

Mein Schweizerland, wach auf!

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habit of giving lavish praise left, right and centre and to call everything marvellous. I also welcome criticism. But I have lived in this world long enough to know that we get out of anything precisely as much as we put into it — if we are disappointed it is almost invariably our own fault one way or another. I have also worked long enough in this Colony (thirty years to be exact) to know that there is nothing more difficult and nothing more thankless than to try and arrange something to please *all* our Swiss compatriots.

I understand from the Committee that there will be no Fête Suisse in 1965, but that plans are already being made for another one in 1966. It is not known yet what shape or form it will take. But the Committee will try hard to find something novel which will appeal to the largest possible number of Swiss. No doubt, there will again be criticism, but fortunately there are still large numbers of our fellow-countrymen (and women) who appreciate the unselfish efforts which are being made for their enjoyment, and they will be able to look forward to the Fête Suisse 1966.

Mariann.

MEIN SCHWEIZERLAND, WACH AUF!

Noch ruh'n in weichem Morgenglanz
Die Täler weit und klaren Seen,
Ein Silbernebel deckt den Kranz
Der holdgeschmückten Bergeshöh'n:
"Wach auf, mein liebes Heimatland,
Mein Schweizerland, wach auf!"

In Purpurgluten wallt empor
Durch Frührotschein der Sonne Pracht,
Und leise schallt der Vöglein Chor
Und Sonntagsfrieden wonnig lacht:
"Wach auf, mein liebes Heimatland,
Mein Schweizerland, wach auf!"

Doch wenn des Krieges Fackel glüht,
Der Freiheit Aar, von Gott gesandt,
Weithin durch Wald und Auen zieht,
Dann klinge laut der Ruf durch's Land:
"Wach auf, mein liebes Heimatland,
Mein Schweizerland, wach auf!"

This is the original text by Dr. Fritz Rohrer (1848-1932). The tune was composed in 1875 by Carl Attenhofer (1837-1914). It was also called "Ode an die Heimat" and performed at the "Sängertag" in Lucerne on 2nd June 1878 by the "Männerchor Zürich". It was reported in the "Swiss Observer" last year that the Attenhofer song was rendered by the same choir at the Royal Festival Hall on 8th May, when the British Red Cross Society celebrated the Red Cross Centenary in the presence of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.

PERSONAL

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Mayr of Grange Farm, Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Middlesex. An obituary notice will appear in the next issue.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 11th September. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 2nd September. Short items only can be accepted later.

RETIREMENT OF MR. W. T. ZUBER

Our compatriot, Mr. W. T. Zuber of Ventnor is retiring. In a tribute called "Switzerland's Unofficial Ambassador", the "Isle of Wight County Press" had the following to say on 25th July last:

"Retiring at the end of the month after 39 years in business as a pastrycook and confectioner and proprietor of the Café Suisse, Ventnor, is Mr. W. T. Zuber, of The Grove, Grove Road. Well known in Island business and sporting circles he has played a leading part in fostering Anglo-Swiss relations.

"A citizen of Aarau, Mr. Zuber has taken considerable pride in his Swiss nationality and over the years has been engaged in many activities to demonstrate the ties of affection between his native land and the country which provided his business opportunity. After the last war he supervised for his government the distribution of utility furniture given by Switzerland to help bombed families in Poole, Gosport and Weymouth. For many years, on behalf of the Swiss Embassy in London, he has looked after young people who have come from his country to seek work in the Island during the summer.

"As a past president of Ventnor Rotary Club and particularly as chairman of its international service committee for about 10 years, Mr. Zuber seized every opportunity of fostering goodwill among foreign nationals. The International Friendship League vacation courses for overseas students visiting groups and individuals all received his active interest. His home, where the national flag of Switzerland always flies from the flag pole in the garden, has become an "open house" for many Swiss visitors.

"Coming to England in 1922 as a pastrycook and confectioner he worked in Woking and London before deciding to set up in business on his own account. It was on June 24th, 1925, that he took over the former Victory Café in Sping Hill, Ventnor. He re-named it the Café Suisse, acquiring adjoining properties. For many years it has been a popular rendezvous in the town for coffee, light meals and teas.

"Mr. Zuber is president of Ventnor Professional and Business Association and their delegate to the I.W. Chamber of Commerce and is a former chairman of the South Wight Boy Scouts Association. He is well known throughout the Island as a bowler and has been president of both the I.W. County Bowling Association and Ventnor Bowling Club. Apart from bowling, his main recreation is bridge and he describes himself as a "dabbler" as an artist and poet.

"Mr. Zuber twice served in the Swiss Army. For a period during the 1914-18 war he served as a recruit and he was recalled in September, 1939, but returned after a few months and became an A.R.P. warden. To help the food situation, he formed a company which bought land at Niton Undercliff for tomato growing and at one time he had 42,000 plants under cultivation."

We understand that Mr. and Mrs. Zuber will continue to live in Ventnor. We send them our best wishes for a happy retirement.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that
NO MONTHLY MEETINGS
will be held until 8th September