

ASSOCIATION OF
BRITISH MEMBERS
OF
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

President:
CLINTON DENT.

Vice-President:
DR. O. K. WILLIAMSON.

Committee:

A. B. CHALLIS,
DR. H. L. DENT,
W. S. DIXON,
EDWARD HARRIS,
R. HUGHES, D.C.L.,
LIEUTENANT F. H. GRENFELL, R.N.,
W. JAMES,
C. SCOTT LINDSAY,
LEWIS NOAD,
H. G. PULLING,
R. C. RICHARDS,
R. D. ROBERTSON,
W. M. ROBERTS,
DR. STEVENSON.
(One Vacancy).

Hon. Auditor:
CLAUD STEEL, A.C.A.

Hon. Treasurer:
C. KING-CHURCH, Clive Lodge, Albury, Surrey.

Hon. Secretaries:
J. A. B. BRUCE, Selborne Lodge, Guildford,
G. A. STEEL, 16, Argyll Mansions, Addison Bridge, London, W.

THE ASSOCIATION OF
BRITISH MEMBERS
OF THE
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

Previous to the dinner on December 8th, 1909, a meeting was held to form the above Association. It was announced that over 400 persons had written approving of the proposed Association.

MR. CLINTON DENT in the Chair.

The objects of the Association were defined as follows:

1. To bring home to all British climbers and lovers of the Alps their obligations to support the Swiss Alpine Club by becoming members of some section of that body.

[The Committee are ready to propose new candidates for *any* section of the Swiss Alpine Club.* The subscription varies slightly in different sections, but is about 16 francs a year and 10 francs entrance fee. Candidates should state if they wish

* Advantages of belonging to S.A.C.: Reduction on certain Swiss railways (*e.g.*, half price on Zermatt Railway), half price at certain huts, a RIGHT of entry at the Club Huts instead of being there on SUFFERANCE, a fortnightly paper and monthly magazine free in a French-speaking Section, *The Jahrbuch*, a well illustrated annual, half-price.

to belong to any particular section, if not, whether they prefer a French or German-speaking section].

2. To collect subscriptions and present the Swiss Alpine Club with a hut as a token of goodwill from the British to the Swiss, and for such other purposes as the Association may from time to time determine. (First subscription list enclosed. Over £120 has already been promised. A good hut will cost £500.)

3. To form a body sufficiently numerous and influential to be able to present a collective opinion to the Swiss Alpine Club on any question of Alpine interest. (This clause was proposed as it stands by Professor Roget as representing the Swiss Alpine Club.)

4. To promote among English members some of that sociability which is a conspicuous feature of the Swiss sections, but from which we are necessarily debarred by living at a distance from the headquarters of our sections. It has been suggested that this object might be attained by a meeting in June to discuss holiday plans, and a dinner in December.

[It was suggested that later on the question of also getting into touch with the Austrian, French and Italian Alpine Clubs should be considered. Canon Horsley wrote and suggested occasional meetings for showing lantern slides taken by members. These and other suggestions are being considered by the committee].

MR. CLINTON DENT was elected as the first President, on the proposition of the Bishop of Bristol, seconded by Mr. H. Pulling.

The post of Vice-President was left to the committee to fill up. They have since selected DR. O. K. WILLIAMSON.

The following were elected as the first Committee, with power to add three to their number:—

DR. H. L. DENT,	C. SCOTT LINDSAY,
W. S. DIXON,	LEWIS NOAD,
A. B. CHALLIS,	H. J. PULLING,
LIEUT. GRENFELL, R.N.,	H. C. RICHARDS,
W. W. JAMES,	W. M. ROBERTS,
E. HARRIS,	DR. STEVENSON,

[R. D. ROBERTSON and R. HUGHES were afterwards co-opted by the Committee].

Hon. Auditor: CLAUD STEEL, A.C.A.

Hon. Treasurer: CYRIL KING-CHURCH, Clive Lodge, Albury, Surrey.

Hon. Secretaries: J. A. B. BRUCE, Selborne Lodge, Guildford.

GERALD STEEL, 16, Argyll Mansions, Addison Bridge, Kensington, W.

The subscription to the Association was fixed at 5s. a year, or £2 2s. od. for life. Members must also belong to some section of S.A.C.

The rules were then discussed and approved, the exact wording to be revised by the committee.

A list of members of the Association and rules will be published later.

The formation of a sub-section or local Committee of Geneva Section of Swiss Alpine Club was confirmed.

THE ASSOCIATION OF
BRITISH MEMBERS
OF
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

—◆—
List of Members and Guests,

At the First Dinner on Dec. 8th, 1909.

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aitkin, S. | Dent, Dr. H. |
| Adams, W. | Dent, J. Y. |
| Adler, H. S. | Dimier, Georges |
| Alston, G. R. | Dixon, W. S. |
|
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| Barnard, Rev. P. M. | Easton, Dr. |
| Baker, H. K. |
 |
| Bilby, C. A. | Fass, E. |
| Bourdillon, H. | Foot, H. |
| Bolton, F. W. | Franklin, W. T. |
| Bourdillon, F. W. |
 |
| Brant, R. W. | Gordon, R. |
| Browne, G. E. | Gait, J. C. |
| Browne, — | Gardner, T. |
| Bristol, The Right Rev. the | Gover, J. M. |
| Bishop of | Grande, Julian |
| Bruce, J. A. B., <i>Hon. Sec.</i> | Graham, R. |
| Bond, H. | Grenfell, Lieut. F. H., R.N. |
|
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| Challis, A. B. | Hartrae, C. |
| Castello, S. M. | Hawksley, Bouchier F. |
| Clason, Cleon | Harris, E. B. |
| Coates, L. J. | Haslett, Douglas |
| Cooper, C. H. | Hawkins, E. F. |
| Corry, R. | Hobson, G. D. |
| Clerihew, F. | Hughes, R., D.C.L. |
| Currie, J. H. M. | Hutchinson, C. H. |
|
 | Hind, Rev. H. D. |
| Dalton, Rev. A. E. | Holmes, F. J. |
| Dawson, Rev. A. E. | Heim, Frank |
| Dent, Clinton, <i>Chairman</i> , | Hepburn, N. L. |
| (Hon. Member S.A.C.) | |

James, J. E.
James, Warwick
Jardine, W.

King-Church, C.
Kriegelstein, F. C.

Lehmann, C.
Lindsay, D. Scott
(Hon. Sec. Alpine Ski Club)
Lister, W. T.

Martens, R.
Mason, A. E. W., M.P.
Maude, W.
Mathews, C. M.
(Hon. Sec. Climbing Club)
Merrin, Rev. T.
Marescaux, E.
Murray, E. D.
Murray, Rev. A. E.
Morrish, H. G.
Morrish, R. S.
Morrish, C. A.

Neame, G. H.
Neame, L.
Nicholson, W. F.

Paget, Catesby
Peel, R. M.
Pollock, Sir Frederick, Bt.
Porter, Dr. A. E.
Petitpierre, J.
Powell, Leonard
Pulling, H. G.
Portch, W.

Radford, G. H., M.P.
Richards, R. C.
Robson, J. Walter
Robinson, Lionel
Roget, Professor F. F.
(Representative of S.A.C.)
Roget, S. R.

Roberts, W. M.
Robertson, C. D.
Romer, C. R.
Roos, H.
Ritson, J.
Roller, J.

Sedgwick, Walter
Steinmann, M.
Studemund, A.
Symons, H.
Snelgrove, A. G.
Steel, Claud.
Steel, Gerald A. (Hon. Sec.)
Stewart, G. L.
Stewart, C. G. G.
Shann, Edward
Sissons, George
Stevenson, Dr.
Stein, J. W.
Stockton, Rev. S.
Simon, H.

Taylor, C. E.
Thellwall, F.
Trey de A.
Thorpe C. H.

Unna, P. J.
Unwin, T. Fisher

Vernon, R. V.

Walker, J. Osborne
Wheeler, C. B.
Walton, —
Whymper, Edward
(Hon. Member S.A.C.)
Wigram, Rev. H. F.
Wigram, L. T.
Willis, J. G.
Williamson, Dr. O. K.
Wood, D. T. B.

Yates, Edward

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The first Dinner of the above was held at the Holborn Restaurant on December 8th, 1909. About 130 were present, among others, Mr. Clinton Dent (the president) in the chair, Professor F. Roget, of Geneva University (representing the Central Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club), the Bishop of Bristol, Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart., Edward Whymper (hon. member of S.A.C.), A. E. W. Mason, M.P., G. H. Radford, M.P., Dr. O. K. Williamson, G. L. Stewart, Bouchier F. Hawksley, C. Scott Lindsay (hon. sec., Alpine Ski Club), C. M. Mathews (hon. sec., Climbers' Club), Dr. H. L. Dent, etc.

The toasts of 'The King,' 'Queen' and 'Royal Family' were drunk with enthusiasm as also that of 'The President of the Swiss Confederation.' The Chairman then proposed the toast of the evening

'THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.'

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Clinton Dent): Gentlemen, before I make the few remarks that I have to offer you this evening, I should like to read to you a telegram which was put into my hands just before the dinner commenced, dated Interlaken to-day: 'To the Swiss Alpine Club, Holborn Restaurant, London. Sincere greetings from Oberland section, Interlaken.' It will probably be your wish that we should send by telegram an answer to-night as from this Association. I suggest we might telegraph: 'Warmly reciprocate greetings—("reciprocate is an extremely difficult word to say after dinner")—Association, Holborn Restaurant.'

In the first place, I think it is my duty at the very beginning to thank you more fully than I was able to do a few minutes ago for the honour that you have done me in endorsing—I had almost said in condoning—the action of the committee in asking me to be the first president of this Association. I cannot but feel a little in the position of M. Gêronte, in 'Les Fourberies de Scapin,' when he remarked, and remarked with persistent iteration: '*Qu' allait-il faire dans cette galère.*'

I can but promise you that I will do my best.

I have the duty to discharge now of proposing the first toast for your acceptance, and, as Cousin Feenix observed at Mr. Dombey's wedding breakfast, when a duty involves upon an Englishman it is, in my opinion, his business to get out of it in the best way he can.

The task of proposing prosperity to the Swiss Alpine Club, at any time congenial, is rendered particularly acceptable to me on this present occasion, inasmuch as I am privileged to couple with the toast the name of Professor Roget, of Geneva. Professor Roget has torn himself away from his University work, and paid a flying visit to this country in order to be present at our meeting and at our first dinner this evening. It will not become me on the present occasion to say much about him. You all know him as a most distinguished man of letters, and I think he furnishes the happiest instance, which you all recognise more or less in your own selves, of how great intellectual distinction is constantly united to a love of the mountains. It is certain that the Swiss Alpine Club could not have sent a better representative, and I am sure you will agree with me that they could not have sent a more welcome representative. Here, not less than in his own country, I think and hope that he must feel at home: for he is one whose attainments and whose wide knowledge of literature, render him absolutely a cosmopolitan.

Into the history of the formation of this

Association, this is not the moment, and I have no intention, to enter at any length. I would only like to remind you that the idea, mooted long since, of forming such an association—indeed, some years ago—has come into actual existence through the energy, and not only through the energy, but through the tact, of your honorary secretaries, Mr. Bruce and Mr. Steel.

I think that in the minds of some there may possibly exist some misunderstanding still as to the objects of this Association, clearly though those have been already set forth. I believe that the actual formation of the Association has met with a certain amount of criticism, and that too in somewhat unexpected quarters. I am not surprised at it; I am glad of it. Criticism, as Mr. Mason will allow, is the very sauce of life, and adds piquancy to it. With any new departure, with the promulgation of any novel idea, a large section of mankind is at once divided into three definite classes. There are those—and they are fairly numerous—who, if the idea is good, follow it. There are those—and they are also numerous, and more numerous than one might suppose—who, when they find that the idea has caught on, state that it was really theirs from the very inception, and testify their appreciation of it by, in diplomatic phrase, annexation. And there are those who find a certain amount of fault with it—such people always exist. They constitute a definite class, and they are called critics. For-

getting the obvious etymology of that term, they do not so much constitute themselves judges and discerners of the new departure as fault-finders.

Every new thing is criticised a little. I read the papers at times, and have almost gathered from them that even the Budget has its detractors—that is only an impression that I have formed. This holds good of many other things; but so long as there is a large and influential fourth party, those who join in and support a movement, all must inevitably be well. And that they are many, and that they are influential, and that they have the well-being of this Association at heart, this large gathering to-night furnishes sufficient evidence.

I have one or two letters here; I will not read them *in extenso*, but I think you would like to know of some of the many. I do not propose to read all these, which are only a small instalment of those which Mr. Bruce habitually carries about in a carpet bag, but there are one or two here that I think you would like to hear.

This is one dated the 1st December: 'I am much honoured by the invitation from British members of the Swiss Alpine Club to join the dinner of the 8th inst., but it happens that I, on that day, am entertaining a large party of neighbours. I send hearty good wishes to all Alpine climbers, for ours is the noblest of all sports. But, having now entered my 79th year, I think it best to avoid London in

December, public dinners, and tobacco, if I am ever to have the chance of seeing once more my beloved snow fields, which I began to tackle in 1851.—Yours very truly, Frederic Harrison.'

Just a brief extract from two other letters. From that of Sir Alfred Wills I will only quote the following passage: 'As you have determined on an *entente cordiale* I heartily wish you all success.'

'I am much touched by your kind letter. As for my Alpine experiences, practical in their way, they are almost prehistoric, and too remote to have an interest save for a few friends. More than fifty years have passed since, in the companionship of my friend, Hinchliff, I was associated with the glories of Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa, and inconvenienced by some tight places Zermatt way. The valuable opinion and hearty good wishes of Sir Alfred Wills I most cordially re-echo, and I feel confident that the oratorical galaxy—which I see before me—to-morrow will greatly promote the comity and good fellowship, which is the aim of your Association.—Believe me, very faithfully yours, Robert Walters.'

Those two letters are from the only two surviving original members of the Alpine Club.

From the RIGHT HON. JAMES BRYCE, British Embassy, Washington.

'As you invite an expression of my opinion, I send it with pleasure, though it will reach

you too late for your gathering. The idea of friendly relations between our Club and the Swiss Alpine Club seems to me to be a very good one, though my opinion, being abroad, is rather academic than practical. Thinking it good, occurs to me to ask why should we not have fraternal intercourse also with the D. Oe A. V., which maintains a great many comfortable huts in the Eastern Alps, and allows us the use of them, and with the Italian and French Clubs. All such friendliness is entirely to the good, and the idea of showing solidarity and co-operation by presenting a hut to the Swiss Alpine Club seems also a happy one. No doubt our Swiss friends would appreciate such a mark of goodwill and gratitude for the privileges which they extend to us. Please let me know how it goes on.'

[This was received too late to be read at the dinner].

One of the best features of this Association is that it desires to promote good-feeling, social intercourse, and a good understanding between the people of different nations, who have one great bond of union in common—love of the mountains. Opportunities for doing this after all are not so very frequent. Nations do not understand each other particularly well, for the simple reason that they will not take the trouble to do so. No factor really determines variations of the human species more potently than the physical geography of their environment. This fact alone renders it

difficult for them to know each other. But in our case, gentlemen, by the very happiest possible coincidence, it is the physical geography of the Alps that constitutes our very strongest bond of union, and the means of bringing us together.

I am glad indeed, speaking for myself, of one point, and that is that it has not been possible, under the statutes of the Swiss Alpine Club, to form a separate London section of that club. I should have viewed any such proposal with some concern. I believe that the best aim of this Association is to merge itself into, and to unite as closely as possible with that great and influential body already existing, the Swiss Alpine Club. We are not constituting a new kind of Alpine club; we are desirous of reinforcing and coming into closer touch with a body of which we know at present, most of us, far too little.

I am one of those who hope that this Association, by what it has done to-night, is really only commencing its work, and that it will go beyond endeavouring to obtain recruits for, and uniting only with, the Swiss Alpine Club. Many of us who visit the Alps also visit the mountains in other and more remote regions, and I hope that ultimately it may be possible for this Association to extend its sphere of influence, and to promote good-fellowship between the other great associations which exist in European countries, on the same lines as it has started on to-night.

I know full well—you have not to travel

much to realise it—that people seem to suppose that wherever there are mountains in Europe they are in Switzerland, and it is quite common for our countrymen, and for others, with an irresponsible inaccuracy that is positively worthy of a politician on the platform—the word escaped me inadvisedly, but say a suffragette—to describe a visit to the Mont Blanc range, or to the Venetian Dolomites as a tour in Switzerland. This Association may be the means of bringing more accurate geographical knowledge into the minds of our fellow-countrymen.

There is one other point, and that is the only one to which I will allude this evening. There are no departments of activity which the Swiss Alpine Club has taken up, there is no object which that great club has in view, with which I more cordially sympathise than that of the desire to preserve the natural beauties of that country that they love so well, and that we admire so much. I think that, as members of their sections, we may make our voice heard more efficiently and more easily than we are able to do in any other way. There are few commodities in this world that people are very lavish in giving and very chary in receiving, but one of those is most certainly unasked-for advice, although you may always get it gratis in any quantity you please.

It is very much better to speak your piece through the section to which you chance to belong than to come home after your holiday and write a letter to the *Times* complaining

about something you did not like, which is the plan at present principally followed. Our countrymen are not, I think, the only people who sometimes forget that when they travel abroad they are really the guests of the country in which they are for the time sojourning. It is not unnatural, perhaps, that that should be so. You travel; you lead your life principally in the hotels; and I know to the minds of some, Switzerland is merely a country of hotels. Well, you miss a great deal if you do that; you miss a very great deal if you do not endeavour to learn something of, and to appreciate, the people whose guests you really are for the time being. This Association can do much, and I hope it will do much, in the future to promote that friendly feeling between different peoples, which it is, to my mind, the great object of this Association to foster.

I will only now propose: 'Prosperity to the Swiss Alpine Club: may it flourish root and branch, including the latest graft on to the parent stem!'

The toast, having been enthusiastically received,

PROFESSOR F. F. ROGET, in reply, said: I think, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that in this speech I ought not to begin by saying 'Mr. Chairman and gentlemen'; I ought to say, 'My dear colleagues and friends of the Swiss Alpine Club.' But if I use these words, in English, I find myself somewhat puzzled as a Swiss and as a Genevese, though not at all as a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, for I

remember that in our country we have several languages, each of which is equally national: one being the German, which is not my own; another being the French, of which I boast; and a third being the Italian; and now I find myself in such a position that I believe we will have to add the English language to our national languages. Really, I do not see why we should not go thus far afield, since you are so well disposed on our behalf, and inclined to take us so pleasantly.

But there is one thing, which we call 'neutrality,' and which is a gospel with us: we, in the centre of Europe, are a peaceful people. Here again I am much puzzled, for suppose I tell you that, to be neutral, you would have to somewhat clip the claws of the British leopard, and love your fellow German a little more, and perhaps love your big friend at present, the Frenchman, a little less—you must be neutral according to the Swiss style—it might be that my ruling would not be so palatable to you as the chairman's remarks were agreeable to me just now. I am sure, however, that when you are in Switzerland you quite appreciate our modest and simple character, remembering the whole time that you are possessed of that highest privilege, which we call on the Continent the *pax Britannica*, and which we are so glad to see spreading forth into so many foreign lands, outside Europe principally, and providing for those different countries the blessings of civilisation, of peace, and of prosperity.

‘The British leopard,’ I was saying just now: I do not believe I will ask you to change his spots any more than I will ask the Ethiopian to change his skin; for we are always delighted when we see the British leopard carrying an axe in his hand, or perhaps handling the old-fashioned pole called an alpenstock; and we are most happy when, instead of having on his feet those indiarubber shoes that some ladies are very fond of putting on their pet dogs in order that they may not get damp feet in London, we see him with good sound powerful climbing irons fastened on to his toes.

Well, gentlemen, I have not yet got over the fact that I am with you to-night, and the astonishment it causes me. I am here because during the months of October and November some gentlemen have been extremely busy and extremely active. They took to heart a very fine and noble task, namely, that of forming in London an association of Britishers or Britons—call them which you like—Englishmen, Scotsmen and Irishmen, who intend to tighten the bond of friendship between Great Britain and small Switzerland. I have received various papers about this—cards, invitations, circulars—and I have seen there the name, the much-initialled name, of my friend Bruce, whose name I cannot pronounce without a Scottish burr, for which I do not apologise to him, as there may be Scotsmen here. I see before me your second secretary, Steel, whose name gleams very much like the pen he wields

so well; I see also your treasurer, King-Church, whose double name is so loyal to England; and I was much perplexed during dinner, when looking at Mr. Dent, how to connect his name with that of Mr. Bruce and Mr. Steel, when he took up the hammer, and, having thoroughly identified himself with the situation, proceeded to make an indentation upon the table.

I bring you, gentlemen—no! dear colleagues—of the Association which I shall call in a euphemistic way the British section of the Swiss Alpine Club, the hearty greetings of our C.C. You know we call our Central Committee the 'C.C.,' and there is no power in this world that is so imposing, so solemn, as the power wielded by the C.C. You may imagine you are going to be allowed an entirely free hand because there is between you and the C.C. a silver streak, a strip of ocean, but it is not so. No doubt the committeemen of this Association have already received letters from the Central Committee, letters worded as if they were instructions from a superior commanding officer to a body of subalterns. I believe in so doing the C.C. is meeting your own views. You do intend to place yourselves in the rank and file of our local sections exactly as if you were one of them, inwardly speaking, though bearing a slightly different label on the outside; on account of those formal reasons which compel one to use a certain terminology in order to describe artfully the merchandise that is within. The label is not

deceptive; it is simply a matter of conforming to certain rules already existing. This being said, you will quite understand the meaning of the message I have to bring to you, namely, that the Central Committee looks upon you as members of the Swiss Alpine Club forming a body in London, in England, and having as far as is possible every right, every privilege, and entitled to every consideration, entitled to be heard, entitled to be listened to, entitled to speak of your own accord, and say what lies on your heart and what is upon your mind.

We are always prepared to receive advice, information, hints, and there can be no doubt that an association composed principally of Englishmen may be of great utility and great usefulness, not only to the Swiss Alpine Club, but for all the purposes which it has been formed to further.

I heard from Mr. Bruce at your business meeting that he had been corresponding with our Swiss Minister, M. Gaston Carlin. I do not hesitate to mention him here since he has been openly named before, not by me, but by one of yourselves. He is a friend of mine; in addition to that he is a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, and takes a great interest in this Association. I told him all about it last spring, and he is in full agreement with the foundation of this Association. I am quite sure he would have been here but for the fact that he has to be elsewhere, and I do not hesitate in bringing to you the assurance of his friendship, sympathy and interest.

It is quite natural that the Swiss and the English should pull well together; we are the mountain-born lovers of freedom, and you are the sea-born lovers of freedom. Between the immensity that stretches afar and the immensity which rises up there is a natural affinity. As your chairman put it, in better words than I can, we Swiss and you Britons, we struck upon the right kind of fellowship; we shall know how to enlarge it; we shall know how to work it, if I may say so, for the benefit of both countries, and particularly for the sake of the ideas which thus unite us. I remember some lines of Wordsworth in a sonnet which he wrote in 1802 or 1807—I am not sure of the date—entitled ‘Thoughts upon the Subjugation of Switzerland.’ At that time Switzerland, like most of Europe, was swayed by Napoleon I, and Wordsworth, in those lines, compared the spirit of the sea with the spirit of the mountains, united those two spirits, and said how dreadful it would be for this world and its future if the two voices of liberty, that which comes from the sea, and that which comes from the Alps, were both hushed for ever.

Well, my colleagues of the Swiss Alpine Club, it was not written in history that either of those voices would be silenced. The struggle was as great, as heavy, almost as bloody, for the Swiss as for you; but ultimately the Alps were made free again and are so still. And you know how Trafalgar and Waterloo told their own tale for freedom—

Trafalgar particularly—as a battle fought by lovers of the sea, by your sailors. Between you who are sea-girt, and us who are mountain-girt, there is an affinity, an analogy, which will unite us more and more.

I have not come only as a delegate from the Central Committee. I was asked by your subsection of the Geneva section to come and represent the Geneva section as well. And as such, too, I find points of contact between Geneva and England of a remarkable kind. The Geneva and the English people are, perhaps, the two nations in Europe that best understand the public aspect of life. This gathering is an instance of the force of public life. Here are gentlemen brought together, most of whom never met before. They have not hesitated to put in common their ideas, to bring into touch their aspirations, and to exchange their thoughts upon mountaineering topics. This is done, as the Greeks would say, *dêmosiôs*, that is to say, in a public spirit. The particular point on which we join hands in a public spirit is, of course, alpinism; we are all alpinists. The word sounds a little new, perhaps, still it is the word to be used, for, in Switzerland, we use the word *alpiniste* in the sense in which I propose you should understand it in English.

And there is another good word—*ascensionniste*. Those who climb in the Alps are either alpinists or ascensionists, or they are a bit of both. You know how Englishmen show zeal both in scientifically examining the

Alps and in exploring them physically. I here allude to the more modern names of Tyndall and many more on the English side, and to those eminent climbers, some of whom wrote letters to us to-night, for which I am as grateful as you are.

The Swiss, at an early date, began to explore the mountains, first unscientifically, and then, with scientific scholars, began the period when the ascensionist's effort was united with scientific research. The Genevese may claim to count among their number some of the first victims that fell to the love of mountain knowledge. Not very long ago, in some papers which had long been kept here in London, and which were put in my hands quite lately, I found the name of a Genevese, who has descendants now in Geneva, a banker, who lost his life in 1783 or thereabouts climbing the Aiguille de Charmoz. This gentleman started all alone; he took an extremely difficult peak, and met with his death by a rock which fell upon him.

So that you will see that although it is sometimes said the Swiss have not been the first in visiting the Alps, that is not quite the fact. They were little advertised, I admit, for there is this to be remembered, which I may say here, since you will understand a stroke of humour, as I know an Englishman does: an accident that happens to an Englishman is, from the point of view of the hotel keeper in Switzerland, a much better advertisement than anything which may befall a common or gar-

den Swiss. That is why you will find that the Central News telegraph office issues on those occasions endless telegrams from hotel keepers.

Well, gentlemen, I think it is time I should stop and allow my other friends here to address you in their turn.

What my C.C. wishes me to say to you, summed up in a few words, is that we want you to be—how shall I put it?—among us and with us the privileged foreigner. I speak frankly. You cannot come into our huts on conditions of reciprocity because you have no Alps. The backbone of reciprocity is having a home in which to receive your friends. You have not got this—you have not got the huts, I mean—and that is where the shoe pinches, and has come to pinch some of you sorely. You reach our huts and find there a huge piece of cardboard saying that we admit in the first place the wounded and the sick; secondly, members of the Swiss Alpine Club; thirdly, members of societies who are on terms of reciprocity with the club—that is, the German and Austrian Club, the French Club and the Italian Club; next come the guides and porters, and next might probably come the ladies. But there is no mention of any right for an Englishman, or for an English society to be there, and this cannot be endured. Not only do we wish that you should be in those huts exactly as if you were born Switzers, but we are in a very favourable position to say to the Germans, and the French, and the Italians, that we cannot help giving you a privileged position, because

you have the misfortune of being unable to reciprocate, whereas they can. And the argument is absolutely unanswerable. We accept Englishmen into our club because we like them, but also because they are in such a position that they cannot otherwise be put on equal terms with their fellow-climbers in using the huts, while we can at any time admit people from France, Germany and Italy into them on what are called mutual terms; and, as you know, that is quite a fair way of exchanging amenities.

This is now thoroughly understood; there will never be any doubt about this point. I am quite aware that some persons here are afraid that this Association will not always keep before its eyes the joint interest, but we are quite sure that you will really enter this Association in order to take upon yourselves the Swiss soul and the Swiss spirit. We know quite well that you will, with us, cultivate what I like to call—I am rather free in my use of Latin—the *excelsior anima*—not 'animus,' but 'anima'—that you will always draw with us upon the hills from your breast, the higher breath, and in that way we will thrive upon the same atmosphere; we will all live together in absolute fellowship, unmindful, of course, of individual faults and national characteristics.

One of these may be that our club is too democratic to be always quite acceptable to the class of Englishmen who are likely to join this new association. Why? Because our club is

a national society. Englishmen who enter the Swiss Club are clearly gentlemen who belong, at any rate, to the upper and middle class of society, people who have a little money, who can afford to travel; while many of our Swiss members are simply working men who start with sixpence in their pockets on Friday night, travel by rail it may be all that night, walk the whole of Saturday, and the whole of a night, and the whole of a day, and go back again by night to be ready for their work on Monday. Those are the gentlemen of Nature. The force that drives them is of the finest, but the setting is often extremely rough. However, you will overlook those faults. I have full confidence that the understanding is perfect, and will remain so. You may be sure that our Central Committee will send you a delegate as often as they can. It will not look upon you as younger sons, as it is said that in former days English noblemen used to cast away their younger sons to do as best they could. Not at all! You are not our younger sons in that sense; you are the darlings of the family because you are the youngest, and have craved to be admitted.

I will empty my glass to you, and hope that there nowhere is a cloud flitting across this wedding feast. May our pledge last, and be renewed perpetually as long as the Alps stand!

‘THE ALPINE CLUB AND KINDRED SOCIETIES.’

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL: I speak as a member of the Bern sec-

tion of the Swiss Alpine Club, and, like M. Roget, I do not propose to speak in the native language of that section. If I had not ceased to go to the Bernina I should have claimed that there was a fourth and a very much finer language than any of those which M. Roget had mentioned, a language which year after year I take more interest in, the Rhaeto-Romanic. That is the language I should have claimed to speak in if I had been a member of the Bernina section.

M. Roget has not referred to the great record which he has made; we only gathered it from Mr. Dent, who told us that M. Roget had paid a flying visit to us—aviation!

I propose the health of the Alpine Club, but before I do that I should like to say, as a member of the Bern section, that if I started on a Friday night with sixpence in my pocket and travelled all night, and went to hotels on Saturday and Sunday, and came home again on Monday, a great many hotels would want to know my address. That comes of being one of the upper classes.

I propose the toast of 'The Alpine Club and Kindred Societies.' The incidence of an immediate election made me refer to the famous elections of past history, and I thought of the great election at Eatanswill. I was reminded how the great editor produced an article upon Chinese metaphysics; he set a man to read up all he could find about China, and then to read up all he could find about metaphysics, and then combine the informa-

tion. So, when I found I had to propose the toast of the Alpine Club I thought I had better look up 'Alpine' and look up 'club,' and combine the information. 'Club' is quite a delightful word; its variants are 'clumsy' and 'clown'; it means a lump, and it means a dumpling, as well as a great many other things. The only thing approaching to us is this: 'A tightly packed heap of men.' That is what this Association is going to be—a tightly packed heap of men. So that 'Alpine club' either means 'Alpine clumsy,' or the 'Alpine clown, or the 'Alpine tightly packed heap of men,' or it means the 'Alpine dumpling.' Whatever it means, there it is!

As we find delightful personalities—the spirit of a man, the character of a man, the personality of a man, is so delightful—so it always comes to be in clubs. I was thinking of various clubs, and I have come to think that the Alpine Club is a microcosm containing the principles of all conceivable excellent clubs. Let me take an example. I went through the list of clubs at the Athenæum—you see I was there, as a Bishop always is, with nothing whatever to do, absolutely nothing, but to kill time; and you will find that that is not at all an easy job. Time flies faster than you expect, and when you are bent on killing time you very often kill things you do not aim at. But, however, there I was, and I looked up this list of clubs, and I thought that I could not detect that we were a microcosm, including the principles of the

Eccentric Club or of the Savages. Nor, on the other hand, do I think the Athenæum would quite fit. We are much too fresh and frivolous there—balls every night, and things of that kind. I do not think that would do.

But, look a little further. A principle, we have been told, of Alpine clubs is to preserve the natural beauties, the highest beauties of nature. Well, you young men who take part in that are, I take it, Junior Conservatives, and we old people who back you are Senior Conservatives. I might go on to other clubs. Take, for instance, this: Another aim and object of these clubs is to encourage young men to train themselves, to keep in excellent training and in excellent practice and exercise, and, in fact, build up their constitution—that is the Junior Constitutional Club. When you come to my age, and have gone through that process, and, as far as you can, still continue to go through it even in your seventy-seventh year, then you find that there is such a thing as—the most delightful club of all—the Senior Constitutional.

I might go on to clubs on another side. For instance, one of the great charms of a really club-able man, one of the most charming spirits in a worthy club, is a sort of genial open-handedness. With a little 'l' you have there the Liberal Club. And now that this Association is to combine all nations, not only in itself, but in the land we are going to demand hospitality from, there you have the National Liberal Club.

And then go to the Reform Club. When you come to examine the exorbitant charges for guides and various things at different hotels and places, you take the Reform Club, you stick the word ' Tariff ' on to it, and there you have the Tariff Reform Club. And so I might go on, building up these various things; one could go through a great many other clubs.

But, after all, speaking from my end of life, I am prepared to say that the Alpine Club provides you with the most sincere pleasures of memory that any association you may be concerned with in your life can provide. I do not know anything more delightful than to look back upon these pleasant Alpine memories, where not only you yourself were for a short time at your best, but where the men you associated with were also at their best, and when there was nothing to do but simply to get pure enjoyment, using the powers of body and brain with which nature has been kind enough to endow you. There is no pleasure that I can look back upon as I do upon that. I have the very highest belief in the value, to an old man at any rate, of having been for a great many years a member of one of these delightful clubs.

The question is, whom shall we ask to respond to this toast of the Alpine Club and kindred societies. There is one man who almost more than anyone else has gone to all parts of the world, and, wherever he has gone, he has climbed everything that was to

be climbed, and he has illustrated it with a power that no one else has, to my knowledge, and with a literary skill which transcends that of most persons who use their hand for their pencil.

I have a standing quarrel against that gentleman, and I will bring it out now. He was pleased to expend his marvellous power of draughtsmanship on drawing, and publishing, if you please, a picture of the second worst stinging beast in all South America, and under that there is written the name, 'The Devil.' Three pages further on he gives you a picture of the worst of them all, and underneath that is written 'The Bishop.' And yet he has been a friend of mine since I do not know how long! I believe, in fact I am sure—at least I hope it was so—that when I went up as undergraduate he was still being most inadequately whipped at a preparatory school. And yet he is one of my oldest friends. He used to come to me in Cambridge convinced that he could square the circle by mere beauty of draughtsmanship; he was quite sure that he could do it. Whether he continues so to believe I do not know, but I believe—I have always remembered with a certain amount of gratitude—that I was the first person in England that he came to after his terrible experience in the year 1865. Such a man, who has covered almost all fields, whether in the direction of art, or in the direction of literature, or in the direction of climbing, is entitled to reverence and respect; and so I have not the

slightest hesitation in calling upon Mr. Whympcr to reply to this toast.

The toast, having been duly honoured,

MR. EDWARD WHYMPER, in response, said: Gentlemen, no toast could, I think, be more agreeable to you than that to which I have to speak, for it invites you to drink your own health. We are, as you know, the pick of the Universe; we have an enormous number of virtues and only one failing. Through false modesty we do not sufficiently let the outside world know what beautiful creatures we are. Physically, morally and intellectually, we are the cream of the earth. The cream, you know, always rises to the top.

With the birth and growth of the Alpine Club most of us are familiar. It was founded more than fifty years ago. I have here a copy—a very rare thing—of the first prospectus which was issued, with the proposed rules, before the club was founded. The last rule is, I think, particularly interesting; it runs thus: 'The club shall dine together in February and in May, and the dinner shall be paid for'—I ask you to pay particular attention to the last part—'by those who have not four days previously signified to the honorary secretary their intention of being absent.'

The first list of members that was printed, dated 1859, contained 126 names. Like boys, the club grew rapidly at first, and, in five years, the number of members was doubled. It then went at a slower pace, and it took

thirty-two years before the number was quadrupled. At the present time it is about 700.

The kindred societies, when once they started, grew more quickly. There are now more than 200 of them, and their members may be counted by hundreds of thousands. Though the members of the Alpine clubs are strong numerically, there is not one amongst them who is the equal of the first mountaineer whose name is mentioned in history, I mean Mr. Noah, who descended the great mountain Ararat, when it was covered with slime—a mountain which has taxed the energies of some of our past presidents when it was in a much better condition—personally conducting, not only his three big boys in their long-tailed petticoats, and their wives and families, and all their belongings, but also the largest menagerie that has ever been brought together, all in perfect safety.

Now, some of us doubtless have made long descents in the company of an Ass or a Bear, or, perhaps, even a 'Lion,' and can faintly appreciate the exhausting nature of his labours. One can hardly be surprised that he wanted a good square drink for years afterwards when he thought about the past. Upon one occasion he seems to have taken a drop too much, and rather misbehaved himself, but if he had been brought before me as sitting magistrate I would have dismissed the case, because there were extenuating circumstances.

The kindred societies, to which the toast refers, are spread all over the world, but whether

they are in Japan or New Zealand, in Cape Town or in Norway, in New York or in San Francisco, I am sure they all have our best wishes for their success and prosperity.

But our sympathies to-night, Professor Roget, are naturally principally with you and our Swiss brethren, who are menaced just now with the desecration of one of your noblest mountains, I mean by the project of a railway up the Matterhorn. Many applications have been made to me to speak upon this subject in Switzerland, and I have uniformly declined, because it appears to me to be a matter for the Swiss themselves to determine.

Because this project met with little support when it was first brought out it is supposed by some that it is dead, and will not come to life again. Dr. Dübi, editor of the Swiss Year Book (who, by the way, asked me to express here his regret at not being with you, and to present his heartiest congratulations to the English members of the club), wrote me as follows: 'I trust the Matterhorn railway project is dead, and buried with its first promoter. If ever it is brought forward again it will not meet with great sympathy from the Cantonal and Federal authorities, and will, therefore, drop soon.' That is not so sure; rumours to the contrary are afloat. Some believe that the carrying out of the Matterhorn Railway would depend upon the Jungfrau Railway; that the latter was already paying well, and that if it continues to do so the Matterhorn Railway is bound to follow.

The objections which I, in common with so many others, have to the scheme are purely sentimental. We object to tampering with the Summit of this wonderful product of Nature; we object to the scheme because it will go far to impoverish the Guides of the surrounding valleys, many of whom are our personal friends; and thirdly, we object to it because it interferes with our Playground. The Alps have been happily termed the 'Playground of Europe.' They are not our property, but we have paid for admittance, some of us for fifty years. What would Eton boys say if their playing-fields were cut up by company promoters?

Now, Professor Roget, quite apart from these sentimental considerations, I apprehend that the Matterhorn Railway, if carried out, will be detrimental to the interests of your country. We look to you to prevent this act of sacrilege. Sufficient votes must be obtained in the Canton Valais to prevent it; and although pressure may be put on the members of its Council by some interested hotel keepers, there are other influential hotel keepers who will support you.

Here is an extract from a letter written a few days ago by Joseph Seiler, of Gletsch, in the Valais. He is the eldest son of Alexander Seiler the First, and must not be confounded with the members of that family at present at Zermatt. He says: 'I am happy to be able to tell you that I am absolutely in agreement with you in regard to the Matter-

horn Railway. We will not let be accomplished that which you rightly term a crime.'

The toast, gentlemen, is 'The Alpine Club and Kindred Societies,' and I ask you to drink it with three times three.

'THE GUESTS.'

MR. A. E. W. MASON: Mr. Dent, and British members of the Swiss Alpine Club. It is my privilege to-night to propose a toast to you which you will drink and accept with acclamation, the toast of 'The Guests.'

Upon these occasions it is usual for the speaker, if he can do so, to provide a few brief and pithy details about the guests. That procedure is happily unnecessary to-night, because our guests have, fortunately for themselves and fortunately also for me, seen to it by making public reputations for themselves that they shall not be at the mercy of any blunderer in an after-dinner speech. Also our Association has been so recently constituted that I am not quite sure we are not our own guests to-night, and I am sure Mr. Bruce is in a little doubt about it, because he seemed to be perfectly indifferent when he wrote to me whether I proposed the guests and Sir Frederick Pollock replied for them, or whether Sir Frederick Pollock proposed the guests and I replied for them.

However, we have guests to-night. We have here Professor Roget. I am very sorry, Professor Roget, but you have to have your health proposed twice this evening. He is

here as a guest, but I hope that he feels that he is at home here. For he is, after all, one of the climbing fraternity; and that knows, or should know, neither guests nor hosts.

Professor Roget has spoken to us about the huts in Switzerland, and I do think that everyone here who does go to the Alps owes an infinite debt of gratitude to the Swiss Alpine Club. English climbers have up to now, I think, found, perhaps, the only solution of that very difficult problem of how to make the foreigner pay. But the comradeship of the Alps forbids that that practice should be continued, and I hope that some of the microscopic subscription which we are going to pay will go to the upkeep of the Swiss Alpine Club huts.

The Swiss Alpine Club has done a very great deal of work. I know that we have guests here who belong, perhaps, to a hardier race than ours. Mr. Dent, Mr. Whymper and Sir Frederick Pollock, I think, did their climb from their hotels, and I believe we are going back to that practice in the end. For however energetically the Swiss Alpine Club builds its huts, it will be unable to keep pace with the growth of girls' schools on the Lake of Geneva.

When I rowed in a boat at Oxford we used to play a particular game: if we could look out of the boat without being seen by the coach and spot a dog we scored one; if we spotted a horse we scored two, and if we spotted a girls' school we said in a low voice 'Crocodile,' and

we won the game. Future mountaineers will be able to play that game on any of the paths leading up to the Alpine huts. There was a new one opened this year. I mention that because another guest of ours, Mr. Whymper, who this year celebrated his jubilee in the Alps, went to the opening of that hut.

I have to couple with this toast the name of one well known to everybody who takes any interest in the Alps, the name of Sir Frederick Pollock. He has, I am afraid, of late years given up to the Law what was meant for the Alps, but, as we all know, he does retain the keenest interest in Alpine matters, and that love of the mountains without which all mountaineering is little better than gymnastics, and might just as well be done in Mr. Sandow's rooms in St. James' Street.

I propose the health of 'The Guests,' coupled with the name of Sir Frederick Pollock.

The toast, having been duly honoured,

SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK, in response, said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, as an ancient member of the Alpine Club, no longer active, but still an existing member, and as a former member in my climbing days, before there were any huts of the Oberland section of the Swiss Alpine Club (though I am not sure that it was called by the same name then), I am very much honoured, and have much pleasure, in responding to the toast of the guests.

I am delighted to hear that a great many

English climbers are now going to use their opportunities of becoming members of the Swiss Club, and having occasion to make the better acquaintance of their Continental colleagues. I hope that, in company with them, they will cultivate the *excelsior anima* of which Professor Roget has spoken, and which I interpret according to the strictly classical sense of the epithet as 'the spirit that inspires tall stories.'

I should like to say that the sense of fellowship with Swiss mountaineers is not a thing that the Alpine Club has now to learn for the first time. For there are such people as guides, and forty years ago and more it was already a tradition of the Alpine Club, and I think of all good mountaineers, whether of the English club or not, to regard our guides, not as hired assistants, but as companions and friends. I have no reason whatever to think that that tradition has decayed. I believe it is still the common property of all good mountaineers; and that, at all events, is a good beginning of the sense of fellowship among mountaineers, of whatever speech and nation, which I hope will be very much stimulated by what is being done now.

You will continue to enjoy, in company with your colleagues of the Swiss and other nations, the *pax Helvetica* of the Alps. But there is one thing about the *pax Helvetica* which we have not been told, but which Professor Roget knows as well as anybody. I believe that, under the Bishop's presidency, he is

going to tell the people at Clifton that the *pax Helvetica* is not guaranteed by the goodwill of the great military Powers, but by the general knowledge of the world and of the military advisers of those Powers that Switzerland contains a competent number of men trained to the discipline of arms who can shoot. Without that there would not be much *pax Helvetica*, any more than there would be any *pax Britannica* without a British fleet and guns in that fleet and British sailors behind the guns. And it may be we have something to learn in this country, notwithstanding the very different requirements of our national defence, from the Swiss system which has given Switzerland the *pax Helvetica*.

But that has very little to do with the spirit of mountaineering, except so far as the spirit of mountaineering is identical with that spirit which makes a good soldier—the spirit of discipline combined with the understanding of danger, the avoidance of swagger and taking of unnecessary risks, and the duty of sacrificing one's self for one's military unit or for the welfare of one's Alpine party, as the case may be.

If one went on to deal with the many things which are suggested by the history as well as by the mountains of Switzerland, one might prolong one's remarks to a very undue length; I will, therefore, merely say, in the name of the guests, that I repeat my thanks to you, and wish all prosperity to the Swiss Alpine Club.

'THE CHAIRMAN.'

MR. J. A. B. BRUCE: I have to propose the final toast of the evening, and that is the health of 'The Chairman.' It may be asked why I should do this. I asked my colleague, Mr. Steel, who is very young, to undertake it, and he said that he was not going to make a fool of himself unless I did too.

I am not going to talk to-night about Mr. Dent's Alpine achievements; they are, after all, only one part of a many-sided career. It is quite unnecessary to do so, because you all know Clinton Dent; you all know his achievements 'Above the Snow Line,' and his exploration in the Caucasus; and I remember very well that Dr. Johnson once said, 'Before you praise a man to his face, be sure that your praise is worth having.' Now, I am very conscious of my defects in that respect.

But, on my own behalf, and I know on behalf of all who are present, I thank Mr. Dent for coming here to-night. We thank him for the speech that he has made, and we thank him for contributing, as he has done to such a degree, to the success of this meeting to-night. Because I feel quite certain that although we might have made some sort of success without him, the mere fact that we were able to announce that he would take the chair, and that he would be our future president, made a great many people who hung back feel that this was a movement worth joining, and a movement worth supporting.

I trust that this Association, begun so well to-night, will expand, until it embraces within

its ranks not only the British members of the S.A.C., but also of all the other foreign Alpine Clubs.

I will ask Mr. Steel to second the motion.

MR. STEEL: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, there is nothing at all to add to what Mr. Bruce has said. A great load was taken off our minds when we heard that such an influential member of the climbing fraternity as Mr. Dent would take the chair; and when we were able to add to the list of speakers the distinguished orators whom we have heard this evening we felt that, given a fine night, and given the support that we knew we deserved, our meeting could be nothing but a success.

Mr. Dent conducted the business part of the meeting with a dexterity that we all envied. I, for one, was afraid that the dinner might have to be postponed for possibly an hour while we haggled over small points of the constitution; but fortunately constitutions are rather vague things, and you had sufficient confidence in your Committee to entrust us with the framing of such a constitution. I can only hope that we shall satisfy you when we submit it to you at our next meeting in June.

Meanwhile, if Mr. Dent will consent to give us the benefit of his advice and the weight of his influence behind us, we cannot fail to carry on what I think has been so successfully inaugurated.

I have pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to Mr. Dent for his valuable chairmanship.

The toast, having been warmly honoured,

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Clinton Dent), in response, said: Gentlemen, the hour is late, and I am not going to detain you for more than a moment. I have to thank the honorary secretaries for the kind manner in which they have proposed my health. I am glad indeed that Mr. Bruce has followed the immortal advice of Sir Peter Teazle on a particular occasion when he remarked: 'Sir Oliver, we live in a damned wicked world, and the fewer people we praise the better.'

I have to thank you for naming me as your first president. Indeed, I thought that I was permanently on the shelf. As a climber, one may be. But believe me—and many here will echo this opinion—as you get older you learn more and more that climbing is not the only form of mountain worship, and that the mountains are as many-sided in architecture as they are as a means of giving pleasure.

There are no recollections of life that one can look back upon with greater pleasure than those old times in the mountains. I am glad to think that they are not at an end, and I am grateful to you, gentlemen, for what you have done this evening, for making me feel as if in an hour or two I should be summoned by 'Napoleon,' as of old at the Riffelberg, and at 1.30 a.m. partake of a particularly unsuitable and indigestible breakfast, prepared to sally forth on one of those expeditions which are delightful at the time and a pleasure for the rest of your life.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF PRESIDENT, SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

TO PROFESSOR ROGET.—‘ . . . The Central Committee were glad to meet you and hear what you had to tell them on the founding of an Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club. . . . You have already contributed to the successful course of the negotiations which you are about to terminate with these gentlemen, *with our support and under our direction*. We have already written to the secretary that you are fully authorised to speak on our behalf. . . . We wish the subsidies for the Club Hut Fund to be paid direct to the Central Committee, but the British Association will be at liberty to point out the part of the Alps in which it wishes the hut, in each case, to be built. The British Committee are invited to arrange that new members shall not join any *one* section *en masse*, and that they will divide their support in such a manner as confer a benefit upon the whole Club by distributing their forces upon the largest number of local centres. We reserve to ourselves the right of determining the maximum number of British members which may belong to any one section. The British Association is requested to send in yearly a return of the numbers and apportionment of the British contingent which has joined through

their channel. . . . The Central Committee asks you to convey to the new body the keen sense of satisfaction which we experience in seeing British climbers, whose nation was the first, so to say, to befriend the Swiss Alps, swelling in large numbers the ranks of the Swiss Alpine Club, in which they will receive the warmest welcome and in which they will meet with all sympathy and esteem which we have so long felt towards them. . . . We hope your visit will bear the best fruits for the S.A.C.

In the name of the Central Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club.'

REPOND (President).

SCHORDERET (Secretary).

TO THE PRESIDENT OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SWISS ALPINE CLUB.—(I) 'As regards paragraph three of your circular it must be understood that the contemplated "collective opinion" shall be in conformity with our Central statutes and shall not encroach upon the rights of the sections. We agree to your idea of making some honorary members, especially on account of the importance and the position of your Association. Our President has the honour to accept, during his term of office, the title of honorary member you have been good enough to offer him. . . . Monsieur Roget will express to you our wishes with respect to other points in accordance with the instructions we have given him. . . . We take this opportunity of expressing the deep satisfaction we feel at the formation of your Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club and the cordial sympathy that we

extend to our new colleagues. We thank you in advance for the kind welcome you will give to our delegate.'

RÈPOND (Colonel),
The President S.A.C.

OTHER LETTERS.

W. A. COOLIDGE.—'I quite see the practical advantage there is to an active climber in becoming a member of the Swiss Alpine Club.'

WALTER LEAF.—'I quite approve. I have meant for years to join the Swiss Alpine Club, but have never had it made so easy before.'

G. W. PROTHERO.—'I fully approve of the proposals, and much regret I cannot be at the dinner.'

ALEXANDER RIVINGTON.—'I do not belong to any section and am afraid I am too advanced in years to do so, though I quite approve the objects of your Association.'

LORD AVEBURY.—'I am afraid, at my age, that I am compelled to forego much that if I were ten years younger I should have liked to have undertaken, and your invitation would, I need hardly say, and indeed has, great attractions for me.'

Lord Desborough, Lord Ellenborough, Dr. Carlin (Swiss Minister), M. H. G. Willink, Mr. Cecil Slingsby, Dr. Claud Wilson wrote regretting their inability to be present at the dinner.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS
OF THE
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

CLUB HUT FUND.

The following is the First List of Subscriptions to the Club Hut to be given by the British to the Swiss as a token of friendship and appreciation of their kind hospitality. The Central Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club have consented to build the Hut in whatever place is most suitable. The estimated cost of a good hut is £500. Further subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

C. E. KING-CHURCH,

Clive Lodge,

Albury, Surrey.

	£	s.	d.
Dr. H. L. R. Dent	5	5	0
J. A. B. Bruce	5	5	0
G. L. Stewart	5	5	0
J. J. Withers	5	5	0
Val. A. Fynn (U.S.A.)	5	0	0
Hermann Woolley	5	0	0
C. D. Robertson	5	0	0
Carried forward	£36	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	36	0	0
S. Gask	5	0	0
E. S. Tattersall	5	0	0
Sir Ernest Cassel	5	0	0
E. B. Harris	5	0	0
Clinton Dent	2	2	0
C. M. Thompson	2	2	0
A. E. Russell	2	2	0
Captain Farrer, D.S.O.	2	2	0
C. Scott Lindsay (<i>Hon. Sec. Alpine Ski Club</i>)	2	2	0
C. Pilkington	2	2	0
C. T. Lehmann	2	2	0
Walter Leaf	2	2	0
W. T. Lister	2	0	0
H. T. Mennell	2	0	0
C. W. Brady	2	0	0
J. J. Brigg	1	1	0
G. H. Neame	1	1	0
J. C. Muir	1	1	0
A. G. Snelgrove	1	1	0
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Lodge, Guildford; G. A. Steel, Argyll Mansions,
Addison Bridge, W.).

THE CLIMBERS' CLUB (Hon. Sec., C. M. Mathews,
Cannon Street, E.C.).

AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB (D.Ö.A.V.).

Ditto. Manchester Branch (President, H. Woolley,
Fairhill, Kersal, Manchester).

Ditto. London Branch (Hon. Sec., M. Marks, 3, Con-
naught Gardens, Muswell Hill, London, N.).

ALPINE SKI CLUB (Hon. Sec., C. Scott Lindsay, 4,
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SKI CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN (Hon. Sec., F. N.
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YORKS RAMBLERS' CLUB.

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THE WAYFARERS' CLUB.

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ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS
OF THE
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

24 Déc., 1909.

CHER MONSIEUR,

Une Association des membres appartenant à diverses sections du S.A.C. et demeurant dans la Grande Bretagne s'est formée.

Le 8 Décembre une réunion a eu lieu à la quel a assisté M. le Professeur F. F. Roget de Genève en qualité de représentant du S.A.C.

L'Association a pour but :

- (1°) De faire comprendre aux Alpinistes Anglais et autres amis de la Suisse leurs obligations envers le S.A.C. dans son œuvre en les invitant à devenir membres de quelque section de ce Club ;
- (2°) De réunir des dons gratuits afin d'offrir au S.A.C. une cabane comme offrande des Anglais aux Suisses ;
- (3°) D'encourager entre les membres Anglais de l'association cette disposition amicale qui est un trait si remarquable des sections du S.A.C.

Nous vous prions de bien vouloir nous envoyer une liste des membres de votre Club demeurants dans le Royaume Uni avec leurs adresses, ainsi que quelques copies de vos règlements et du formulaires employée pour élire les candidats.

Notre seul désir est d'aider votre section à obtenir plus de membres et de cette manière de vous exprimer un peu de notre reconnaissance pour votre bonté et hospitalité envers nos compatriotes.

Veillez agréer l'expression de notre plus haute considération.

J. A. B. BRUCE, } Secétaires
G. A. STEEL, } honoraires.

SELBORNE LODGE,
AUSTEN ROAD,
GUILDFORD,
ENGLAND.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS
OF THE
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

SELBORNE LODGE,
GUILDFORD, ENGLAND,

Dec. 23rd, 1909.

GEBHRTE HERREN!

Eine Verbindung von Mitgliedern der verschiedenen Sektionen des Schweizer Alpenklubs die in England wohnen ist gegründet worden. Bei ihrem Festmahl das an 8ten Dezember in London stattfand hatte sie die Ehre den Herrn Professor Roget aus Genf als Vertreter Ihres Centralkomités als Gast bei sich zu sehen.

Die Zwecke des Verbindung ssind folgende:

- (1) Englische Bergsteiger und Liebhaber der Schweiz ihrer Pflicht, den Schweizer Alpenklub in seiner mannigfaltigen Arbeit zu unterstützen, bekannt zu machen.
- (2) Durch freiwillige Beiträge, eine Klubhutte dem S.A.C., als Geschenk von Engländern an Schweizer, an Verfügung zu stellen.
- (3) Zwischen den Englischen Mitglieder neine derartige Geselligkeit, die eine hervorragende Eigenschaft der Schweizer Sektionen ist, zu fördern.

Werden Sie die Güte haben an uns eine Liste von Ihren Englischen Mitgliedern mit ihren verschiedenen Adressen zu senden und gleichzeitig Kopieen von Ihren Satzungen und Formulare wobei Kandidaten in Vorschlag gebracht werden können.

Unser einzig Zweck ist Ihrer Sektion Hülfe zu leisten durch die Vermehrung des Anzahls Ihrer Mitglieder und dadurch, wenn auch nur auf kleiner Weise, unsere Schuld für Ihre Liebenswürdigkeit und Gastfreundschaft, unseren Landsleuten gegenüber, zu vergelten.

ergebenst,

J. A. B. BRUCE, }
G. A. STEEL, } Hon. Secs.