

Swiss national day celebration at the Swiss Church

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Good luck to both of them, I wish I could be their best man, but unfortunately I cannot sing.

The next number, brought us new delights. Once again the members of the Swiss Choral Society appeared. This time they sang two songs, namely "Chuejerbuëbelied" and "Le Ranz des Vaches". The former was excellently rendered and included a solo yodel sung by our old friend Mr. von Bergen. I would like to pay a special compliment to the choir for their really efficient singing of the "Ranz des Vaches", it was a fine performance, full of life and excellent in harmony. The conductor of this choir, Mr. E. P. Dick, has shown us what can be done by relentless rehearsing. Bravo Swiss Choral Society!

For the second time the Accordion players made their entrance on the stage giving us a further selection of Swiss melodies, which were gratefully acknowledged by the audience. Here again I raise my hat to Mr. Gandon and his faithful collaborators.

This year 1st of August celebration concluded with the singing by the audience of the "Sempacherlied" and the Swiss National Anthem, a befitting finale to an enjoyable and inspiring afternoon.

In summing up we can be all satisfied in the way this celebration has been conducted. It has been said, that it was one, if not the best performance we have witnessed for a long time and I agree with this verdict: but we must be fair, when this anniversary was last celebrated great armies were still locked in mortal conflict on the Continent of Europe and the menace of aerial attacks lay, day and night, over Southern

England. This ordeal made adequate rehearsals difficult, nor did the mood of the people prove responsive in the same way as now to celebrations of this kind.

I cannot end this report without thanking the Organising Committee for the fine team work and their labours, and in singling out a few names I feel I cause no heartburnings amongst their colleagues. First and foremost Mr. Ch. Chapuis and Mr. Jules Zimmermann deserve high praise for their efforts; it is due to them that everything went off without a hitch. Mr. Th. Ritter, who was in charge of the distribution of tickets has accomplished his difficult task with great credit. Thanks should go to Mrs. Jenne and to the twenty charming young Ladies, mostly dressed in Swiss National costumes, who sold programmes, postcards and emblems and thus did a tiresome job with ever smiling faces. No thanks are due to those who procured tickets and then did not turn up for one reason or other, thus depriving a large number of their fellow compatriots, who were unable to procure them, from taking part in this celebration, the least they could have done was to return their tickets.

* * *

And now, dear confederates the shadows of night have passed, in our homes there has returned peace and silence. Tomorrow at dawn God's resplendent sun will shine over a new, better and more just world, let us be worthy of it and let us join in the work to secure for our children a brighter and happier future.

God bless our beloved country!

ST.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT THE SWISS CHURCH.

The Swiss Colony responded in large number to the invitation to the service of worship in connection with the National Day Celebrations at the Eglise Suisse, Endell Street, on Sunday morning the 29th July. The altar was profusely covered with flowers representing our national colours.

The opening hymn: "Grosser Gott, wir loben Dich." — "Grand Dieu, nous te bénissons", directed our thoughts to Him who in the past has protected our homeland.

Rev. P. Rad chose his text from II. Chronicles 20, which brings out three points which we should take to heart. First King Jehoshaphat had a great God. It is the same omnipotent God whom Calvin knew. We see His power in the majesty of our mountains and no wonder the Psalmist wrote: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Furthermore we have a merciful God, because He revealed Himself in Jesus Christ who is our great Lord and Saviour. We have also a victorious God. In Jesus Christ God gives us the greatest victory, the victory over death. Where He is, there is victory. He gives us strength to live, and victory in death.

After the first part of the service, a violin solo was played with the accompaniment of the organ.

Rev. M. Pradervand mentioned that for the first time after 6 years of war we could unite in the assurance that the dangers of war were over. We thank

God for His preservation, and although difficulties, economic and political, are still there, we have new hope. He then spoke on the passage in I. Corinthians 3.11: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ." The scriptures maintain that Jesus Christ is the only foundation, and our family life and our national life should be built on it. We have beautiful national songs, but how often we sing them without realising their meaning and they merely touch our emotions. The Gospel and its message has been neglected. As we love our homeland, let us be ready to accept Him as the foundation for our national life. We need divine guidance to solve the many difficulties which face us, and the nations on the Continent, to-day. He is able to guide us.

The celebration concluded with a hymn sung by the choir and the national hymn sung by the congregation. May these joint services prove more and more a source of spiritual uplifting to many of our compatriots whose faith has been so severely tested during the war. The influence created by such united worship will not fail to leave its mark for good in the life of the colony.

WF.

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