

Forthcoming events

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with human nature but are useful and healthy, so long as each, from its own point of view, is sound and honest. But at the bottom of each must be that feeling which every true Swiss carries deep in his heart: *the zeal of the country first of all.*

Let us always remember the words of the King of France, when he heard the strange news of the Milksoop of Kappel:

"The Swiss go to battle amongst themselves with sword and lance, but they never forget that they are friends."

On leaving the platform the Minister received a hearty and well deserved ovation, a sure proof that for the many years which he has occupied his responsible office in the capital of the mighty British Empire he has become one of the most popular Ministers Switzerland has ever sent to the Court of St. James.

Next in filed, a number of very young Ladies and Gentlemen dressed in Swiss National costume carrying accordions, they were greeted with acclamation and under the efficient leadership of their energetic conductor, Mr. A. L. Gandon, they played two pieces: "Turnermarsch" and "Maiglockchen" with much gusto. The thunderous applause which they received proved how much their performance was appreciated.

After silence was restored, a gentleman dressed in a marvellous costume and heavily bearded appeared with martial strides; one young Lady next to me informed me with great conviction that it was "William Tell," but I was rather dubious as I missed the bow and arrows, but soon it became apparent that the wearer of this splendid garb was Mr. A. F. Suter, the popular President of the "Swiss Fête," and from his own words it could be gathered that the array pictured a member of the Swiss Papal guard. He made a most impressive sight, but it looks as if accidents can happen even to members of this illustrious corps, because either, during the evening he went across the street to have a "quick shave," or owing to the sweltering heat his beard became unruly, because on his second appearance he arrived minus his lovely beard which led to many humorous comments, and my Lady friend had to admit that she was mistaken as "William Tell" would have never had "done such a thing," old Gessler would have laughed and laughed and would have got Scot free out of the "Hohle Gasse" to have tea at Küsnacht.

Mr. Suter said:

All you Swiss know this uniform of the Swiss Guard in Rome. I have donned it to-night because it is in the right place among us Swiss Abroad. It is in fact more than that, it is a true Symbol for us Swiss Abroad, today as much as in the 16th century, and with this dress there have always been connected two little words:— *Honneur et Fidélité.*

Now it is my pleasant duty to welcome you all once more to our Fête Suisse, in the name of the Committee in London and in the name of the S.S.E. in Berne, from whom we have received the following telegramme:—

A l'occasion Fête Suisse le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger adresse à la Colonie Suisse de Londres ses chaleureuses félicitations pour la haute qualité de son travail et pour son bel esprit patriotique, sujets de joie et de fierté pour le pays. Qu'elle vive!

The Secretariat has again sent us a gift of alpine flowers, Gentians of the most heavenly blue, gathered from the slopes above Meiringen. But a far greater gift still has come to us from the Secretariat in the persons of the two famous artists Mlle. Lavanchy and Mr. de Ribeaupierre who have come across purposely for this Fête and who will presently delight you with their famous "Airs montagnards." In these delightful melodies they will deliver to us the message of our immortal mountains, as well as a reminder that we Swiss Abroad still live in the hearts of our countrymen at home.

We are delighted to have with us to-night our Minister who has just opened the Fête and whose noble and encouraging words you have just applauded. He has spoken to us as the father of our colony, as the voice of Switzerland, and we are always eager to hear his views on our duties and privileges, our virtues and shortcomings as good Swiss Abroad. I take this early opportunity of assuring our Minister here, in the name of all of you, of three things:—Firstly that we Swiss Abroad, however many years we may have been living away from home, are still perfectly good Swiss, and shall always remain so; secondly that we Swiss Abroad, living as Foreigners in a Foreign country, are aware and proud of the fact that we are at the same time perfectly good citizens in this country of our adoption, this Great Empire; and thirdly that we Swiss Abroad, in this generation also, are making a steady and determined effort to live up to the motto of the old Swiss Regiments, of which this dress is a symbol:—

Honneur et Fidélité.

Looking at the programme I could see that the next number was billed for Duos and Solis by Mlle. Colette Wyss and Mme. Perret Wyss.

A charming young Lady appeared, it was Mlle. Colette Wyss, the sister of Mlle. Sophie Wyss, that fine and distinguished singer so well-known in the Colony.

With a really fine voice she sang a number of songs by our famous countryman Jaques Dalerose. Mlle. Colette Wyss is one of the most eminent operatic singers in our own country, but by her performance she proved that she is an equally fine "Lieder" singer, and the hearty applause which she received was truly deserved. Unfortunately Mme. Emilie Perret Wyss was unable to appear.

A couple of violinists now turned up with umbrellas, violins and dressed in Swiss costumes, they were our countrymen hailing from the canton of Vaud, Mlle. Magda Lavanchy and Emile de Ribeaupierre and they gave us a delightful performance of "Airs Montagnards," what fine artists they were, one could have listened for hours and hours to their "fiddling," they were not only great violinists but equally clever actors. And what an applause they received from all corners of this big Hall!!!

Thus the first half of the programme came to a close, and it was announced that the "Festwirtschaft" was opening its doors. You should have seen the onslaught, before one could count ten, hundreds of "starving" people rushed into the "Foyer," whether I liked it or not, I was simply carried along in a densely packed crowd, not an easy thing when I consider that I am not exactly a "light weight."

After a while, I landed in front of the kitchen, where very appetising "Wienerli's" and "Cervelats" were cooked, no plates, forks or knives were supplied, a piece of paper, adorned with a "splash" of mustard was handed out, and one was left to do one's best, it was not an easy undertaking to "feed," when hundreds pushed and squeezed, but hunger does not stand on ceremony and somehow or other these delightful sausages disappeared; I am not sure that some did not even swallow the paper as well, which may be an explanation why no plates, forks and knives were supplied!!! But that was not all, hundreds of delicious strawberry tarts, pastries, ice creams, etc., etc., were displayed and when the interval was over it looked as if a swarm of locusts had descended on the tables, almost everything had disappeared, a sure sign that the eatables had met with appreciation.

Great credit should go to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Schmid, of the Glendower Hotel, and their staff, who were in charge of the catering, they worked like Trojans, and mind you, kept on smiling too; it was no easy matter to feed 1,500 hungry mouths within the time of half an hour, and may it be said, that some of the youngsters fought for their food, as if they had had nothing to eat for days.

It should also be mentioned that the "Wienerli's" were supplied by Mr. Bartholdi, of Charlotte Street, who enjoys an international reputation and who is called sometimes the "Sausage King" although he is a good republican. The fine pastries came from Mr. F. Rohr, Buckingham Palace Road, who is equally famous, as he has a contract with the Whipnade Zoo to supply the elephants with "Petit Fours." I have forgotten now how many tons he sends out to Whipnade every week.

A special compliment I should like to pay to the really charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Schmid, she looked lovely in her Bernese costume, and instead of eating my plate of strawberries I gazed at her until I found that some of the cream had trickled down my waistcoat, which induced another charming Lady, hailing from the canton of Zurich to make some sarcastic remarks about Bernese in general.

Then, one heard again the furious ringing of the famous cow bells, this time even more insistent which is quite understandable, having been "fed" in the meantime they put new vigour into their work.

The Swiss Orchestral Society opened the second part of the Programme with a March called "Take your seats," quite an appropriate piece of music, but as there were not enough seats to go round, it was just a little unkind.

Before I mention the second number which they played in their usual fine style, I must report that the conductor, Mr. E. P. Dick, ascended the rostrum in Swiss Costume, I think it is the first time that he has conducted his orchestra in this "get up," and looking at his colleagues in the orchestra I noticed that they did not know whether to laugh or keep a straight face, it must have been agony to the brass players and the flutists, but after they had got over the first shock they "blew" like Angels calling the faithful to the last judgment.

The second number was a pot-pourri of Swiss Folk Songs, and the conductor invited the company to join in, and everybody very heartily sang

those lovely simple songs which we all had sung in days of long ago.

Thunderous applause greeted the performance of this fine orchestra and time after time my friend Dick had to take off his "Mälcherhüetli."

Then followed some yodelling by Mr. von Bergen, who was accompanied on the accordion by Mr. Gandon. As usual both these Gentlemen performed with great efficiency and nobody will grudge them the great applause they received.

Again, the orchestra, Mlle. Magda Lavanchy, Emile de Ribeaupierre and the Swiss Accordion Club appeared in turn and repeated their previous successes in further repertoire.

Shortly before half past ten the National Anthem was played and the 69th Annual Swiss Fête came to a close, amidst great enthusiasm.

It was a wonderful and inspiring evening, once again we have felt that we belong together, once again our thoughts have travelled across the sea and over the towering mountains to our homeland which we love and which in the hour of danger we shall be willing to defend with the last drop of our blood.

*Loin des rains bruits de la plaine,
L'âme en paix est plus sereine:
Au ciel montent plus joyeux,
Les accents d'un cœur pieux.*

ST.

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WHY DON'T YOU BUY A HOUSE AT PURLEY. Prominent position. Undoubted quality bargain. Two rec., 4 bed rooms, matured garden. Room for garage. 2 min. from station and shops. Write: Swiss Observer, Box No. 66, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, June 28th, at 7.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance, at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See advert.).

Wednesday, July 6th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Saturday, July 9th — Swiss Sports and Garden Party — Duke of York's Headquarters at Chelsea.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).

(Langue française).

79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

(Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche, 26 juin 1938:

11h. — Service solennel et bilingue pour célébrer le 176^e anniversaire de l'Eglise Suisse et la réunion des deux communautés, présidé par MM. Les pasteurs M. Pradervand et C. Th. Hahn.

7h. — Culte, M. M. Pradervand.

Pas d'école du Dimanche.

Course de l'Ecole du Dimanche.

Samedi, 2 juillet 1938. (Les détails seront envoyés directement aux parents.)

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 26. Juni 1938.

11 Uhr morgens: Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst beider Kirchgemeinden in der Eglise Street.

Kein Morgengottesdienst in St. Anne & St. Agnes.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst in St. Anne & St. Agnes, 9 Gresham Street.

8 Uhr, Chorpöbe.

Die Collecten werden zugunsten der Schweizerischen Hilfsgesellschaft erhoben. "Arme habt ihr allezeit bei euch."

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confrmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W. 4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.