

Journée des suisses a l'étranger

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

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1950)**

Heft 1136

PDF erstellt am: **03.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690287>

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75th FETE SUISSE.

Now it can be revealed! The Committee have been most anxious to have a great personality from Switzerland to bring us a message from our Homeland on this very auspicious occasion. Well, it was not easy because the Swiss Parliament is in session again next month and our great "leaders" are all very much engaged. We felt that it would be very fine indeed if this year our Brothers from the Ticino had a share, and with this in view we asked Monsieur *Alcario PINI* to come. He was brilliantly elected Vice-President of the Conseil National earlier this year and is Chairman of the largest party in Switzerland. He is one of Switzerland's greatest orators as those who have heard him at one time or another will know. His addresses are always listened to with the greatest interest in Zurich, Basle or Lausanne as M. Pini speaks all our national languages with equal ease. He is sure of a very great welcome here and our Colony is indeed fortunate in having the opportunity to hear this great citizen of our country.

M. and Mme Sandoz are well known by listeners to Swiss Radio. Paul Sandoz is acknowledged as our greatest baritone and he has been chosen to take the lead at the Fête des Vignerons in Vevey; this speaks, or should we say sings, for itself.

A young violinist of great talent is also giving us the lovely "Suite Montagnarde". Mademoiselle Marie Amsler (although not yet as well known as her famous father, Prof. Amsler, the oculist), is bound to gain everyone's sympathy by her charm and simplicity.

Much else is in store for you but one little piece of advice: Get your tickets as soon as you can, and come early, not only to secure a good seat but also to enjoy the famous "gâteries" which Mr. Schmid has the knack of preparing and which make the "thé de la Fête Suisse" such a very happy and homely occasion.

V.P.

SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

We are informed, that the above Society has again assumed its former name, namely: SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

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JOURNEE DES SUISSES A L'ETRANGER.

September 1st — 3rd at Lausanne.

Wishes and suggestions to be submitted.

This year's conference of the Swiss abroad is taking place at Lausanne on September 1st to September 3rd, 1950. All the Societies in the Colony are invited to submit suggestions and requests for the Agenda as early as possible, so that a suitable working-programme can be drawn up by the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger.

As in previous years the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique has called an Open Meeting to discuss what problems and what requests our Colony ought to raise at Lausanne. This being the only opportunity for the Swiss abroad to make their views and demands known in an effective manner, it is particularly regretful that only very few compatriots attended the Meeting.

The indifference thus manifested by the Colony is the more remarkable as there have been several concrete proofs, showing that the Colony's representations do not remain entirely unheard. However, there were enough present to ensure an adequate discussion of some of the questions raised, with the assistance both of Dr. Umbricht and M. Clottu, Commercial and Social Attachés of the Legation. A list of the questions suggested for the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger is appended herewith:—

- (1) Financial and Economic questions:
 - (a) Double taxation with special regard for Old Age-Pensioners retiring to Switzerland;
 - (b) Old Age Assurance;
 - (c) Facilities to take out additional Assurances in Switzerland;
 - (d) Military tax;
 - (e) Appeal to Swiss firms in favour of Swiss representatives abroad.
- (2) Political:
 - (a) Voting for Swiss abroad when in Switzerland;
 - (b) Election of own representatives in Parliament;
 - (c) New Citizenship-Law.
- (3) General:
 - (a) Ways and means for asserting the views and requests of the Swiss abroad.

All Swiss in England are invited to communicate to the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, Wallgasse 2, Berne, or the Hon. Secretary of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London Group, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1, any additional suggestions or representations regarding the Agenda for the Journée. It is very much to be hoped that all the Societies in our Colony will nominate representatives for the Journée, so as to give the Delegation from England an increasing influence in the Councils of this organisation.

Dr. E.

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