

Service at St. Peter and St. Edward

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speech has been the significance of that wonderful pact of 1291 on the Rütli:— A noble treaty between noble people and one which has produced noble deeds for 650 years. It was a simple, straightforward and unvarnished pact of friendship between neighbours for mutual assistance and common defence against a common enemy; this pact makes it very clear that nothing should be attempted and nothing could be achieved without the help of God: it confers no manner of right or privilege or advantage to any one person in the Confederation, high or low, without exacting a corresponding duty or obligation. This pact is the true and fundamental basis of our Swiss citizenship; such was the faith of our forefathers, such is our faith to-day.

May I say therefore, Monsieur le Ministre, that you have a very safe colony of sound Swiss to look after. We may at times be stubborn, and even obstinate, but — that is the nature of every good Swiss and always will be so. We are very conscious of our good name in this hospitable land of England, and we mean to keep it so. If many of our sons are to-day fighting with the British Forces, this does not imply any loss of the patrimony of our birth-right, but it does mean that these sons of ours are fighting for identically the same ideals as we should under the pact of 1291:— THE DEFENCE OF HONOUR, THE DEFENCE OF TRUTH AND THE DEFENCE OF FREEDOM.

On behalf of the Committee I express our gratitude to our Minister, to the Artists for the enjoyment which they have given us and to you all for your demonstration of sincere loyalty and solidarity.

The 650th Anniversary celebration of the Swiss Confederation ended befittingly with the singing of our National Anthem.

In summing up we can all be proud of the way in which this celebration was conducted, without pomp, simple and dignified, and in accordance with the times we are passing through.

Thanks are due to the organisers, the performers and not least to those Ladies who, by wearing their national costumes added greatly to the brightness of the occasion. I would also heartily congratulate my old friend Gallus, the poet laureate of the Swiss Colony, who dedicated his cleverly composed "Sonetten Kranz" to the Swiss Colony. If I am permitted to voice a disappointment it would be this, that very little of our Swiss dialect was heard in the official address. —

Across the sea, back home where on the 1st of August the church bells were ringing, and where on the mountains the fires were shedding their lights as symbols of liberty, our people have remembered their brethren in foreign lands, many of whom are facing grim dangers, they have sent us their greetings and assurance that our hearts are beating as loyally as ever before for our country which we know is facing hard and bitter times, and across the Alps we are sending them this message: "Be strong, be faithful to the tradition inherited which gained us the respect of the universe, be humble before God and courageous before man, God bless you and protect our land;" and let me end with these words: The destiny of Switzerland may yet be a mission.

ST.

SERVICE AT EGLISE SUISSE. 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

Sunday, 3rd August, saw a very large gathering at the Eglise Suisse in Endell Street, prettily and tastefully decorated with flowers and the Swiss flag, where the French and the German-speaking Protestant Communities of the Swiss Colony in London came together and in a simple and very dignified manner to give thanks to the Almighty who by his great wisdom has thus far preserved our dear homeland from the ravages of war, and to pray fervently that of His unbounded goodness He will further spare the land of our fathers.

Every seat in the church was taken and the ushers were hard put to find sufficient chairs for the late arrivals. It is doubtful if ever so many people were assembled in that building which in itself is a bit of Switzerland.

And how befitting it was as a continuation or perhaps a closing act of the preceeding day when French and German speaking Swiss sat next to one another in the vast Central Hall, that in this more confined space of the Eglise Suisse they sat even closer together and worshipped God each in his or her own way and language as it is but right and as it should be.

The sermons given by the Rev. Pradervand and the Rev. E. Jornot in French and German respectively, were earnest and to the heart of everyone and I am sure made deep and lasting impressions on all those present.

The Minister and Madame Thurnheer attended the service, the impressiveness of which was enhanced, if such were possible by the two exceedingly well rendered solos by Miss Sophie Wyss.

SERVICE AT ST. PETER AND ST. EDWARD, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

There was a very representative congregation at St. Peter & St. Edward, the Garrison Church to the Wellington Barracks near by and which church was gratuitously put at the disposal by the Cathedral Authorities to the Swiss Colony for the Roman Catholic Service in commemoration of the 650th anniversary of the foundation of Switzerland.

The Swiss Minister and Madame Thurnheer were welcomed on arrival by the Rev. A. Lanfranchi, two "prie dieu's" covered with the Swiss flag were placed near the sanctuary for the Minister and Madame Thurnheer whilst the altar and the pulpit were artistically decorated with flowers and the national flags.

At the beginning of the mass the congregation sang the Swiss National Anthem, during the "Credo" the Swiss National Hymn whilst during the "offertory" the choir recruited from members of the "Unione Ticinese" sang the "Ave Verum" and the "Salve Regina" was played at the organ during the communion.

In his sermon Father Lanfranchi exhorted the congregation in German, French and Italian and concluding in English to live up to the christian ideals, faith, hope and charity of our forefathers who with the words: "In the name of God the Almighty"

formed the Swiss Federation 650 years ago, to live up to the standard of the cross, embodied in our national flag, to ask the patron Saint of Switzerland, "blessed Nicolaus von Flue" to offer with us fervent prayers to God that our homeland be spared the horrors of war, strife and hunger and that Switzerland be allowed to carry on her traditional role in international life as a peaceful, free and independent country, enabling her to do noble work of relieving suffering and charity for all afflicted people and nations.

The singing of the hymn "Grosser Gott wir loben Dich" concluded the service which will remain long in the memory of those who attended. The surplus of the collection has been given to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

The Rev. Father Longstaff of the Westminster Cathedral acted as Organist and Messrs. C. Berte and Boos as M.C.'s and Wardens.

THE SWISS COLONY IN LIVERPOOL.

We were able to arrange a modest celebration for the first of August at Prestatyn and the details were worked out by Mrs. Macquarie and Mrs. Davidson. The younger element of our Colony is chiefly girls, the men are advancing towards the age usually associated with grandfathers with all the responsibilities associated with that phase of life. They came by car, on bikes, by train, and in the end we had quite a respectable gathering. In these days of rationing it was considered wiser to bring along picnic baskets and soon the decision had to be made shall we go to the hills at the back of the town or on the sandhills fronting the shore. On this glorious summer day the sea seemed more inviting and the picnic was held on the sandhills of the Ffrith, a pleasure beach developed by the Prestatyn Urban District Council. We sat round in a wide circle and first sang a few patriotic songs. Some visitors looked round in astonishment, but being apparently English and hearing the National Anthem in an unfamiliar tongue they must have thought we were Welsh. At any rate they did not seem to mind. Then we had our picnic tea and great was the delight when Mrs. Macquarie unpacked a huge cake from our friend Troxler (Swiss Café, Liverpool) with our national colours as top decoration.

As the work among our girls by Mrs. Macquarie and Mrs. Davidson is getting known to wider circles, we find that some of our Swiss ladies disguised under English names on account of marriage come forward and join in. Who would think that Mrs. Cheetham of Meliden is really a lady from Bale? She has a mother, Mrs. Steffen, living with her, but she could not risk coming since she is 82 and at that age you must take no risks. The girls decided to go up to Meliden after bathing to bring her a Ständli which was done. Needless to say Mrs. Steffen was deeply moved. It was a memorable occasion for her.

A letter was sent to the Swiss Minister in London assuring him of our firm attachment to our homeland and to the authorities guiding our course in these dangerous times. We just had to do it, the "Heil dir Helvetia" spirit of the occasion demanded an outlet.

E. MONTAG.

SWISS COLONY IN DUBLIN.

The Swiss Chargé d'Affaires and Madame Benziger entertained about forty of our compatriots at the Swiss Legation, Clyde Road. Monsieur Benziger delivered a short patriotic address stressing the importance of tradition recollecting that a nation remains young as long as its traditions are refreshed by new creative elements.

THE KING AND OUR PEOPLE.

H. M. The King sent the following telegram to the President of the Swiss Confederation:—

I desire to convey to you my warm congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 650th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation, and my best wishes for the continued peace and prosperity of the Swiss people in the future. The Swiss Confederation, founded by the free choice of its members, whose independence has been so valiantly defended by the Swiss people throughout the centuries, has long been a vital part of European civilization. The ideals of freedom and harmony between different races so successfully embodied in the Swiss Confederation are fully shared by the peoples of the British Commonwealth, and I am confident that this community of ideals has contributed powerfully to the ties of sympathy so long existing between the Swiss and British peoples.

GEORGE R.I.

to which the following reply was received:—

In the name of the Federal Council I warmly thank your Majesty for the very friendly message by which, on the occasion of the 650th anniversary of the Confederation, you were good enough to give us a new pledge of the sentiments of understanding and sympathy which animate the peoples of the British Commonwealth towards Switzerland. I assure your Majesty that Switzerland is the more gratified in that she cherishes like sentiments for Great Britain, and I beg you to accept the cordial good wishes which we feel for your personal happiness and that of your peoples.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

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