

THE ASSOCIATION OF  
BRITISH MEMBERS  
OF THE  
SWISS ALPINE CLUB  
(ESTABLISHED 1909).

President:  
CLINTON DENT, Esq.

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

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

Hon. Secretaries:  
J. A. B. BRUCE, Selborne Lodge, Guildford.  
E. B. HARRIS, 14, Rutland House, Marloes Road,  
Kensington, W.

# Association of British Members of Swiss Alpine Club.

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1912.

## Officers.

President :

CLINTON DENT, "A.C."  
(Hon. Member S.A.C.)

Vice-President :

DR. O. K. WILLIAMSON, "A.C."

Committee :

A. N. ANDREWS  
H. K. BAKER  
DR. H. L. DENT "A.C."  
ARNOLD LUNN  
E. G. OLIVER "A.C."  
C. H. HUTCHINSON  
H. G. PULLING "A.C."  
H. ARCHER THOMSON

R. C. RICHARDS  
E. C. RICHARDSON  
(Co-opted)  
W. M. ROBERTS "A.C."  
C. T. LEHMANN (Co-opted)  
COLONEL RODICK  
G. L. STEWART "A.C."  
DR. ROGER-SMITH "A.C."

Hon. Auditor :

A. B. CHALLIS.

Hon. Secs. :

J. A. B. BRUCE, "A.C." Selborne Lodge, Austen Road, Guildford.  
E. B. HARRIS, "A.C." 14, Rutland House, Marloes Rd., Kensington.

Hon. Treasurer :

C. E. KING-CHURCH, Clive Lodge, Albury, Surrey.

# Association of British Members OF Swiss Alpine Club.

## OBJECTS, ETC., OF ASSOCIATION.

### CONSTITUTION.

#### 1. NAME.

The name of the Association shall be "The Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club."

#### 2. OBJECTS.

- (a) To encourage British Alpinists to support the Swiss Alpine Club in all its work, by becoming members of a section of that body.
- (b) To collect funds and present to the S.A.C. a Club Hut, and for such other purposes as the Association may from time to time determine.
- (c) To form a body able to present a collective opinion to the S.A.C. on any question of Alpine interest.
- (d) To promote among British members the sociability which is so conspicuous a feature of the Swiss sections, but from which we are necessarily debarred by living at a distance from the headquarters of our Sections. This is done by informal Dinners, Lectures, Smoking at Homes, and Showing Alpine Slides on the Lantern.

**Members.**—1. Ordinary. The qualification for ordinary membership shall be "membership of some section of the S.A.C. 2. Honorary. To be elected at the discretion of the Committee.

**Annual Subscription to the Association.**—5/- a year or £2 2s. for life.

**Rules and List of Members.**—List of Members and Rules sent on application to the Hon. Sec.

## HOW TO BELONG TO SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

Those who do not yet belong to the Swiss Alpine Club and desire to do so, can be put up at once, even if they do not wish to belong to our Association. They should write to the Honorary Secretary, J. A. B. Bruce, Selborne Lodge, Guildford, and state whether they wish to join a French, German, or Italian speaking section. The subscription varies slightly in the various sections, *e.g.* in Geneva 17½ francs a year (14/-), and 10 francs (8/-), entrance fee. The Association can arrange to pay the subscriptions to the S.A.C. yearly, or will supply Bankers Forms for that purpose. If 22/- (the first year's subscription and entrance fee) is sent the candidate can be elected at once. If he wishes to obtain the full advantages of membership he should also enclose a small photograph of himself, endorsed by the Treasurer of the section and returned on his card of membership. If, in addition, he wishes to belong to our Association in England, the subscription is only 5/- a year, or £2 2s. for life.

## ADVANTAGES OF BELONGING TO THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

Members of the Club obtain reductions 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 in a French section free; the Jahrbük, a well-illustrated Annual, half-price 6 francs, and other advantages. In a German speaking section the Jahrbük is free, but the Echo des Alpes is extra.

A good feeling is created amongst the Swiss when they see British climbers, who use their Huts, contributing to their support by becoming members of the S.A.C.

## INSURANCE OF GUIDES.

The S.A.C. contributes one half the cost of insurance, if the guide pays the other half.

Club Hut Album contains pictures of all the S.A.C. Huts, and descriptions, 3 francs.

## SWISS CLUB HUT FUND.

The following is our 5th list of subscriptions to the Club Hut Britannia now being erected on the Kleine Allalinhorn Saas Fee, and which is being given by British subscribers, to the Swiss Alpine Club, as a token of friendship and appreciation of their kind hospitality. It will be opened early in August.

### Subscriptions through Association British Members S.A.C.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Allston Burr .. .. .	10	0	0	E. G. Oliver (4th donation			
J. A. B. Bruce (3rd don.				if necessary).. .. .	1	1	0
if necessary).. .. .	5	5	0	A. de Trey .. .. .	1	1	0
Bank Interest .. .. .	5	0	0	C. Cannan .. .. .	0	15	6
G. D. Hobson.. .. .	2	2	0	Colonel Capper .. .. .	0	15	0
G. Ellison .. .. .	2	2	0	H. W. Warren .. .. .	0	10	6
R. C. Courtauld .. .. .	2	2	0	W. G. Johns .. .. .	0	10	6
J. E. C. Eaton .. .. .	2	0	0	Rev. H. Newton (2nd don.)	0	10	0
C. Steel .. .. .	1	1	0	A. Tobler.. .. .	0	5	0
The Lord Avebury.. .. .	1	1	0				
Rev. J. Dawson .. .. .	1	1	0		42	6	0
E. G. Oliver (3rd don.)..	1	1	0	Previously acknowledged.	412	5	5
W. Barnard .. .. .	1	1	0				
M. Steinmann.. .. .	1	1	0		£454	11	5
W. A. M. Moore (2nd don)	1	1	0				
G. G. Wace .. .. .	1	0	0				

### Per J. J. Withers from members of A.C.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
The Hon, Mr. Justice				J. J. Withers (2nd don.)	10	0	0
Pickford .. .. .	10	0	0	Hermann Woolley.. .. .	10	0	0
Sir A. B. W. Kennedy..	10	0	0		100	0	0
J. H. Wicks .. .. .	10	0	0	J. J. Withers (3rd don. if			
A. L. Mumm (2nd don.)	10	0	0	necessary) .. .. .	5	0	0
Capt. Percy Farrer, D.S.O.	10	0	0				
Sir Felix Schuster, Bart.	10	0	0		£105	0	0
Ellis, Carr .. .. .	10	0	0				
T. L. Kesteven .. .. .	10	0	0				

(Continued)

Per Captain Farrar, D.S.O., and G. L. Stewart.

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged..	88	16	6
Dr. Tubby .. .. .	1	1	0
Fitzpatrick .. .. .	0	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£90	2	6
	<hr/>		

Ski Club of Great Britain.. £68 1s. od.

GRAND TOTAL—	£	s.	d.
Collected by British Association of S.A.C. .. .. .	454	11	5
By J. J. Withers from members of A.C... .. .	105	0	0
By Captain Farrar and G. L. Stewart .. .. .	90	2	6
By Ski Club of Great Britain .. .. .	68	1	0
	<hr/>		
	£717	14	11
	<hr/>		

The cost has exceeded the estimate, viz., £700 by £100, and the Geneva Section informs us £800 will now be required.

The Swiss offer to defray the extra cost themselves but it is felt that this would rob the gift of a good deal of its effect, and it is hoped the balance required will be subscribed.

The Treasurer, C. E. KING-CHURCH, Clive Lodge, Albury, Surrey, will be glad to receive further donations.

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The Association of British Members of the  
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

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*Report and Accounts for 1911.*

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CLUB HUT "BRITANNIA."

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WE have collected £700 for the erection of the Club Hut, to be presented to the Swiss Alpine Club as a token of our regard and thanks to them for their kind hospitality in the past. The Geneva section who are carrying out the work for the Central Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club find that the cost of transport is more than they expected, and that another £100 will be required. They offered to defray this amount themselves, but it is felt that it would be more appropriate if the gift came entirely from Great Britain. We therefore venture to appeal to all those in this country who visit Switzerland and enjoy in the present, or have enjoyed in the past, the convenience of the Swiss Huts, to assist in raising the remaining £100 required. Even those who do not climb, or ski, benefit by the goodwill which the present of this hut has created between our two nations. The Cabane Britannia is being erected on the Kleine Allalinhorn, Saas Fee, at a height of 3,077 metres (over 10,000 feet) above the sea. The woodwork has been already completed and sent to Visp by rail, and is being transported on sledges to Saas. It will be finished by the end of July, and formally opened in August, 1912,

when it is hoped that as many of the subscribers as possible will attend. Notice of the date will be given later on. Arrangements will be made with one of the hotels to secure accommodation for those who wish to attend. The hut will contain on the ground floor, a caretaker's room, staircase to the first floor, dining room (5 by 7 metres), and guides' sleeping room for 12. On the first floor, accommodation for 16 gentlemen and 8 ladies, and a small dining room with a flap table, and a stove for the winter use of ski runners, and 4 washing basins. These latter have been provided on the suggestion of our President; ventilation pipes for obtaining fresh air in the sleeping room, and drawing off the bad, have also been adopted on his advice.

A separate locker for each visitor to keep his things in, has also been provided.

The following are the details of the cost :—

Wooden part, and roof .....	9,000	francs
Walls .....	1,200	„
Drawings, plans and furniture	1,000	„
Bedding .....	1,600	„
Supervision of Works .....	800	„
Transport of 19,000 kilos ...	6,080	„
Sundries .....	200	„
	<hr/>	
	19,880	„ or nearly £800.
	<hr/> <hr/>	

Every effort has been made to reduce the cost, but we wish the hut to be the best and most up-to-date in Switzerland. A model of the hut will be presented to our Association as a gift from the Geneva section. Special thanks are due to the Alpine Club, the Ski Club of Great Britain, and the Alpine Ski Club, for so kindly assisting us in collecting the amount required, and especially to Mr. J. J. Withers, Captain Farrar, D.S.O. and Mr. G. L. Stewart.

The Treasurer, Mr. C. E. King-Church, Clive Lodge, Albury, Surrey, will be glad to receive further donations to complete the amount required. A complete list of Subscribers will be published when the remaining £100 is obtained.

#### PROGRESS OF OUR ASSOCIATION.

June,	1909.....	Members	26
Dec. 31st,	1909.....	„	120
„	1910.....	„	250
„	1911.....	„	*330

\* There are now 108 Life and 10 Honorary Members.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS.

The following have been invited to become Honorary Members during the year and have accepted:—Dr. Dubi, Lord Avebury, Right Hon. J. Bryce, Frederic Harrison, and the President of the S.A.C. The Committee regret the loss our Association has sustained in the death of Mr. E. Whympfer, who was our first Hon. Member.

#### FINANCIAL POSITION OF ASSOCIATION.

A statement of receipts and payments and balance-sheet is annexed. By this it will be seen that the balance in hand on Dec. 31st, 1911, was £150 11s. 9d. It must be remembered, however, that the Life Membership receipts for 1910 and 1911 amount to £222 12s. 0d., which amount has up to now been included in revenue. The Committee have decided in future to keep this as a separate fund, and to carry 10 per cent. per annum of amounts received to revenue. The chief items of expenditure are for printing, postage and meetings. We have sent out many thousands of circulars and pamphlets bringing the question of the Club Hut before those interested in Switzerland, and asking them to belong to some section of the Swiss Alpine Club.

As a result we have collected £700 for the Club Hut, and induced several hundred new Members to join various sections of the S.A.C. (not all of whom have joined our Association). Since we began this work we have, for instance, raised the English Membership of the Geneva section from about 20 to over 200, and have obtained a large number of new Members for the Diablerets, Oberland, Monte Rosa, Altels and other sections. We find the majority of new Members desire to belong to a French-speaking section. The Central Association of the S.A.C. has authorised, and is in full sympathy with, the formation of our Association, and our work has tended to promote great good feeling and a cordial understanding between the British and the Swiss.

#### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO S.A.C.**

Our Treasurer has at the request of several sections undertaken to collect in this country the subscriptions of those Members of S.A.C. who live in Great Britain, and to pay them over in bulk to the respective Treasurers of sections. Bankers' forms for paying these amounts, and also the subscriptions to our own Association, can be obtained on application to the Treasurer or Secretaries. The Subscription varies slightly in different sections, but is usually 14/- a year and 8/- entrance fee.

#### **CLUB ROOM FOR ASSOCIATION.**

The Committee, in accordance with Rule 10, have considered the advisability of hiring a room or rooms for the purposes of the Association, and are in negotiation with the Climbers' Club, the Ski Club of Great Britain, the Alpine Ski Club and the Norwegian Club as to sharing the cost. They feel if this combination can be arranged it will be the most economical for all concerned. The accommodation required would be a small room for each

Club, which could be used as a reference library and for Committee meetings, and the use, at any rate, of a larger room to be used for meetings jointly with the other Clubs.

#### **CAPITATION GRANT FROM S.A.C.**

We are in correspondence with the S.A.C. and some of the sections, asking that a small amount of the subscriptions which they receive from us, say, 3 francs a head, should be returned and go towards the cost of a Clubroom, thus giving us some of the advantages our Swiss colleagues possess, but from which we are debarred, owing to our not living in Switzerland. The Geneva section have replied in a sympathetic manner, and negotiations are still in progress.

#### **THE COMMITTEE.**

The Committee held eight meetings during the year at the house of the President. They received with much regret the resignation of Mr. Gerald Steel, who had served as Joint Hon. Secretary since the formation of the Association. The vacancy has since been filled by the election of Mr. E. B. Harris. The following Members retired from the Committee in accordance with Rule 7 :— W. S. Dixon, E. B. Harris, Lieut. Grenfell, R.N., W. W. James, R. V. Vernon and R. L. Hughes, D.C.L. (co-opted member). The new Members elected in their place were :—A. N. Andrews, H. K. Barker, C. H. Hutchinson, E. C. Richardson (co-opted), Colonel Rodick and Dr. Roger-Smith. The President and other Officers were re-elected.

#### **DINNERS.**

Three informal Dinners have been held during the year at the Blenheim Restaurant, and the Annual Dinner, on

Dec. 8th, at the Holborn. The speeches at the latter have been printed, and will be sent to Members.

### MEETINGS.

Three General Meetings of the Association have been held during the year. On May 16th, Professor Roget lectured with slides on "Winter Climbing in the High Alps." The Ski Club of Great Britain joined us in holding this meeting. About 200 were present, and Mons. Correvon, President of the Geneva Section, attended, and presented our Association with a silk banner with the flags of the two countries embroidered on it, the shaft being in the form of an ice axe. The gift was suitably acknowledged by our President. On June 14th, Dr. Roger-Smith showed some beautiful natural coloured slides of winter scenery. Mr. Scott-Lindsay showed other slides taken by Mr. Arnold Lunn. On Nov. 18th, Dr. O. K. Williamson, Col. Clayton, Mr. Newton-Andrews, Mr. Kilbey and Mr. J. A. B. Bruce showed lantern slides at another "Smoking At Home." All these meetings were held at the Alpine Club, 23, Savile Row, by kind permission of their Committee.

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1911.  
Association of British Members of  
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

RECEIPTS.

	<i>Club Hut.</i> £ s. d.	<i>General.</i> £ s. d.	<i>Total.</i> £ s. d.
Balance from 1910 .....	278 0 0	87 11 4	365 11 4
Donations to Club Hut in 1911 ..	409 0 0	..	409 0 0
Interest and Miscellaneous .....	5 0 0	5 17 10	10 17 10
Transferred to General towards part of the expenses of collection	..	25 0 0	25 0 0
40 Life Members in 1911 .....	..	84 0 0	182 10 0
*194 Annual at 5/ .....	..	48 10 0	
Subscriptions collected for Swiss Alpine Club Sections .....	..	61 17 4	61 17 4
	<b>£692 0 0</b>	<b>£812 16 6</b>	<b>£1004 16 6</b>

\* Subscriptions in arrear have not been included.

PAYMENTS.

	<i>Club Hut.</i> £ s. d.	<i>General.</i> £ s. d.	<i>Total.</i> £ s. d.
Paid to Central Committee of Swiss Alpine Club on account..	600 0 0	..	600 0 0
Transferred to "General," part of the expenses incurred for Club Hut .....	25 0 0	..	25 0 0
Printing .....	..	42 5 6	42 5 6
Stamps, Stationery, Plans, Tele- grams, Clerical Assistance, etc..	..	85 18 11	85 18 11
Expenses of Dinner .....	..	2 16 6	2 16 6
Expenses of Meetings at Alpine Club, Refreshments, Lantern, etc.	..	16 18 0	16 18 0
Reporting Speeches .....	..	4 4 0	4 4 0
Paid over to Swiss Alpine Club being Subscriptions collected ..	..	60 6 10	60 6 10
	625 0 0	162 4 9	787 4 9
Balance in Bank Dec. 31st, 1911	67 0 0	+150 11 9	217 11 9
	<b>£692 0 0</b>	<b>£812 16 6</b>	<b>£1004 16 6</b>

+ Including Life Membership Account. (See next page).

# 1911.

## BALANCE SHEET.

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LIABILITIES.		£	s	d.		ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
Club Hut.....		67	0	0		Balance Bank, Current Account....		67	11	9
Revenue Account* .....		150	11	9		On Deposit.....		150	0	0
		<u>£217 11 9</u>						<u>£217 11 9</u>		
		<u>£217 11 9</u>						<u>£217 11 9</u>		

\* Up to now Life Membership Compositions have been taken to Revenue. The Committee have decided in future to keep them as a separate Account, but to transfer 10 per cent. per annum to Revenue. The Audited Accounts will be presented at the next General Meeting on May 8th at the Alpine Club Gallery, 8.45 p.m.

THIRD  
ANNUAL DINNER  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF  
BRITISH MEMBERS  
OF THE  
SWISS ALPINE CLUB,  
AT  
THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT.

Friday, December 8th, 1911.

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THE PRESIDENT (Clinton Dent, Esq.)  
in the Chair.

THE ASSOCIATION OF  
BRITISH MEMBERS  
OF THE  
SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

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The third annual dinner of the above was held at the Holborn Restaurant, London, on December 8th, 1911. About 80 were present.

A General Business Meeting was held previously, at which the officers and one third of the Committee were elected.

MR. CLINTON DENT (the President of the Association) took the chair, and there were also present Dr. Carlin the Swiss Minister, The Hon. Mr. Justice Neville, Sir Felix Schuster, Bart., J. C. Swinburne-Henham (Recorder of Faversham), Colonel Blackden, Raymond Hughes, D.C.L., Dr. O. K. Williamson, Dr. H. L. R. Dent, Dr. Bashford, Professor W. H. Moore, LL.D. (of Melbourne University), J. M. Gover, LL.D., A. Carson Roberts, Professor Elvey Smith, Captain Millington, R.E., Colonel Michell, H. G. Pulling, G. C. Steel, C. King-Church, and E. Harris and J. A. B. Bruce, Hon. Secs., etc.

THE PRESIDENT gave the toasts of "The King: The Queen, Queen Alexandra, The

Prince of Wales, and the Royal Family," which were received with enthusiasm.

THE PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I give you the toast which is always well received at our dinners, that is, "The President of the Swiss Confederation."

(The toast was duly honoured).

THE PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, no discourse is needed to ensure the most cordial reception of the next toast on our list. I might almost use the conventional terms of the King's Speech that fortunately all our relations with foreign States are peaceful. (Hear, hear).

You will, notice, gentlemen, that there is no toast this evening of prosperity to our own Association; but really in honouring this toast you have the pleasure of honouring your own noble selves, inasmuch as this Association is an integral part, a unit, of that great organization, the Swiss Alpine Club. So many members has it, that our contribution, which is now some 330 members, may be regarded as but a small drop in the ocean. But still, as every Scotsman would allow, "a wee drappie" is a very important thing.

Really there is very little I have to say about this toast. Different nations do not always see eye to eye with each other on all points. Perhaps it is as well that they do not for it preserves that individuality and character to each which are such valuable assets—qualities which, owing to the trend of modern legislation, appear to be in danger of disappearing

from these islands. But although we may view many things from different standpoints it is good to be united by some bond that we have in common, and, as we all know in this room, we are united to the Swiss Alpine Club by one of the most enduring and deepest bonds that exists, viz., the love of the mountains in whatever form it be expressed. Perhaps in old days we have regarded Switzerland too much as a mere playground; and may have thought we had a right of free access to it without any let or hindrance; perhaps some of us have occasionally forgotten that after all when we visit another country the inhabitants of that country are the hosts and we are but guests. The constitution of our Association may be regarded in a way as an attempt to remedy in some degree that state of affairs. As members of the Swiss Alpine Club we have a sort of entrée into the country, and indeed before next summer it is possible that we shall have established, on the slopes of the Little Allalinhorn, a residential qualification. (Laughter).

It is with the greatest pleasure to-night that I am privileged to call upon Dr. Gaston Carlin, the Swiss Minister, to reply. (Applause). It was a gracious act on the part of the Central Committee to ask him to represent them at this Dinner, and particularly so was it to us, for no more welcome a guest could have been received. It is not my business to sing the praises of Dr. Carlin. You all know him. I would only ask him, as I am proposing this

toast, to be kind enough to convey not only on behalf of our members who are dining here to-night, but on behalf of every member of the Association of the Swiss Alpine Club, our most cordial greetings and wishes for the prosperity of his country.

Gentlemen, I give you the toast of "The Swiss Alpine Club," coupled with the name of Dr. Carlin.

(The toast was honoured with great enthusiasm).

MONSIEUR CARLIN, the Swiss Minister, replied in French, but Sir H. George Fordham has kindly made us the following translation :

"Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, and my dear colleagues of the Swiss Alpine Club.

This is the second occasion upon which I have had the pleasure of being present at your Annual Dinner, and it is the second time also that you have called upon me to reply to the toast of the Swiss Alpine Club, which your distinguished Chairman has just so eloquently proposed. Since this time last year my English has not made sufficient progress to enable me to make use of it in a speech, of however modest a character. I therefore express myself in one of the Swiss National Languages, which cannot be entirely unfamiliar to you, since, thanks to your affiliation to the Swiss Alpine Club, I can claim you to a certain extent as my fellow countrymen.

Besides, you have nothing to fear—I shall be short. In the first place I desire to tell you how

highly I value the reception which you have given to the toast of the President of the Swiss Confederation, and I hasten to thank our Chairman for the very kind words he has used with regard to the Swiss Alpine Club and myself personally. Gentlemen, I bring you, in spite of the cold weather, the warm and the cordial salutations of the Swiss Alpine Club. I have the express and special authority of the Central Committee for doing so. That Committee, with which you should by now be well acquainted, sits at the present moment at Coire. When your dinner of last year took place, it was established at Fribourg. But, wherever it is, it thinks of you, it values your Association and the objects it has in view. It desires to be with you this evening. And therefore I have been asked to represent it at your table, and to tell you how much pleasure it experiences from the satisfactory development of your Association. Truly—and one may say it now—the Association has had those illnesses which belong to childhood; but it has passed through them victoriously and has emerged from these trials stronger than ever. We have all the obvious evidence:—constant increase in the membership; the old members remaining faithful—new ones coming in. And do not let us forget, in this connection, the splendid result of your subscription for the building of a hut at the *Hinter Allalinhorn*. The “Britannia Hut” will form a new bond of union between you and the Swiss Alpine Club, and I sincerely hope that many of those present

here to-day will be gathered together at the inauguration of this hut, and, if possible, in weather as fine and settled as that which all tourists in Switzerland this Summer have so much enjoyed.

Besides the salutations and good wishes of the Swiss Alpine Club, I have to offer you many thanks on their part for the splendid present you have made, in the "Britannia Hut," to all those who love the mountains, and who find in them repose, and a retreat to which the little troubles of this lower world cannot penetrate.

Gentlemen, I cannot propose to you the toast of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club, without adding the name of our Chairman, Mr. Clinton Dent, a former President of the British Alpine Club, and an honorary member of the Swiss Alpine Club, as well as that of the your devoted and indefatigable Honorary Secretary, Mr. Bruce. I need hardly say that it is due to their labours and to the prestige of Mr. Clinton Dent that your Association has made so successful a start.

Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, and dear colleagues of the Swiss Alpine Club, in thanking you for the toasts of "The President of the Swiss Confederation" and of "The Swiss Alpine Club," I propose prosperity to the "Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club," and couple with this toast the names of Mr. Clinton Dent and Mr. Bruce.

## THE VISITORS.

DR. O. K. WILLIAMSON: Mr. President and gentlemen, when the Secretary, my friend Mr. Bruce, told me that I should be expected to propose the toast of the visitors, my feeling was one of a certain degree of satisfaction, for I believed I should be in an excellent strategic position, as it seemed to me, that a member of our Association in proposing this toast could dwell upon the details of the objects of our Association and talk about mountains; imagining that the visitors who are our guests to-night would be in total ignorance of such subjects, and therefore I could say anything I liked without taking a great deal of trouble, in fact that the visitors would be in such a position as that of a climber at the end of an Alpine rope. But it was very soon borne in upon me that this satisfaction was premature, when I heard that one of our principal guests to-night was to be Sir Felix Schuster, for all the Alpine world knows that Sir Felix Schuster is an expert in Alpine matters, and indeed anything he does not know about mountaineering is not worth knowing. I will illustrate the unfortunate position in which I was landed by one or two small incidents that have occurred in the Alps of Switzerland. Some years ago two English mountaineers had been climbing and found themselves at Pontresina, facing the various horrors of Helvetian table d'hotes. They became at once the objects of interest amongst the visitors,

which was not on account of any special peculiarities natural to themselves, but rather on account of their somewhat eccentric garb, which I believe from what I have heard consisted of macintosh and boots. The conversation of the people about these two mountaineers turned on the subject of mountaineering, and the question was raised by somebody as to what was the use of an Alpine rope. The answer was, "You rope yourselves together in order to prevent members of the party from running away." Another small incident occurred last summer. I was climbing with two guides and we had spent *a mauvais quart d'heure* of some three or four hours on an ice slope. We found ourselves then on some evil rocks, and the leading guide went up these rocks and I was next to him, and when I asked him what the climbing was like he remarked that the difficulties were very great. My position to-night is something like that guide's. He had many difficulties to overcome and the rest of the party were tied to him by the rope and could not possibly escape. You, gentlemen, are also in that position and cannot escape what I have to say.

It then occurred to me that I should be obliged to speak of the good qualities of our visitors, as is customary on such occasions; but it very soon became evident that my difficulties were insuperable, because the many excellent qualities of our guests to-night are of course familiar to all members of our Association, so that it would be quite unnecessary for

me to dwell upon them at all. Therefore I was thrown back upon the expedient of speaking of their defects, and here at once I had material before me. We have one very serious fault to find with our guests to-night, and that is that they have not yet joined our Association. (Hear, hear). I think you will agree with me this is a fault we cannot forgive them. But we will condone the offence if they will speedily become members of our Association, and if anything will tempt them to do so it will be seeing the elegant decoration with our President in the foreground.

Gentlemen, we members of our Association extend the hand of good fellowship to all our visitors; whilst to those of them who know the mountains we have a further bond, common to all who have spent never to be forgotten days wandering amongst the recesses of the everlasting hills, and have seen—

‘The great brown slabs bending  
ever into immeasurable space.’

Sir Felix Schuster and Mr. Justice Nevill are both in the front rank of their professions, and I do not think it is necessary for me to speak about that. We have also several other very distinguished guests here to-night. I am sure the members of this Association will admit themselves second to no other body of men in their heartfelt welcome to their guests, and therefore I am sure you will be with me when I propose with the utmost cordiality,

“Welcome to our guests,” coupled with the names of Mr. Justice Neville and Sir Felix Schuster.

(The toast was duly honoured).

SIR FELIX SCHUSTER, BART., replying for the guests said :

Mr. President, Dr. Williamson, and gentlemen, on behalf of my fellow guests, and on my own behalf, I thank you very sincerely for the very kind manner in which this toast has been proposed and received. It is usual on occasions like this for the speakers to express the wish that the reply had been entrusted to someone else better fitted than himself, and to announce that he is quite incompetent to carry out the duty satisfactorily. I think on the whole it is wiser for the speaker to let the audience discover his incompetence for themselves, and they very often do. On this occasion, however, I do associate myself entirely with these sentiments, I feel unequal to the task, and I am only consoled by the fact that I am to be followed by Mr. Justice Neville, who will do it far greater justice than I can. Amongst other reasons I find myself at a great loss in addressing you as a guest. I find it very difficult to assume the part of a visitor amongst members of the Swiss Alpine Club, for, as has been said, although I do not belong to this Association I have been a member of the Swiss Alpine Club for very nearly forty years. (Applause). I cannot therefore respond to this toast merely as an outsider.

For a considerable number of years it has been my good fortune to listen to the responses to the toast of the visitors at the annual dinners of the Alpine Club, and now I am trying to recollect speeches I have heard there and to draw inspiration from them; but my memory is not quite as good as it was. There are two facts that I remember about those speeches. They almost invariably contain allusions to the Eiffel Tower and to Primrose Hill. I have been up the Eiffel Tower many times with my friend Mons. Loppé, and have admired the view from it immensely, and also I have occasionally ventured to ascend Primrose Hill, but these summits have not been quite the height of my ambition, and my experiences about mountain ascents generally must be very much what yours are so that I can tell you very little new about them. In reply to this toast it is almost always observed that members of the Alpine Club and climbers generally are very good fellows to dine with; but that the line must be drawn somewhere, and the speaker generally draws it at the dinner. I have come to the conclusion that the human species is divided into two parts—I am not speaking of sex; that does not count. There are those who love the mountains and those who do not. I think it was Leslie Stephen who somewhere says that the taste and love for mountains cannot be accounted for. It is like a taste for olives; some people like them, some do not. You cannot reason about it, but I think it is lucky that some

people like mountains and some do not. People don't like mountain climbing simply because they do not understand it. We ourselves know why we love it; we know what it has meant to everyone of us, and everyone who truly loves mountains knows that in his own life, in the pursuit of his own career, in the development of mind, character and strength of purpose that love of mountains has played a great part. I remember some years ago crossing over the Albula Pass with a young boy of about eight years old. It was his first impression of the mountains, and we were going to get our first view of the Bernina Range. I wondered what his attitude would be, when suddenly he stood up in the carriage and shouted "I love the mountains; they speak to me." That is the right impression. They do speak to us, and so have we members of the Alpine Club that love for them in us which can never fade.

I think it is right that Members of the Alpine Club (and I do not adopt the phraseology "English" Alpine Club, because there is only one Alpine Club) should join this Association if only in gratitude for the hospitality they have received and enjoyed in Switzerland at the hands of the Swiss Alpine Club in the huts which they have used when making their ascents. Nor should they forget the services which have been rendered to mountaineering through the Swiss Alpine Club. Perhaps we are too apt to assert that modern mountaineering has been altogether

developed by English climbers. No doubt they have taken a preponderating part in opening up the Alps and making first ascents, but we should not forget their predecessors, many like Studer, Agassiz, Desor and Hugi, who by their explorations and early ascents of peaks like the Jungfrau and Finsteraarhorn have done so much that they really might be described as the founders of modern mountaineering.

The Swiss Alpine Club has a great task and it is carried out nobly, and I think the Association also, young as it is, has performed a great deal. You have given proof of a fellow feeling with the Swiss Alpine Club in helping to erect this hut on the Little Allelein Horn, and have thus assisted the Club in carrying out its work of erecting numerous huts in spots suitable for mountaineering. But having done this, gentlemen, I would venture on one word of warning: you have done it once, do not do it again. And to the Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club I would also venture in all humility to send over a petition to show some restraint in the building of huts—I think we have quite enough; and particularly to ask them to beware of what is called a bewirtschaftet hut, which really means little more than a noisy hotel. We do not want low public-houses in the Alps instead of refuges and shrines in some of the most sacred places of nature. Much as we frequent these huts, in my opinion they have lowered the art of mountaineering; marred the mountains and

increased the dangers of the Alps. They have induced people to go up in bad weather, and led many to use the huts merely for the purpose of spending a night there without seriously thinking of making any ascent, and they have spoiled for some of us some of the greatest pleasures of the Alps. What could be more enjoyable than the nights we used to spend in the open air, when you wondered where you were, and you saw the stars shine out in a dark blue sky, and saw the white peaks rising like ghosts around you, or perhaps you felt the thick flakes of snow dropping down. Those were nights to be enjoyed infinitely more than if they had been spent in huts. Those are the nights we carry with us in our memories, and I think whoever has not spent a night out in the mountains in fine weather or in bad has not appreciated the true beauty of the Alps.

Another task which the Swiss Alpine Club have set themselves, and which you have joined in, is the protection of the beauties of nature from the inroads of what is called civilization. (Hear, hear). That is a task which should be encouraged as much as possible, not so much perhaps for the benefit of mountaineers but for the benefit of travellers generally, and those who wish to enjoy the beauties of the valleys and the Alps. To the mountaineer it does not matter what goes on below in the valleys; nor, supposing you are going up the north side of the mountain fighting your way through the crevasses of the Jungfrau, does it matter to you that down below there is a

railway going, and hungry passengers are scrambling for sandwiches. Those discomforts like the discomforts of the Channel passage are soon forgotten when you get on the mountains. To those who are as well off as you, it does not matter much about having advertisements all over the place, but to the non-climber it matters a great deal more whether there are advertisements disfiguring the landscape, and we must all do our best to see that beautiful spots are not defiled.

Gentlemen, it has been said that the Alps have been exhausted, that everything has been done that can be done. I do not believe it for a moment. If everything has been done, very few men can say that they have done everything; and thus each mountain you ascend for the first time practically becomes a new ascent especially if you go without guides, thus the enjoyment is just as great to-day or nearly so as it can have been to the early explorers. Outside the Alps also a great deal of new exploration is going on and there is still an immense field open. In the Himalayas, the Caucasus, and the Rockies there are thousands of virgin peaks waiting to be conquered by the venturesome, and I hope there are with us tonight many who will find their way to these new fields and add to the conquests of the Alpine Club. But to those who are not so fortunate I think the Alps still offer countless attractions. Do not make too much of railways and other objectionable things. We all abuse railways, and we

all use them. I for one certainly intend when the Jungfrau railway is completed, if it ever is completed, having ascended the Jungfrau several times, the last time 30 years after my first ascent. I intend, when for reasons which need not be mentioned such ascents will have to be abandoned, to use that railway and once more to enjoy the view which can only be obtained from the top of the Jungfrau.

Gentlemen, whether you have railways down below or not, the Alps remain, and nothing can spoil the beauty and glory of them. I thank you very sincerely for the kind way in which you have received the toast. (Applause.)

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE NEVILLE: Mr. President and gentlemen: I duly appreciate your kindness in asking me here to-night, and I may say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my evening. There is only one thing which has stood in the way of complete enjoyment, and that is the feeling throughout that in the position I have the honour to occupy I am a most arrant imposter. I am sorry to say that I am not a mountaineer at all, and I have no business to associate myself directly or indirectly with Alpine Clubs. I am no more than a foot hill climber. I am not altogether without justification for that position, because in my climbing days I used to go, not to Switzerland, but to Norway, and there nobody climbed except Mr. Slingsby, and his example never aroused enthusiasm amongst the other Norwegian visitors. But the time arrived

when I took a violent distaste to the North Sea. I do not know whether many of you know the North Sea. I do, I am sorry to say, and I do not like it. The result, was one that I have never regretted, that my holidays instead of being spent in Norway were from that time spent in Switzerland. But it was then too late for me to think of beginning to emulate the feats of the members of the English or Swiss Alpine Clubs. I confess when I was in Switzerland this year I was a little encouraged, even at my present time of life to take the matter into consideration, for I saw stout ladies of over 50 and young girls of 12 starting for the Matterhorn and the Dent Blanche and coming back apparently but little the worse for it. Those were mountains which I had been brought up to suppose were the happy hunting grounds only of the trained, the vigorous, and the daring; but in spite of these temptations I determined to maintain the humble role of the foot hill climber. I thought on the whole I preferred the peace and quiet of the foot hills to the crowd and bustle of the peaks. (Laughter.)

I am sorry to say that in Switzerland (and I imagine the same thing would have occurred had I continued my visits to Norway) I am hunted about from place to place by material progress. When I say material progress I mean, in the main, railways. Like I suppose most people of, shall I say, over 50, I have a most deadly loathing for material progress, and where material progress comes I disappear if I

can to some benighted place which has no means of communication except one's own legs or those of a horse. But I always feel, whether we are talking of Norway or talking of Switzerland, that we are a little unjust in the disapprobation that we indicate to the development of the countries in which we wish to enjoy our holidays. When you come to think of it, it does not lie in the mouths of a money-grubbing race like ourselves to tell people that because they live in a mountainous and beautiful country they should not money-grub. We can tell them, probably with better reason than any other nation in the world, that money-grubbing is not worth the candle. But so long as we go on doing it ourselves how can we expect them to believe us? There is one ground on which we might have been able to appeal to them. We might have been able to point out to them that in these days it was not very much good making your pile, because in all probability as soon as you had made it the State would step in and hand it over to somebody else. But there again I feel we should not be convincing, because I have always felt and said (and you who know Switzerland a great deal better than I do will know with what truth I have said it) that Switzerland is the one country in the world I have ever seen or heard of where the Government is carried on for the benefit of the population without regard for creed or race.

Dr. Williamson in proposing this toast referred to Sir Felix Schuster and said, I have

no doubt with absolute truth, that what he did not know about mountaineering was not worth knowing. I can put it just the other way with regard to myself, that whatever is worth knowing about mountaineering I do not know. But there was one thing in Sir Felix Schuster's speech which shed a ray of comfort on me. He declared that the real test, the real qualification, was whether you could say of the mountains that you loved them. Mr. President, I can with heartfelt sincerity say I do love the mountains, and they speak to me. (Applause.)

#### THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS.

MR. RICHARDS: Gentlemen: you must not blame me for getting up to make a speech, because I have two hard taskmasters. In the first place your energetic Secretary, and in the second place the Toastmaster. I do not know which was the more correct in his orders. Your Secretary gave me his orders in the form of a telegram. The Toastmaster included you in his orders. However, I will try and let you off as quickly as possible. I have the hardest and at the same time the easiest task to-night, and it is because you are all personally acquainted with all the merits and the demerits of the subject of the toast, that is, your Officers. You all know how excellent they are, and their demerits are non-existent. You all know your President as a famous mountaineer who has achieved great feats in mountaineering and who has written charming books on the

subject, and in conjunction with your Secretary has been the life and soul of the foundation and successful inauguration of this Association. (hear hear). I think no greater tribute can be paid to Mr. Dent than a fact which has come under my own observation. I am in the habit of frequenting second-hand book shops, and I have seen hundreds of good books belonging to the Badminton Library in those second-hand book shops, on every subject on which the Badminton Library publishes books, and the only book which I have never seen second-hand is his book on climbing (hear hear). You have already heard to-night your Vice-President. He is still an active member of the Climbing Club, and long may he continue to be so (hear hear). Your Secretary you all know both personally and from the number of communications which he has with you. I am sure you could not have a more indefatigable Secretary than you have. You know how much work he has to do in connection with this Association, and all the members of the Committee know perhaps even better than you how much real hard labour he does. Even during the last few days before this Dinner Mr. Bruce, although suffering from an unfortunate accident, has risen from a bed of sickness to arrange the last details in connection with this Dinner (hear hear). I do not think it is necessary for me to expatiate any longer upon the merits of your officers. I have much pleasure in proposing the toast which I am sure you will all drink with acclamation.

(The Toast was drunk with enthusiasm.)

THE PRESIDENT: Gentlemen: I thank you very much for the kind way in which the toast has been proposed and received. I can only regard myself as a ship's figure head, which may or may not be a decorative object, and is at best only an excrescence not materially influencing the progress of the vessel. Everything really depends on the motive power, and that is represented by my friend at the end of the table, to whom the inception and the development of our Association are almost wholly due. You will be glad to hear, gentlemen, that he has furnished me with materials for a speech of a hour and a quarter's duration of all that has happened in our Association; but I propose only to mention one or two brief extracts from this voluminous document. I would like in the first place to mention that the Association has had a grievous loss in the past 12 months through the death of one of its honorary members who, taking it all in all, was the most remarkable mountaineer who ever lived. We have added to our list of Hon. Members some distinguished names, viz., the President of the Swiss Alpine Club, Mr. Henne, Dr. Dubi, whose name is familiar to you all, Lord Avebury, Frederic Harrison and Mr. James Bryce, our Ambassador at Washington. I think the Association is to be congratulated on the highly successful results that have attended the efforts made to raise funds for the presentation of a hut to the Swiss Alpine Club. I can set Sir Felix Schuster's mind at rest on one point; we will not under-

take to build any more. I understand that it is to be the largest and best hut in the Alps. The last new arrival in the family circle is always the finest that has ever been seen. The site, which you all know, has now been approved; the plans have been sent over to this country, and this document informs me they have been approved, with one or two slight alterations. I am very proud indeed of those slight alterations. This hut is to have the unique feature of four lavatory basins. The further alteration I ventured to suggest is also a unique feature. I suggested it might be worth considering whether some possible means, however slight, however unimportant, however unobtrusive, and further for that matter ineffective, if ventilation could be introduced. (Laughter). I suggested it should be as unobtrusive as possible, because I am sure if anybody recognized it, one of the very first things they would do would be to stop it up. That somewhat daring innovation is under consideration. It has been forwarded to the proper quarter—a departmental phrase which sometimes means the receptacle that usually stands on the floor at the right hand corner of the writing-table. We have got nearly all the money that is requisite. But these little alterations are apparently somewhat expensive, because I suppose they are unusual. A building in one place is like a building in any other; it costs a little more than you anticipated, or indeed anybody except the architect and the builder. We have been informed that the

Central Committee are quite prepared to furnish the small balance required, but I am sure that you will agree that this balance should be made up in our own country and that the gift should be entirely from us. We have felt during the last twelve months, and indeed from the very beginning of the Association, the want of some sort of premises, however small where we can house our treasures, such as the somewhat embarrassing and rather spiky possession that I have in my house. I hope before we meet again at the Dinner next year we shall be able to inform the Club that we have made certain arrangements so that we can store what goods we have, and have some place where we can meet and hold the Committee meetings to which our Honorary Secretary so frequently summons us, and where we talk more than we work.

Gentlemen: I have only given you very brief extracts from this document. It is certain that this Association has not gone back during the past year, and I will cite only one thing to prove that. I will not question Mr. Bruce's figures for a moment, and he states there are 420 members of the Swiss Alpine Club resident within the precincts of the United Kingdom, and of these 330 already belong to our Association. (hear hear). It is another proof of his extraordinary energy in furthering the interests of this Association.

I have once again to thank you for re-electing me for yet another year as President. So long as I continue to hold that office, believe

me I will do all in my power to further the interests of this Association. (Applause).

MR. J. A. B. BRUCE (Honorary Secretary): The President has talked to you about the indefatigability of the Honorary Secretary. I hope that my new colleague will take some of that indefatigability off my shoulders. When our balance sheet comes to be issued, it is possible some people may complain that we have not put a sufficient amount to reserve fund for the life members. But if anyone criticises it in that manner I would point out to him that we have an asset we cannot very well put in the balance sheet, that is, the great assistance and the use of the name of our President. (applause). If I had any speech to make to-night, I think I have sufficient tact not to make it at such a late hour. I will take as my text "Delenda est Carthago," which being interpreted means "The Club Hut must be built" and the £100 required for its completion subscribed. I will not make a speech until the Club hut is built, and in August next, when I hope a great many members of the Club will be present at the opening of the Cabane Britannia, I shall be very glad to say a few words. (Applause).

MR. C. E. KING-CHURCH (Treasurer): I have nothing to say because the Honorary Secretary has all the books and I do not know how those stand at present.

A telegram of greeting was received from the Geneva Section during the proceedings.