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A TRAVERS LA SUISSE

After a respite of twelve months, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique has again invited the members of the Colony to one of their much appreciated Film Shows.

That these shows have lost none of their popularity was proved by the large attendance; both performances were given before a "full house."

Previous to showing the film, Mr. A. F. Suter, President of the Society made a few introductory remarks, he mentioned that some 350,000 Swiss are living outside the borders of our country, and that these film shows were a good medium to remind our compatriots of their home country. He then shortly referred to the Congress of the Swiss abroad, which took place at the beginning of September in Berne, where well over 400 delegates from all over the world assembled to talk over matters concerning their affairs. He informed the audience that he was commissioned by M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, to extend his personal greetings to the members of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, and to tell them to continue to be proud of their country.

M. Suter then shortly referred to the lamentable loss the Colony had sustained by the death of Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme. —

The first film put on the screen took us to Arosa, where winter sport was in full swing. That this well-known winter sport resort is up to date, was shown by some views of Hotels which were the last word as regard to comfort.

The audience was brought to fever pitch when a "Schnitzeljagd" (paper chase) on ski's was thrown on the screen. You should have heard the screams of delight of the little ones, when the "fox" was caught, after a most exciting chase over miles and miles of glittering snow fields.

Most interesting was, at least for beginners, an instruction course of ski-ing by that well-known expert Mr. D. Zogg.

Perhaps the most appreciated item of the programme, was concerned with the "Swissair;"

To those who have not yet chosen to travel by Air to the "old country," the pictures showing a part of the journey from Zurich to London must have evoked the wish to use this way of travelling.

It brought back to me vivid memories of my last journey there and back only some eight weeks ago. Who can ever forget the joy of flying 10 to 12,000 feet in brilliant sunshine over the lovely valleys, glistening lakes and winding rivers from Zurich to Basle, and over the fair fields of France. It is an unforgettable sight, and leaves memories behind which will be treasured for many a day. To thousands, who have in the past dreaded crossing the English channel, it will come as a relief to know, that this, at times, nasty stretch of water, can now be crossed in 10-15 minutes without the slightest discomfort.

How lovely were the pictures from a flight over the Alps, and how instructive to travel high above the London Docks to land afterwards at the large Airport at Croydon, where Swissair officials greet you in your own "homely" language.

A film for the children was then shown, and judging from the screams of delight, emerging from the four corners of the hall, it was greatly appreciated.

The next film took us to the North-Eastern part of Switzerland, to that lovely, unspoilt canton of Appenzell. Here again it brought back to me untold memories, especially that lovely walk up to the "Wildkirchli," with the fine view on the Säntis. And what about those picturesque chalets nestled against the mountain sides, even the bedding hanging out of the windows did not impair the view. Lovely young girls in their national costumes were shown, doing some of their exquisite embroidery work which has made the canton of Appenzell world famous. Then we witnessed one of those popular peasant dances, so much more characteristic and inspiring than some of our ball room "stunts." We were shown how they make the Appenzeller cheese, personally I was grateful that the "smell" did not come through the ether.

As it sometimes rains in Switzerland, everyone attending the open Parliament carried an umbrella and they made good use of it too, folding it only up when taking the oath. The members of the cantonal government, wearing top hats, accompanied by their beadle looked very impressive. A band dressed in uniform gave the only colour to an otherwise sombre gathering.

Then we left that part of Switzerland and went to the Bernese Oberland and as this part of our country is better known to most of us I need not say very much about it.

Of course, we had the Eiger-Mönch and Jungfrau group and could one find a finer view than these awe inspiring mountains? Several views were taken in and around Adelboden, one of the loveliest spots in the Bernese Oberland.

There was ski-ing, tobogganing, skating and curling amongst glittering snow and towering mountains, and if I only had the necessary "pennies" I would pack my bag and "fly" over there tomorrow.

Never more than at these film shows, do I realise what a beautiful country ours is, and how proud we ought to be to call it our own dear homeland.

Let us cherish it, love it, and work for it, and let our English friends know that beyond the sea lies a country which is still free and unfettered, a land where the principles of democracy and liberty are a sacred inheritance. —

The film show was attended by Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, who gave a short address to the audience.

And so ended another of these enjoyable Film Shows, which are always eagerly awaited by young and old in the Colony, and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique deserves the thanks of all those, who had the pleasure to spend a few hours of real enjoyment at St. George's Hall, on Saturday last.

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unfortunately for one reason or other, the film could not be produced as a "sound" film, but nevertheless it held the audience spell-bound.

The first part of the film took us into the Hangars, where some of the world renowned Douglas machines are "parked" ready to go on their world cruises. We were then shown a picture in the testing rooms, where every part was minutely examined and adjusted; it is undoubtedly due to these skilled engineers, that the "Swissair" enjoys a world wide reputation for safety and efficiency.

We were introduced to the various pilots of the Swissair, such as Flight-captain Zimmermann, Nyffenegger, Kunzle and Ackermann, all who are well-known personalities in international flying circles and "flight millionaires" (1,000,000 Km.). A hush went over the audience when the late Walter Mittelholzer, whose loss to Swiss aviation is almost irreparable, was portrayed.

To prove that Dübendorf has become, in the real sense of the word, an international air "Port," was shown by the arrival amongst others of one of the large Imperial Airways liner "Horatius," as well as by the departure of many Mail planes to the various continental capitals.

We were also shown one of the modern swimming pools, and if I am not mistaken it was somewhere near Tiefen.

That the canton of Appenzell is a Paradise for rock climbers was shown by a party who did some hair raising mountaineering feats, but, of course, as they do not only amuse themselves in

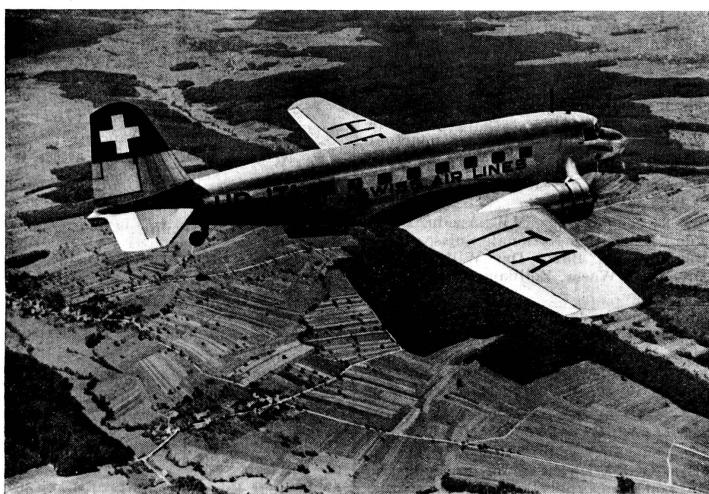


TOWN OF ZURICH.

this part of the world, we were shown a picture of the "Landsgemeinde" in Appenzell, this canton is one of the few which still holds its Parliamentary session in the open.

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HB-ITA IN FLIGHT OVER THE CHAMPAGNE.



TOWN OF ZURICH WITH LAKE.