

A Swiss film

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missionnaire. Ils y mettaient comme conditions la renonciation à la lutte des classes et l'adhésion à la défense nationale de la part des socialistes. Ceux-ci préférèrent ne rien répondre sur ces points délicats et courir eux-mêmes leurs chances devant l'électeur. Un moment, ils voulurent briguer la majorité exécutive, en présentant cinq candidats, puis ils se ravisèrent en ne réclamant plus que trois des neuf sièges du Conseil d'Etat.

C'était de sage politique, de tactique avisée, car une campagne pour la conquête absolue du pouvoir eût certainement, et comme à Neuchâtel, galvanisé les électeurs bourgeois et abouti pour les socialistes à une plus grosse défaite que celle d'aujourd'hui, laquelle est suffisamment nette pour prouver que l'extrême-gauche ne saurait même être représentée au gouvernement sans le concours on, du moins, le consentement d'un des deux gands partis bourgeois.

Cependant, si les Bernois ont suivi l'exemple neuchâtelois pour l'élection du Conseil d'Etat, ils se sont prononcés tout autrement au législatif; même, là, ils ont voté à gauche, sans aller bien loin, il est vrai, car l'avance socialiste s'explique en partie du fait de l'appartenance, côté bourgeois, de nouvelles formations politiques, lesquelles empêchèrent souvent l'appareillement des listes nationales et provoquèrent l'éparpillement des voix.

Il n'en reste pas moins qu'aux dernières nouvelles — quelques résultats, au moment d'écrire ces lignes, manquent encore — les socialistes gagnent dix sièges. Sur le bord extrême, par contre, la Heimwehr, qui, pour la première fois et dans quelques districts seulement, manifestait une activité électorale, obtint trois sièges du coup, et cet avènement d'un parti fasciste au parlement doit être aussi souligné.

Contrairement encore à ce qu'on a vu à Neuchâtel, les radicaux d'abord font, à Berne, les frais de la journée, en perdant huit sièges.

On peut déduire pourtant du scrutin que les socialistes ont bénéficié de l'augmentation du nombre des députés, c'est-à-dire de l'accroissement de la population, tandis que les nationalistes ont réalisé leur succès au détriment surtout des partis bourgeois, dits historiques.

Au total, d'ailleurs, ces élections ne modifient guère la physionomie d'un Grand Conseil, hier de 224 membres, aujourd'hui de 228. Devant un pareil effectif de députés les modifications tracées par le scrutin de dimanche sont loin d'être décisives, et c'est plutôt la stabilité parlementaire qui ressort de cette consultation.

RODO MAHERT.

(«Tribune de Genève.»)

SWITZERLAND ASSERTS HERSELF AS WORLD'S PLAYGROUND.

Offers "New Deal" and Many Attractions.

"More value for less money"! This is Switzerland's slogan for the coming season, and it certainly sounds intriguing. To begin with, a special reduction of 30 per cent. will be granted by the Swiss Railways and the Postal Motor Coach Services on tickets issued at the agencies of the Swiss Federal Railways or Tourist offices abroad. This rebate will be in force from July 1 to September 30, also during the winter season from December 15, 1934, to March 15, 1935, provided that the visitor stays at least seven days in Switzerland. Since some of the tickets enjoy already other rebates, the above additional reduction represents, in some instances, a saving of as much as 55 per cent. on the regular fare.

Visitors who are contemplating a longer sojourn in the land of the Alps will, if they are inclined to do considerable sightseeing, find an "abonnement" ticket a rare bargain, for during its validity of 8, 15 or 30 days, as the case may be, this wonder ticket entitles to an unlimited number of trips over all the principal lines and lakes in the country. Mountain railways grant substantial reductions to the holders of abonnement tickets, and the Federal Postal authorities allow them a rebate of 20 per cent. during July and August. For a fifteen-day validity, second class railroad and first class steamer the net cost of such a ticket is 127 Swiss francs.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We very much regret to learn that Mr. Arthur L. Fraissard, of 6, Sudbrook Gardens, Ham, Surrey, was a passenger of the ill-fated French air liner from Le Bourget to Croydon, which crashed in the Channel on the 9th of May.

Mr. Fraissard was an active member of the City Swiss Club since 1920. On behalf of all the members of the Club, we beg to tender to Mrs. Fraissard and family our deep and sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement.

THE COMMITTEE.

The Swiss "New Deal" has also established itself firmly among the hotels and some of the "five-day pension rates" now offered by good establishments will make a visitor feel that he is actually saving money while enjoying the miraculous benefits and countless delights of a vacation in Switzerland. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that delicious cold luncheons are always cheerfully packed for those who want to make excursions from their respective headquarters, so that none of the advantages of the five-day pension rate need be relinquished.

While cut rates thus prevail in transportation and the cost of living, preparations on a most lavish scale have been made everywhere for the general entertainment of the visitors.

Celebrating festivals is a traditional weakness of the Swiss people. Ancient customs and traditions are sacred to them, and the fêtes which are being organised in these and other connections are consequently of a most varied and fascinating nature. Outdoor sports and pastimes also play a vital rôle, and throughout the year there is a steady offering of artistic and intellectual events of a very high order.

This year, May, the resplendent month of the transition from spring to summer, will see the formal opening of the millenarian celebrations of the Benedictine Monastery at Einsiedeln. From May 6th until October 14th, this historic pilgrimage resort will be the scene of a series of jubilee festivities and a historical exhibition will, at the same time, be featured in the Fürstensaal of the abbey buildings.

Lucerne, a synonym for scenic splendour, will open its Lido on May 15th, with a large group of other bathing beaches following suit at that time or soon after. The establishment of these beaches has brought a new independence to Switzerland. Veritable fortunes have been spent throughout the land upon their development, with the result that in lake — or Alpine resorts with perfect mountain background one finds beaches of shining cleanliness with lavish equipment for aquatic pastimes, and velvety lawns for physical culture games.

May 31st, Corpus Christi Day, will fill lovers of the æsthetic with a keen sense of satisfaction, for in the Roman Catholic parts of Switzerland there are processions where the costumes of olden times are resuscitated for that day.

Important season events are bobbing up in the month of roses. On June 3rd, Montreux, on the Lake of Geneva, will hold a big automobile race, the "Grand Prix de Montreux," and Geneva, on the other end of this beautiful expanse of water, promises its annual flower festival for June 23rd and 24th.

June 24th will usher in the "William Tell" season at Interlaken, and open-air performances of Schiller's immortal drama will from that day on be given in this gay tourist metropolis of the Bernese Oberland every Sunday afternoon until and including September 9th. For the greater convenience of the spectators, the auditorium has been covered. The stage, however, enjoys Nature's own inimitable settings, and remarkable true-to-life effects are thus produced. On June 29, 30, and July 1 there will be a smart Concours Hippique at medieval Thun, which also happens to be a military town with the Federal station for cavalry remounts.

Many interesting things are promised for the month of July. All the leading resorts will stage appropriate July Fourth celebrations in honour of their American guests. July 5th marks the opening day of the vacation courses for modern French at the University of Geneva, the same lasting in several series until October 13th. From July 16th to September 5th there is a similar course in two parts at the Neuchâtel University, and the University of Lausanne offers attractive opportunities for the study of modern French in a two series course from July 16th to October 10th. From July until August there is at Geneva a course of the Geneva School of International studies, and during the same month there are several other vacation courses offered by intellectual centres established in the League city. A delightful recreational programme, including sightseeing trips and evening entertainments, is also provided for the participants in the before-mentioned University cities, thus obtaining a perfect combination of study and recreation.

July 7th and 8th will be melody days for Gossau, near St. Gall, when the St. Gall Cantonal Music Festival will be held. Since competition has been invited from other Swiss cantons, the event promises to be most entertaining. Horses and horse-lovers will come into their own from July 7th to 15th, when Lucerne will be the scene of the annual International Concours Hippique, which is a high-light among events of this kind in Europe. And just to offset race-stable talk for a day, the Swiss Mixed Choral Societies will gather for a Singing Meet at Lucerne on July 8th.

Again to the fore comes Switzerland's gallant archer when on July 15th Altdorf, near Flüelen, on the Lake of Lucerne, resumes its historic William Tell performances. In Tell's old home-town there is a special playhouse for this

purpose. About 200 native actors are participating and the presentations will be given every Sunday afternoon until and including September 9th.

Ski races and ski-jumping are events one usually associates with winter, but Switzerland, the land of many contrasts, is able to stage similar events also in summer. Yearly, in the middle of July, such contests take place on Jungfrau-joch, 11,340 feet above sea level, and the marvel of it is that this all-year winter playground, where sleigh rides with Polar dogs are another thriller, is reached from Interlaken by mountain railways in 3½ hours. Mid-summer ski-races are also arranged around this time on Piz Corvatsch, above St. Moritz, and on the Theodul Pass above Zermatt.

Anyone interested in good marksmanship, which after all is an essential factor in national defence, will enjoy the Federal Shooting Festival which is being held at lovely old Fribourg, from July 20 until August 5. Preparations for this great national event, which is celebrated in a different locality every five years, were started over a year ago, and the latest reports predict a tremendous success.

On August 1st, Swiss Independence Day, there are joyous, yet absolutely sane and safe celebrations in every hamlet and town. Music, speeches, parades, bonfires, Venetian night festivals and special dinners mark this anniversary of national freedom, but private use of fire-crackers and fireworks are taboo. An opportunity for spiritual uplift in the great outdoors is provided on August 5th, when the annual open-air Divine service is held in the Gastern valley, near Kandersteg, and when natives and pilgrims ascend on the same day from Zermatt to the little chapel of "Maria zum Schnee" on teh Schwarzsee.

Musicians from all parts of the universe will meet for an International Music Contest at Geneva from August 12th to 17th, and the League capital will also be the scene of brilliant "International Festivals" when the League of Nations meets again for its annual session in September. A Concours Hippique is also promised at Geneva for September 23rd, and at fair Montreux there will be a National Costumes Festival on September 22nd and 23rd. Word has been received that this latter manifestation will be an event de luxe. Ancient dress has for some time been enjoying a revival in Switzerland, and historic costumes from all parts of the country will reappear in all their colourful glory and charming styles in the festival parade.

A Valaisan Vineyard and Autumn Fête will prove a seasonable event at Sion, capital of the Valais, on September 29th and 30th, and other vineyard festivals with gay parades will do homage to the grape harvest season at Neuchâtel, in the Jura, and Lugano, in the Ticino, at about the same time.

The Swiss Season Calendar abounds with a wealth of other attractive events, entirely too numerous for individual specification. Long-distance bicycle races, national and international rowing and sailing regattas, swimming meets, golf and tennis matches, automobile races in the lowlands and on mountain passes, native contests in gymnastics, wrestling, yodeling and other pastimes fill the summer programme to the brim. Hiking, climbing and fishing are always a boon to those who love to commune with Nature, and chamois hunting proves a thrilling sport in autumn.

Switzerland, Creation's masterpiece, lavishly blessed with scenic charms, rejuvenating climate, health springs and a multitude of other desirable features, truly excels in opportunities and attractions for the vacationist. It is within quick and convenient reach from anywhere, and everything is being done by the authorities to eliminate tiresome formalities.

Since times immemorial Switzerland has been proclaimed as the climax of a vacation in Europe! This year the land of the Alps belongs to the tourist at bargain rates. However, traditional Swiss hospitality lives on in undiminished fervour, and more care and money than ever will be spent on the comfort and entertainment of those who will harken to Switzerland's call.

A SWISS FILM.

The *première* of a famous Swiss film, presented by the Mentor Film A.G. in Zurich, will take place on Tuesday, May 15th, at the Curzon Cinema, Curzon Street, W.

The film is entitled "Rapt," and deals with a story taken from the novel, "La Séparation des Races," by the Swiss author, C. F. Ramuz.

The music has been composed by our celebrated countryman, Arthur Honegger. The beautiful scenery and the fine mise-en-scène, depicting Swiss folk lore, as well as Swiss customs and art, should appeal especially to our countrymen living far away from the home borders. We hope that the members of the Swiss Colony in London will attend in great force at this first performance, in order to give this fine film a deserving send-off.