

Farewell luncheon to the Swiss minister and madame Paul Ruegger

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"Fête Suisse," etc., etc. By their fine singing under the efficient leadership of Mr. E. P. Dick, they have given us untold pleasure, and all lovers of folk-lore should not miss the opportunity of hearing them again.

The Swiss Orchestral Society, also under the leadership of Mr. E. P. Dick, is a Society which does not advertise itself much, but they too, have rendered a helping hand at many functions and they have always been ready when their services were required, and by doing so, they have often strained their slender resources to the breaking-point.

A Swiss concert without accordionists would not be complete, and those amongst us, who prefer light to classical music will undoubtedly find great pleasure in listening to the Swiss Accordion Group. They have a leader in the person of Mr. A. Gandon, who realises the difference between playing for dancing and concert-playing, as could be witnessed on their appearances at social functions in the Colony.

Having been acquainted with the contents of the programme we are more than convinced, that this entertainment will satisfy both the "highbrows" and the "lowbrows," and we sincerely hope that the above mentioned Societies will register a "full house" on Friday, 23rd of April, 1948.

By their great services which they have rendered in the past to the Swiss Colony, we are all deeply indebted to them, and here is a splendid occasion to show our appreciation for services well and truly rendered.

ST.

Switzerland ?

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Me redt au Schwyzerdütsch "Wäutsch sowieso, Ticines no lieber und Romantsch wen's derno emol Digsionär git."

FAREWELL LUNCHEON TO THE SWISS MINISTER AND MADAME PAUL RUEGGER by the Council for the Study of Swiss Problems.

The above Council invited their members and guests to a Farewell Luncheon in honour of the Swiss Minister and Madame P. Ruegger on Monday, March 22nd, 1948, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.

Mr. E. Steiner, President of the Council, welcomed the Minister and Madame Ruegger and extended a special welcome to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, and Madame Petitpierre, who are on a private visit to this country.

Other guests included, Dr. A. Escher, Counsellor of Legation, Monsieur and Madame de Graffenried, Monsieur and Madame Hunziker, Monsieur and Madame Aubaret, and Mr. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer.

After a short *resumé* with regard to the work of the Council by the President, Mr. A. Renou, the energetic and vivacious Secretary of this Council, paid a high and moving tribute to Monsieur and Madame Ruegger for the devoted services they had rendered both to our country and to the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, not forgetting the Minister's collaborators at the Legation.

He expressed the regrets of the members to see our sympathetic Minister leaving a post, which he had held with such distinction and success, and wished both him and Madame Ruegger God speed and success in their new sphere of activity.

Mr. Renou, then referred to the presence of Monsieur and Madame Petitpierre, saying that the visit of a Federal Councillor amongst the members of the Council was highly appreciated and a great honour.

Space unfortunately does not allow us to go into the details of this excellent address, which was unanimously applauded by the company.

The Swiss Minister on his, and Madame Ruegger's behalf, thanked the Council for having given him an opportunity to take leave from the members with whom he had been in the closest and most pleasant touch during the tenure of his post, singling out several of them by name.

He mentioned, that he was leaving London with regrets, and that his responsible task had been made easier by the helpful collaboration of the business community in the Colony.

Federal-Councillor Petitpierre, who received a hearty ovation from the company, voiced his great pleasure at having been asked to the Farewell Party for the Minister and Madame Ruegger, which had given him an opportunity to meet a number of his compatriots.

He paid a warm tribute to the work of the Minister, whom, he said, was held in great esteem by the Federal Council.

Monsieur Petitpierre referred to the many problems which are confronting the Swiss Government both in the political, financial and economic sphere, and in conclusion thanked the Swiss abroad for the efforts and courage which they have shown, especially during the last difficult years.

Long applause greeted the statement of our Foreign Minister.