verbale della seduta precedente, dopo ben elaborato rapporto della commissione incaricata, l'Assemblea senza discussione unanimemente approvava l'Operato della Direzione. Il nostro Segretario poi per la Direzione presentava rapporto sull'andamento economico e morale della Società che mi riservo di sunteggiare.

Poi la nomina della nuova Direzione, ad unanimità dei voti (meno i propositi) e per acclamazione furono eletti:—Presidente: William Notari; Vice-Presidente: Carlo Berti; Segretario: Oscar Gambazzi; Vice-Segretario: G. Delmué; Cassiere: Ernesto Biucchi; Collettore: Giacomo Milli; Membri: A. Bolla, C. Togni, O. Braga, S. Bianchi, A. Notari. Seguiva poi la risoluzione per la festa sociale annuale e dopo scambio di idee si decise di lasciare piena facoltà alla Direzione per l'organizzazione. Occorre l'anno prossimo il 50mo anno di fondazione della nostra Società e la Direzione propone che sia nominata una Commissione Speciale per studiare i mezzi opportuni perchè questa fausta occorrenza sia celebrata col miglior lustro e decoro possibile. Furono chiamati a disimpegnare il mandato, per poi riferirne all'Assemblea i soci: William Notari, Oscar Gambazzi, A. Bolla, C. Togni, e S. Bianchi.

Furono ammessi 7 nuovi soci e l'Assemblea chiudeva le sue deliberazioni tra il più fervido entusiasmo e perfetta cordialità.

Relazione sullo stato economico e morale della Società data dal Segretario che mi rincresce per tirannia di spazio non posso che dare per schema. Cari Soci: — Il bilancio generale della gestione sociale 1922 che avete ricevuto coll'avviso di convocazione dell'Assemblea e il rapporto della Commissione vi ha luminosamente spiegato lo stato finanziario e morale della nostra Società nel decoro anno, e sulle attività spiegate dalla vostra Direzione. Cifra impressionante è la quota soccorsi con 574 giorni di malattia e la spesa di due funerali, in una cifra di £74 8s. Questo prova non ai soci che ben conoscono lo scopo benefico della nostra Società, ma a quella parte della Colonia Ticinese che non vogliono a noi unirsi, che i nostri ideali hanno una base granitica e che il mutuo soccorso nella nostra Società è largito su principi sì generosi che a paragone di tassa annuale e sussidio nessuna altra Società può praticare. Ne è prova il fatto che l'importo delle tasse di ammissione e le contribuzioni annuali dei soci sono di molto inferiore al totale dei soccorsi accordati.

Ponderino questi fatti tutti i scettici, e convinti da queste prove speriamo vorranno aggregarsi alla nostra bandiera, per cui la nostra Società abbia ad essere non solo moralmente ma anche materialmente vero vessillo e rappresentante della nostra numerosa colonia Ticinese. Ma sia non solo aumento passivo ma un aumento attivo e non solo numerico che ci porti nuove attività e sangue nuovo, soci tutti animati dai sublimi nostri ideali, pronti anche con sacrifici personali a zelarne la causa ed a promuovere gl'interessi materiali e morali.

Le spese di amministrazione furono tenute nei limiti della più stretta economia, e nessuno potrà tacciarci di stravaganza. Le altre sono tutte spese imposte o dallo Statuto o da regolari decisioni dell'Assemblea. Nelle entrate, a parte le tasse di ammissioni e contribuzioni annuali, figura prominentemente il profitto della festa annuale, il cui ammontare non era mai stato prima raggiunto, e che si tenne al medesimo livello durante gli ultimi tre anni. Profitto inaspettato che solo fu reso possibile per la munificente donazione dei Signori Fratelli, J. M. e R. Gatti che per il terzo anno ci favorirono del loro valido appoggio, e per il solido sostegno materiale e morale del Signor Arturo Meschini che è il nostro miglior Socio e migliore amico. Ai generosi oblatori il nostro omaggio e la nostra ammirazione. (Il nostro benemerito Segretario ha rinunciato a favore del sodalizio la sua gratificazione annuale.) Grazie a queste benemeritenze abbiamo potuto fronteggiare tutte le spese di assistenza e di amministrazione, elargire sussidi ad ospedali, opere caritatevoli e patriottiche, e saldare il nostro conto di cassa per l'anno in corso con una rimanenza attiva di £147 16s. 1d. Da questa cifra soddisfacente o cari consoci, potete formarvi una giusta idea delle attività spiegate dalla vostra Direzione a favore della Società. Nella Colonia Svizzera e in mezzo alle Società consorelle continuano ad aumentare le simpatie a nostro riguardo

e tutti i giorni abbiamo prove della stima che continuiamo ad acquistare.

"VIVA L'UNIONE TICINESE." S. B.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

The first Annual Dinner and Ball of this, the Benjamin of the London Swiss societies, took place on Friday, the 9th inst., in the concert hall of the Union Helvetia, which was gaily decorated with lanterns and flags displaying our national and cantonal emblems. Presided over by the Swiss Minister, who was accompanied by Madame Paravicini, a company of about 130 ladies and gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner, the admirable service of which was not the least part of its enjoyment; the catering arrangements reflected great credit on the ability of Mr. A. Wyss, the steward of the Club.

The loyal toast having been duly honoured, Mr. J. Manzoni, the president, rose to offer on behalf of his Society a hearty welcome to the Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini, whose presence was not only a great satisfaction to the members, but the best encouragement on the road of their future activities. He traced in a few words the history of the Society, which had had its share of vicissitudes; it was chiefly thanks to the unflinching devotion and enthusiasm of a handful of founders (whom he asked to rise from their seats for a minute) that they were able to look back on a most successful year. Apart from their own concerts they had participated in practically every important social gathering that took place in our colony during the last twelve months; he was gratified in stating that their collaboration was greatly appreciated by the other societies.

Mr. J. Haesler proposed the health of the guests. He said this was their first banquet, and he was more than delighted to see that all the sister societies had accepted their invitation and thereby given ample proof of their goodwill. He welcomed Mr. Rossi (Secours Mutuels), Mr. de Cintra (City Swiss Club), Mr. de Brunner (Swiss Mercantile Society), Mr. Riederer (Schweizerbund), Dr. Lang (Nouvelle Société Helvétique), Messrs. Emmenegger, Maeder, Indermaur and Hasler (Union Helvetia). It also gave him pleasure to greet Dr. and Mrs. Schroeter, the Rev. U. Wildbolz, Mr. and Mrs. Beer, and Mr. Meyrovitz, their devoted conductor.

The Swiss Minister, in responding to this toast, said that he felt himself so much at home that he hesitated replying for the guests. Mme. Paravicini had insisted on accompanying him, and he was very grateful, because when the time arrived for him to write his memoirs she would be able to guide him and prevent any lapses in recording memorable gatherings like the present one. They both had, on previous occasions, been privileged to be present when the Swiss Choral Society so successfully brought home to us one of our Swiss national arts. For us Swiss abroad our folk-lore songs always exercised an irresistible charm, but the song had all through history played an important and often decisive part on our battlefields; even in modern times great decisions or events were celebrated by spontaneous chanting of national songs, like the Sempacherlied. He felt convinced that in our colony the Swiss Choral Society supplied the most necessary link, embodying one of the most precious characteristics of our country.

The toast of "The Ladies" was proposed by Mr. F. Isler. It did not take him long to set the audience rocking with laughter. He wondered why men travelled thousands and thousands of miles to the tombs of the Pharaohs to unearth 3,000-year-old mummified princesses, when right in our midst their eyes could rest on the most perfect live specimens of the gentle sex. He recited some hieroglyphic love-songs in a modernised version.

During the evening a telegram was received from Mrs. A. Wyss (at present in hospital), conveying her best wishes for a successful evening.

Before the company adjourned for the ball, a few songs were given by the choir, which were most vociferously applauded by the assembly. It was freely stated that the choir had made wonderful progress under the new conductor; clear diction, modulation and contrast characterized their performance.

The gathering was perfect in every respect and arranged throughout with commendable foresight.

The West End Branch of the Swiss Bank Corporation, 11c, Regent Street (Waterloo Place), S.W. 1, will be pleased to open savings bank accounts (carnets d'épargne), on which interest will be payable, until further notice, at the rate of 2½ per cent. per ann. on deposits of £1 and over.

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B. A., Portsmouth.—We thank you for your remittance. The return journey will have to be undertaken independently via the same route within 33 days, no collective arrangements being made for same. (We have booked three tickets for you.)

L. A.—You are certainly not compelled to stay for five days in a particular hotel at Basle. You can have a ticket without hotel accommodation.

M. N.—The return journey will have to be made over the same route, but by buying a détour ticket at Basle (price about 2/7) you may travel via Paris and break the journey at the latter place.

PERSONAL.

M. William Martin, Conseiller Technique du Bureau International du Travail de la Société des Nations, et Madame Martin viennent de passer une semaine à Londres et sont repartis lundi matin pour la Suisse.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 18 Fév., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 4.30.—Répétition extraordinaire du Choeur. 6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.

Dimanche, 25 Fév., 11h.—M. le Pasteur Pron. Collecte en faveur de l'Eglise Vaudoise du Piémont.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Feb. 17th, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant.

Sunday, Feb. 18th, at 3 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Concert at Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, W. 1 (see adv.).

Monday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m.—UNION CHRETIENNE de Jeunes Gens: Lecture on "Armenia and Europe" by Mr. G. Thomaian, at Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.C. 1.

Friday, Feb. 23rd, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: "An Evening with Brontë," by J. Carroll, Esq.

Friday, March 2nd, at 8 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by G. P. Gooch, Esq., M.A. In the Chair: The Swiss Minister.

Saturday, March 3rd, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Hotel.

Tuesday, March 6, at 6.45 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper.

Friday, March 9, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture by M. Emile Cammaerts on "La Belgique Moderne."

Thursday, April 19th.—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet and Ball at Gatti's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.

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