

# Swiss National Day

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1937)**

Heft 820

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694869>

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

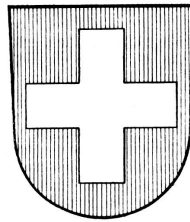
Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern. Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

# SWISS NATIONAL DAY

## 1st August



## 1291 - 1937

Six hundred and forty-seven years will pass away tomorrow since those sturdy sons of the cantons Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, clasped their hands and vowed to stand steadfast together in distress and danger, in joy and sorrow.—

Let us then, dear countrymen, on the birthday of our homeland, wander in thoughts back home to the silvery mountains, to the picturesque lakes, to our native towns, villages and hamlets, where the church bells will be ringing melodiously, spreading the glad tidings of Freedom, Liberty and Independence; and where, at eventide the bonfires on thousands of hills, peaks and mountain tops will send their flares towards heaven, proclaiming that here dwells a free and unfettered country. — Whilst providence has granted us a long term of peace, other countries have seen their territories enlarged and their destinies determined by trouble and war, but no blood has stained the bonds which have knit together our free and order-loving population for many years past. We are a small nation, composed of the most heterogeneous elements — Protestants and Catholics, French, German, Italian and Romansch speaking Swiss, everyone, let it be remembered, with his traditions, with his prejudices. In each of these conflicting antagonistic elements, however, there is a common bond of patriotism, and the only true policy is that, which reaches that common patriotism and makes it vibrate in all toward common ends and common aspirations.

To this country of ours, which has given us its material, moral and intellectual wealth, to this country which affords to all its children its protection, we owe everything, all that we are, all that we have. And if, this day, we have tried to find out what it means to us, it should be, that

we may feel and understand better what we owe it.

What is then our duty to our country?

We shall serve it best by defending it, by accepting willingly all the obligations entailed by that. We must, with all our might, support the efforts of the League of Nations so that future generations be spared the horrors of wars. This country of ours, we shall also serve by defending it against its interior foes, against those cynics who will tell you that love for one's country is nothing but a myth. — We Swiss abroad are unable to take an active part in shaping the destiny of our homeland, but we can also serve our land by upholding the prestige by individual efficiency and industry, by faithful and honest services, and by respecting the institutions of the country which has given us hospitality.

Patriotism is the vital condition of national permanence, no government is safe unless it is protected by the good will of the people. Patriotism means: One country, one constitution, one destiny.—

Let the Swiss Colony as a whole, be a reflection of *unity*, which will on our National Day be the catch-word of countless orators, from one end of our country to the other. There is room for improvement in many directions, let us make up our minds to be always just and forbearing in our relations with each other; let us beware of incessant bickering and petty jealousies, "True patriotism," — Göthe once said: "consists only in this — that everyone sweeps before his own door, minds his own business, also learns his own lesson, that it may be well with him in his own house;" let us remember, that to cry is human, to forgive, divine. A more glorious victory cannot be gained over another man than

this, that when the injury began on his part, the kindness should begin on ours.

Let us also beware of the pride which would make us believe there is no other country like our own, and let us beware of disparaging it by saying there is no good thing in it. —

The world crisis, with its bitter lessons, with its desolating experiences, its sorrows and dispairs has also affected many of our compatriots in the Colony; worries and anxieties have visited many a home where want was formerly an unknown factor.

More than ever, therefore our national motto: "Un pour tous, tous pour un" should be our *Leitmotif*, and this should lead us to happier and more prosperous times. It is not enough to make on every possible occasion speeches, emphasizing that we are all children of one large family, and therefore should stand together, this is after all an obvious conclusion, deeds should now follow words, we should show in a practical way, that we mean what we often so freely proclaim. Let us then, dear countrymen, make this our resolution on the 1st of August 1937. —

Wherever Swiss do dwell their thoughts will on this day go back to their native land, they will go back to their dear ones at home and many a heart will ache and many an eye will be moist; to many of us, that longing, to see again those mountains in all their majesty and glory, to hear once again those bells ringing, will manifest itself; let the clouds which pass above us, be the messenger of our fraternal greetings, let them deliver the message of our unswerving attachment to the land of our birth and tell them of the love which still lives in thousands of hearts away from our native soil.

ST.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Third Annual Inter Club Match between the Metropolitan Police "C" Division Athletic Club and the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society, was held at Imber Court, on Thursday, July 22nd. About 120 students and members of the Staff set out from Swiss House in four motor coaches, a record number for the meeting, which is a proof of its growing popularity. The College was fortunate in including in its team A. Pfeleiderer and H. Zehnder, two athletes who won laurel wreaths at the last Federal Gymnastic Competition in Winterthur.

A determined effort was to be made to win the coveted trophy at the third attempt, lest it would be won outright without having found its way once into the precincts of Swiss House.

The proverbial luck with the weather held good again and on arrival at the Metropolitan Police Sports Ground, Imber Court, the meeting was soon in full swing. The Police again held the balance in the running whereas the College proved supreme in the field events. The Police, in W. Thomas, had a sprinter who has returned "evens" in the 100 yards this season and little wonder that he won the 100 yards and 220 yards with such fast times as 10.2 and 22.8 seconds respectively.

As on both previous occasions, the College won the High Jump; this time with a "modest" 5 ft. 5in. by H. Zehnder. In the Discus, however, the first defeat was suffered. An outstanding performance was Pfeleiderer's javelin throwing. He cast the missile 161 ft. 3in. and his putting the shot of 37 ft. 8½ in. was no mean achievement either.

In the 100 yards Veterans' Race Mr. H. H. Baumann, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, beat P.C. Varney, in 11'4 sec. from scratch. Mr. Baumann who is among the foremost veteran runners in this country, was this time matched against a very experienced runner who was furthermore 10 years his junior. He is a most amazing athlete who seems to improve as he grows older.

A surprise was caused when J. Mamboury won the half mile for the S.M.S. in 2min. 15 sec. The 120 yards Hurdles was also won by the S.M.S. despite the fact that Pfeleiderer, who was actual-

ly first, was disqualified for throwing more than three hurdles. He made full amends for this by winning the Long Jump with a leap of 20 ft. 8 in.

The One Mile Flat as well as the One Mile Medley Relay were both won by the Police in unmistakable fashion. Zimmermann did well to finish a creditable second in the mile and in the Relay Race the excellent time of 3 min. 50 sec. was much too good for the S.M.S. which did well to finish in 3 min. 58 sec. The final score was S.M.S. 68 points; Police 55 points. Thanks are due to Messrs. W. Meier, Chairman of the Education Committee, and Mr. A. Pfeleiderer for their valuable assistance in training the team.

Simultaneously with the Athletic Contest a Tennis Match was played between the Tennis Sections of Tottenham Court Road Police and the S.M.S. College. Two singles and three doubles matches were contested and also here the S.M.S. proved victorious, winning four out of the five rubbers.

This was indeed an "S.M.S." day.

At the conclusion of the contest tea was served in the spacious hall of Imber Court. Amongst vociferous applause Chief Inspector Worth, who officiated as Referee and followed the various events with keen interest, rose to address the large gathering. He referred to the friendly rivalry that existed between the two sides and the excellent team spirit which prevailed throughout the meeting. He mentioned that Monsieur W. De Bourg, Counsellor of the Swiss Legation, was unfortunately prevented through an important engagement from presenting the Cup. He then handed the trophy to the Captain of the S.M.S. team.

Mr. A. Levy, Principal of the College, replied in suitable terms and recalled some of the earlier associations of the College with the Police in the field of Sports. He read a letter from Monsieur W. De Bourg who has taken a great personal interest in these Contests. On his behalf Mr. Levy then handed to Messrs. W. Thomas and W. Burren, Captains of the Police and S.M.S. teams respectively, a magnificent token of appreciation for their work in connection with these sports. Both Captains expressed their grateful thanks and called on their supporters to give three hearty cheers for their opponents.

The evening finished with a most enjoyable dance thus bringing to a close another fine day spent at Imber Court.

W.B.

The results were:

HIGH JUMP.—H. Zehnder (S.M.S.), 5 ft. 5 in., 1; A. Pfeleiderer (S.M.S.), 5 ft. 4 in., 2; C. Drew (Police), 5 ft. 3 in., 3; J. Mamboury (S.M.S.), 5 ft. 1 in., 4.

100 YARDS.—W. Thomas (Police), 1; O. Segesser (S.M.S.), 2; C. Meredith (Police), 3; P. Roche (S.M.S.), 4. Time, 10.2 sec.

100 YARDS VETERANS.—H. H. Baumann (S.M.S.), 1; P. C. Varney (Police), 2. Time, 11.4 sec.

THROWING THE DISCUS.—E. Glaisher (Police), 104 ft. 1 in., 1; A. Pfeleiderer (S.M.S.), 96 ft. 8 in., 2; C. Meredith (Police), 93 ft. 7½ in., 3; H. Zehnder (S.M.S.), 92 ft. 6½ in., 4.

220 YARDS.—W. Thomas (Police), 1; C. Meredith (Police), 2; S. Johnson (Police), 3; R. Steiger (S.M.S.), 4. Time, 22.8 sec.

880 YARDS.—J. Mamboury (S.M.S.), 1; J. Fleet (Police), 2; C. Drew (Police), 3; W. Aebersold (S.M.S.), 4. Time, 2 min. 15 sec.

THROWING THE JAVELIN.—A. Pfeleiderer (S.M.S.), 161 ft. 3 in., 1; E. Glaisher (Police), 134ft. 11 in., 2; H. Zehnder (S.M.S.), 126 ft. 9½ in., 3; J. Redfern (Police), 110 ft. 5 in., 4.

120 YARDS HURDLES.—H. Zehnder (S.M.S.), 1; E. Glaisher (Police), 2. Time, 18 sec.

PUTTING THE WEIGHT.—A. Pfeleiderer (S.M.S.), 37 ft. 8½ in., 1; H. Zehnder (S.M.S.), 32 ft. 7½ in., 2; C. Meredith (Police), 31 ft. 4½ in., 3; O. Segesser (S.M.S.), 30 ft. 10 in., 4.

ONE MILE.—W. Best (Police), 1; H. Zimmermann (S.M.S.), 2; W. Spengler (S.M.S.), 3; G. Cowan (Police), 4. Time, 4 min. 51 sec.

LONG JUMP.—A. Pfeleiderer (S.M.S.), 20 ft. 8 in., 1; H. Zehnder (S.M.S.), 19 ft. 1 in., 2; O. Segesser (S.M.S.), 18 ft. 10½ in., 3; J. Brown (Police), 17 ft. 10½ in., 4.

ONE MILE MEDLEY RELAY.—Police 1; S.M.S. (H. Zehnder, J. Steiger, R. Steiger, P. Roche), 2. Time, 3 min. 50 sec. (S.M.S., 3 min. 58 sec.)