

Swiss Delegation at London Congress

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EXPO 1964

The last news which reached us before the postmen's strike said that the number of EXPO visitors had reached 3.6 million, and the daily average for June came to 56,000, after the Valais Cantonal Day on 29th June had brought nearly 100,000 visitors in one day. The slow start has thus been made good, and figures now correspond to estimates. On the whole, the weather has been very favourable, and the many restaurants in the port area have become more and more popular.

Since our last report three more Cantonal Days have taken place. On 26th June, it was St. Galltag. Two days previously, a delegation of the EXPO, including ten uniformed EXPO hostesses, travelled to St. Gall where a "branch" of the National Exhibition was officially opened in the Multergasse. Shop owners, assistants, artists and decorators spontaneously helped in their free time to create this small EXPO, an original gesture which testifies to the goodwill between the Eastern part of Switzerland and the Suisse Romande. The St. Gall contingent arrived in Lausanne in ten new green and white railway carriages belonging to the Bodensee-Toggenburg Bahn. Ten thousand St. Gall sausages ("Olma Bratwürste") and handkerchiefs were sold in Lausanne for charity, and an invitation was extended to a Vaudois student to study at the University of St. Gall for a year at the expense of the St. Gall government. The famous St. Gall embroidery and other textiles were shown at special fashion parades. Another surprise was the gift of 1,200 roses from Rapperswil, "town of roses". The flowers were presented to patients and nurses at the Lausanne Cantonal Hospital, and to the three oldest female inhabitants of Lausanne. This ceremony took place at the Knie Circus whose home is at Rapperswil. In the evening, the St. Gall composer Paul Huber conducted his cantata "Carmen Saeculare".

The Valais Cantonal Day took place on 29th June. Two thousand Valaisans took part in the procession which showed the Valais of today, its history, and Swiss traditions. Maurice Zermatten's play "Rose Noire de Marignan", specially written for the occasion, saw its first performance in the evening.

Solothurn's Cantonal Day was held on 3rd July. This time the procession did not refer to the Canton's history; it was called "Die Klingende Kette" and was a picturesque spectacle of colour, movement, word and music, symbolic of the Solothurn of today. The Pageant performed in the evening was created in a similar way.

Apart from Cantonal Days, there have been other special features. To mention just a few — a successful "Mexican Fiesta" by the Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, boccia championships, a football match between railway employees of France and Switzerland, the international golfing championship of Switzerland, a concert by six massed bands, Press day in the sector "Field and Forest" with special reference to the mountain farmers, a performance of Max Frisch's "Don Juan or Love of Geometry" and the eighteenth world congress for cosmetics and cosmetology. On 27th June, the "Rencontres Suisses", a forum of Swiss of good will working together for the preservation and promotion of the country's spiritual heritage, held their general meeting at the EXPO, during which Federal Councillor Wahlen spoke on "Switzerland facing its future: independence and obligation". On 5th

July was the Day of Youth. The theme was "Our obligation for tomorrow". There were several concerts organised by the "Jeunesses Musicales"; they included the first performance of "Sinfonietta" by Peter Benary (Lucerne), winner of the "Jeunesses Musicales" competition for young composers.

(Compiled from news received from A.T.S.)

U.A.R. TO PAY SWISS £3m. FOR SEIZED ASSETS

After two years of intermittent negotiations Switzerland and the United Arab Republic have reached agreement on compensation for Swiss assets appropriated by the Egyptian authorities over the past four years. During an eight-year period the U.A.R. is to pay the equivalent of £3,300,000, half of it in Egyptian pounds which will be used by Swiss tourists and Swiss technical and scientific offices in Egypt, and the rest in Egyptian products, excluding cotton and rice. "The Times" 21.6.1964.

SWISS DELEGATION AT LONDON CONGRESS

The Fourth World Congress of the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases was held in London from 13th to 18th July. Some twelve hundred delegates from about forty countries met at Church Hall Westminster. Switzerland's delegation was about a dozen strong, consisting of men from various fields such as the national accident and sickness insurance (whose representative, Dr. S. Nicolet, acted as *rapporteur*). There was the works doctor of a large industrial concern, a spokesman for the General Safety Group of CERN, representatives of the federation of industrial undertakings and the syndicate of metal workers and watchmakers, as well as of the Federal Office for Social Insurance in Berne.

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