

City Swiss Club

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assembled under the flag of the Swiss Club, an emblem which, raised by you, is obviously one of particularly successful rallying power.

Having mentioned these two, from the number of our friends gathered here, this would seem to be the moment to mention many others, whose names convey to us the recollection of useful and appreciated services in the past and in the present. To the credit of our Colony and of our country that list would be a very long one, and it would mean more time than is at my disposal to-night, to name them all and to say all that I would have to say about their merits.

But there is one to whom a special tribute on this occasion is surely not out of place. I am happy to see him here and to be able to give expression publicly to our feelings of gratitude for the generosity in spirit and in deed with which he does honour to his own good old Swiss name and to the name of our country. I know that the Burglers of Birmingham are proud of counting Mr. Kunzle as one of them, although he hails from far beyond the sea, and I would make sure that he is not left in any doubt about the feelings of appreciation and esteem of his own countrymen.

Before I sit down I would convey our cordial messages to this great and industrious City through its citizens who are our guests to-night — and I would especially recommend this mission to our friend Mr. Ellison who, continually through long years has given us such precious proof of his feelings towards us and who, through the gracious lady at his side, is linked to us with bonds of affection. — Their presence here, besides being a pleasure to us, is a testimony of the excellent relations existing between them and the Swiss Residents in the Community.

I can assure them that Birmingham is a name which rings very pleasantly in the Swiss ear. And I believe that the people of Birmingham return the good feelings towards us, at least this was my impression when some years ago I had the good fortune of greeting their representatives in my native city of Basle, at a large Anglo-Swiss economic gathering.

May the happy relations and good feelings between their City and mine, and between their Country and mine, whether times be bad or prosperous, remain for ever unaltered.

Such is my wish, in all sincerity and cordiality, on this my third, but let us hope not my last, visit to Birmingham.

This remarkable oration was greatly cheered, and musical honours were accorded.

The President then called upon M. G. Marchand to whom the reply for the guests was entrusted, he said:

A very pleasant task has been allotted to me by your President, namely the task to respond to the toast to the guests.

This is an honour which I greatly appreciate, all the more as it is the first time that the City Swiss Club is represented officially by a member of its Committee, at one of your functions.

In having asked us to attend your Annual Banquet and Rally, you have given us an opportunity to re-new your acquaintance which we had previously made under such happy auguries at Whipsnade, there, we were surrounded by wild beasts, here to-night, we are in less ferocious company, and I am sure, or I dare to hope at least, that we are safer in this spacious Hall, than we were in the wilds of Whipsnade.

There is a saying that "absence makes the heart grow fonder," its significance I only realised to-night, we do not often see you, we read occasionally about you in that famous paper the "Swiss Observer," or we meet your smiling President at some of the functions in the Metropolis; this absence of a more frequent intercourse has all the more endeared you to us, and our visit to you, we treat like a visit to old and trusted friends.

We London Swiss are often apt to claim to be privileged in arranging patriotic functions, we often even imagine that we are just a few per cent. more Swiss, than our brothers in the Provinces; who ever held or is still holding this belief, should come to Birmingham, he will return home a wiser, and I am convinced a better Swiss.

Your patriotism, your endeavours to help each other have created that esteem in which the Swiss Club Birmingham is held amongst our compatriots, we know that your hearts beat as warmly for our country as ours do, and we know that if our country should need you, you will not fail. We are proud of you, and I am sure I am voicing the conviction of my fellow guests here present to-night, when I express the wish and the hope, that the relations between your Society and your sister institutions in the Metropolis and other parts of the Country, may remain as happy as they are now.

I will now ask my fellow guests to be understanding and to drink to the health and prosperity of the Swiss Club Birmingham!

Great applause also rewarded this speaker.

M. Montag, Swiss Consul at Liverpool, and a member of the Club then shortly addressed the gathering, expressing his pleasure at the presence of M. C. R. Paravicini. "You receive many communications from me," he said, turning to the members of the Club, "some are pleasant and some are less so, but believe me, I am always delighted to be amongst you, and I am always willing to help you if it is in my power to do so."

Loud was the applause which greeted this "short and sweet" speech. And last but by no means least, Mr. C. Kunzle, the prominent member of the Club, and Chairman of the Children's Hospital in Birmingham, expressed his pleasure at seeing the Swiss Minister amongst the company. "The best policy is charity," he said, "and that is why I am a politician." He voiced the wish of collaboration amongst Christian nations to unite themselves in combating the manifold diseases. "We want to give the children Pure Air and Health, the latter is the greatest gift we can bestow on our fellow men." Mr. Kunzle said that experience has proved that children affected with tuberculosis were cured in a relatively short time at Davos, and that the efforts undertaken so far had been very encouraging. He made a fervent appeal for collaboration in a scheme, which will, with God's help become a blessing to mankind. The applause was loud when the speaker resumed his seat.

I would like to record, that a very efficient orchestra supplied the "Tafel Music" during the dinner, and a pot-pourri of familiar Swiss airs was much appreciated, such popular tunes as the "Zapfenstreich" and many others, brought back to not a few, treasured memories of happy moments spent in the service of our beloved homeland. A Swiss lady sitting opposite me at the table, sang some of these homely tunes with such energetic and patriotic inspiration, that it made my heart beat more quickly, quite an achievement, considering that I hail from a canton where slowness has become proverbial.

Dancing then started, and forgotten were the troubles, tribulations and worries which are such a common occurrence in these times full of anxieties.

It was only right, that "yoddlng" should find a place in the programme. Messrs Gattiker and Beer supplied the necessary want, unfortunately they had chosen one song in their, no doubt, extensive repertoire, which seemed to have upset them, I mean the song, with the refrain, "Ich geh jetzt fort" (I am going to leave you), and the mere thought of an intended separation, seemed to have upset them to such an extent, that the harmony slightly suffered, but I feel sure that in the meantime they have made up their minds to stick to the "old firm," and that we may enjoy their yoddlng duets on many more occasions.

Much enjoyed was the dancing and recitation of Mlle. Daphne de Wyt, who is no stranger to the Swiss Colony.

In my introduction I mentioned the curious fact, that both in the theatrical and musical profession novelties are tried out in the provinces, much to my surprise and enlightenment, I found that this practice has now been followed up in fashion circles. One of my good London friends, appeared on the dancing floor in a pair of beautifully polished brown shoes, otherwise immaculately arrayed in full evening dress, which seems to revolutionize the ball-room fashion, and I am eagerly looking forward to see how this innovation will take on in London; in the meantime, I wish to congratulate my friend on his courage and enterprise. — One lives and learns. — Shortly before 12 o'clock the National Anthem was played, and a memorable evening came to a happy conclusion.

On Sunday morning, about 11 o'clock a char-à-banc, followed by a small fleet of private cars, containing about 70 passengers, set off from the Grand Hotel on the way to Kenilworth Castle, and Leamington Spa. The first stopping place was made at the imposing ruins of Kenilworth Castle, where the entire company disembarked, with awe one viewed the remains of this historic

castle, where the Earl of Leicester, at one time favourite of the mighty Queen Elisabeth, had his spouse Amy Robsart put to sleep in a rather nasty fashion.

The memories of this bloody tragedy however did not seem to upset the spirit of the happy revellers too much; various photographs were taken, and your reporter was induced by sheer force to have his photo taken in company with a "ghost" who was very much alive, and I sincerely hope that no ill use will be made of this photograph, as otherwise, I am afraid my future visits to my Birmingham friends will suffer a drastic curtailment. I intended to take the waters at Leamington Spa, but as no stop was made, I was prevented from partaking of a beverage, which would have been very beneficial to my health, and incidentally also to the health of many, who complained that they suffered from an infernal thirst.

Back once more at the Grand Hotel the entire company sat down to a special luncheon which was greatly enjoyed. Nearly 40 members of the party adjourned later on to the private residence of the President by special invitation, and a very jolly afternoon it was. Mme. Brun, presided over the gathering, proving that she was equally efficient as her husband in "taking the Chair." Many were the bottles emptied to the health of the generous host and hostess, and to the future prosperity of the Swiss Club Birmingham; all too soon the departing hour approached, and we had to take leave, from our smiling host and hostess.

In concluding this rather lengthy report, I would like to congratulate the Swiss Club Birmingham, and especially its President, M. P. Brun for this splendid Rally, it was one of the most enjoyable functions I have had the pleasure to attend, and the message which again has come from our countrymen in the Midlands will not be forgotten.

ST.

SWISS CLUB BIRMINGHAM TANZ.

Im "Grand" isch's gester lustig g'si
Der Swiss Club het wie jedes Jahr
Um gmüetli alli z'äme z'si
J'glade d'Fründ vo fern und nah.
Tanzet hei si, Liedli g'sunge
"So walze, tuet jetz niemer meh"
Gar schöni Rede hend si g'schwunge
Und grossi Freud g'ha am Diner.
Wenn Jodler aber tönt d'r d'Halle
Wie mängem Schwyzer geit das nah
Inwendig lasst er Träne Falle
Und usse rüeft er lut "Hurrah."
Hüt geits bim schönsten Sunneschi
Uf Kenilworth im Chara bang
Am Obe isch scho alls vorbi
Ach keini Frende duret lang.
J möcht iez no as Strüßle binde
Für alli die im Comitée
Mehr Wörtli cha ni nütme finde
Als "Danke schön" uf Wiederseh.

H.E.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

March 25th, 1933.

Last Saturday evening, as I entered the May Fair Garden City, my heart was filled with sadness and bitterness welled up within my breast as I reflected on the vanity of this life, and the cruelty of the Committee of the C.S.C. in deciding to hold another Dinner and Dance.

For I was wondering what I could find to say, having exhausted my energies in my recital of the events which took place in February. But as I slipped into the Dance Room and received a smiling welcome (naturally) from our Secretary, I began to hope that something would materialise.

The dinner was good. At least, I inferred from the Menu that it was good, and several of my friends informed me that my surmise was correct. Although there were not quite so many present as in February, there was a goodly and

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distinguished company including one hundred members and their guests, three gate crashers and ck.

As I wandered round the room, I saw several persons who were present on the last occasion and others who were not. I was sorry to hear that the wife of one of our prominent members was unable to be present on account of ill health. On several occasions, this lady has been very kind to me, and has helped me by supplying technical details about the frocks worn. My heart once more began to grow heavy within me, when I met the Lady with the Cardinal Finger Nails. This does not refer to their shape, as they had not Cardinal Points, but to their colour, for I am informed that such is the correct description.

However, they pleased me so vastly that I forgot all about the frocks and so I shall have to find something else to say. And then I thought I was saved again, for I was introduced to an important guest from America, who expressed his willingness to be interviewed for the Swiss Observer. Oh joy! At last, someone had consented to be interviewed and I was just trying to remember the proper style of the american interviewer as I saw him when we approached New York, but whether it was the effect of the Cardinal Finger Nails or for some other mysterious cause, I have quite forgotten what he did tell me except, that I have a vague recollection that he said he had come over in connection with the Worlds' Fair at Chicago — a century of progress. I believe I was guilty of colossal ignorance for I did not know why there should be a Worlds' Fair at Chicago or with which century the progress was connected. However, if he reads these lines, perhaps he will forgive me and write a nice letter to the Editor, so that the readers of the Swiss Observer may really know what it is all about.

The Orchestra was most energetic and played a lot of jolly tunes, but I forgot to ask our musical expert if the tempo was right this time. In short, a very successful evening (Bother! I said that last time). Congratulations to the Committee, etc., etc., etc., and I can now go to sleep until the summer evenings demand the services at the Brent Bridge Hotel of ck.

HANS R. HEITZ. †

The death of Hans R. Heitz came as a great shock to his numerous friends and business acquaintances. At the age of 54 many fruitful years should have been before him had Fate not willed otherwise. It may well be that his will power to do things, his tremendous energy, induced him to over-strain his physical strength, though he was by no means a weakling; but then his will to conquer difficulties, to organise and to control, and the work he put into these endeavours, practically knew no limits. Nothing was too much for him. Travelling at night, negotiating during the day, drafting contracts, agreements, getting business, so long as there was something to do, "H.R.H." did not think of sparing himself. Out-spoken decisions, perhaps rough at times, certainly always to the point, and invariably quick and positive, were some of his main characteristics. He was a capable, profound thinker and methodical planner; ready to listen to counsel at times, he was more apt to come to rapid independent decisions. He was a business getter of the very first calibre. He was more than that. He knew how to surround himself with able, willing, devoted co-operators. He knew also how to visualise, to weigh up chances, to take risks, and to read possibilities and the future in his particular line, better perhaps than most of his competitors. No wonder, therefore, that, after he had for many years been Managing Director of the Lep Transport & Depository Ltd., the end found him at the head of the N. V. Transport Maatschappij, Lissen & Co., Rotterdam, with Zurich as the centre from which he developed his activities.

In his youth he studied at the special School for Railway Officials in Bienne, and was for several years afterwards occupied as a railway clerk at different railway stations in Switzerland. His theoretical and practical knowledge of the business that he was to exploit later, viz. international transport, was consequently well founded. Without this special training, even his considerable personal qualifications could not have brought him to the zenith of a Transport Specialist's career.

Though his mind was almost constantly occupied with transport and shipping matters, he found a certain amount of recreation in the pleasures of a beautiful garden, and in farming. Those who were privileged to know his home in Surrey, and of late years in Reinach, Canton Aargau, can testify to his good taste and also to his hospitality.

He was a loving father, who followed the rearing of his two boys with the keenest interest, occupying himself with every detail of their bringing up and training. His family, the business concerns which he directed, and his colleagues and friends suffer a great loss.

G. W.

AT THE "IDEAL HOME" EXHIBITION.

Among the 600 stands at the "Ideal Home" Exhibition, there are a few that should appeal especially to our compatriots.

During a casual walk on the opening day, which was by no means as well frequented as in previous years, we really could not help noticing the large stall occupied by the Bulle Co. Ltd., of which the popular Mr. H. Binggely is the Managing Director. The display is pleasing to the eye, and the stand is permeated by a stimulating atmosphere: like its principal, the goods are infused with a life and rhythmic movement that seems to be everlasting. Apart from this, there is, at one of the entrance halls, an immense dial, which in an ingenious way proves that Bulle time is always the right time throughout the world.

The "Aidas Electric Ltd.," shows the well-known "Sadia" water heaters, which used to be manufactured in and imported from Switzerland. The nature of the exhibit does perhaps not exercise such a general appeal as the Bulle clock, and for this reason we should have liked to see the display a little more attractive. It is, however, well worth to have a chat with one of the salesmen, and you will be surprised to learn that, for a comparatively small initial expense, you can indulge in a daily hot bath at the cost of about twopence.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, April 5th, at 7.30 p.m. Société de Secours Mutuels — Annual General Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, April 11th, at 8 o'clock — City Swiss Club — General Annual Meeting — at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W. (See advert.).

Wednesday, April 12th, at 8 o'clock — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting — preceded by supper at 7 p.m. A lecture illustrated with colour slides of Mittelholzer, by A. Tall, Esq., on "Series of Views from the National Park to the Valais" will follow.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que
L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ANNUELLE
aura lieu le 11 avril au Restaurant PAGANI,
42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée
d'un souper à 7 heures (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR.

Procès-verbal.
Admissions.
Démissions.
Rapport Présidentiel.
Rapport des Vérificateurs des Comptes.
Election du Comité.

Election des Vérificateurs des Comptes.
Election des Fidélitaires du "Club House Fund."
Press Reporter.
Réunions d'été.
Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

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Sonntag, den 2. April 1933.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr Chorpöbe.

Dienstag, den 4. April 1933.

Nachm. 3 Uhr : Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse."

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