

85th fête suisse

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A. RENOÜ.
President: "Fête Suisse" Committee.

*"Terre de mon pays, nourrie par la lumière,
sourdement travaillée par les quatre saisons,
ô terre de la cigne, terre du blé, terre vivante
comme un coup autour de nos maisons . . ."*

For many years now I have reported the annual "Fête Suisse" celebration, which is one of the major events in the life of the Swiss Colony, being in the real sense of the word a large family gathering, where young and old assemble to spend a few hours remembering our country, and meeting old friends seldom met otherwise.

Year after year I have expressed the pious hope that I could report a "full house". Alas — with the exception of 31st May 1948, when General Henri Guisan was the principal guest, and the Central Hall was filled to the last seat — attendances have come short of beating or even attaining this record!

Whilst on several occasions the attendance could be called satisfactory, this year, it dwindled to just over eleven hundred. To some extent the holiday season might account for this drop, but it should not have made all this difference. Many, all too many, of the old faces one used to see regularly were missing, and they could evidently not be bothered to spare an evening with their compatriots. It is a great pity, and not much of an encouragement to those who, year in, year out, are making great efforts to make this annual event as attractive as possible. One often hears grumbling as to why this or that has not been done — and if it is done, only lukewarm support is given, and I often wonder that some of our countrymen who give their time freely and unselfishly, making heavy financial sacrifices so that the Colony should be kept going, are still caring.

Those who stayed away for reasons better known to themselves were the losers, for those who put in an appearance were amply recompensed for their effort, the entertainment itself being up to a high standard. Indeed, if the ever-dwindling numbers of the London Swiss Colony were ever to hold a referendum to decide which function to keep while jettisoning some of the others, I have no doubt that the "Fête Suisse" would receive a unanimous "aye", and rightly so, because it has by now become a treasured tradition.

85th FÊTE SUISSE

at

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

on

WEDNESDAY, 22nd JUNE, 1960

Under the Presidency of

MONSIEUR ARMIN DAENIKER

Ambassadeur de Suisse

Is there any Swiss in London, or late of London, who does not occasionally let his thoughts linger on memories of happy hours agreeably spent at Caxton Hall, or as now at the Central Hall, gaily decorated with flowers and bunting, with Federal Cross and Cantonal Emblems, amidst a throng of compatriots hailing from the four corners of the Fatherland, of the charming flag-sellers, of the playing and the singing by both amateurs and professionals, and the greetings from the distant homeland brought by some distinguished personality?

* * *

The sun was shining brightly when I arrived at the Central Hall, where in the entrance hall and in the foyer, young, pretty and smiling programme sellers — some in national costume — were in attendance. Little flags, representing the various cantons, were to be had for a smile and a shilling, whilst at a stall pictures and postcards depicting views in our homeland could be purchased.

On entering the large hall, which was decorated with a huge Swiss Flag and the cantonal escutcheons, whilst the concert platform was beautifully ornamented with red and white carnations and silk ribbons, one saw an animated picture. I understand that Miss Elsie Finger was the originator of the flower decorations, for which she is heartily to be congratulated.

Again, as in former years, an attractive programme had been prepared. True enough, the principal part of it goes to the credit of our visitors from home; I have explained in a recent article why the Colony as such is no longer able to provide an entertainment of such dimensions from local talent, and I need not again enumerate the reasons why.

Whilst two years ago — at the Central Hall — we welcomed a choir and a band from the German-speaking part of Switzerland, this time it was again the turn of the (partly) French-speaking part, and the happy choice fell on the "Chanson du Rhône". It is often said that familiarity breeds contempt, but this certainly does not apply to our Valaisan compatriots, whom we had the pleasure of seeing and hearing eight years ago (1952). The more we see and hear them, the more we like them.

A newcomer to the "Fête Suisse" Programme was Miss Annette Weisbrod, from Manchester, a compatriot of ours, who captured all hearts by her liveliness and her outstanding piano playing.

Shortly before the programme started, the Swiss Ambassador, accompanied by Madame Daeniker and members of the Embassy staff with their ladies, Monsieur Aloys Theytaz, Préfet de Sierre, and Mr. A. Renou, President of the "Fête Suisse" committee, took their seats in front of the platform. (The Vice-President of the Conseil d'Etat was to have come, but was detained at the very last minute.)

The performance opened with an organ prelude played by Mr. J. Streuli, which was followed by the singing by the entire audience, standing, of the Swiss Hymn, "Sur nos monts, quand le soleil . . .".

After a prayer by Pasteur Ph. Nicole, of the Eglise Suisse, the "Chanson du Rhône" made their impressive entry, amidst great enthusiasm. The ladies wore the attractive Sunday costume of the Anniviers valley, a black dress of heavy material, with black felt hat under which protruded a white muslin hood with French lace edging, brightly coloured silk apron and neckerchief, making a picture of grace and charm, whilst the men, good looking and sharp featured, wore simple attire of white shirts and black trousers, the pom-poms in the Valaisan colours of their necktie alone catching the eye. They were headed by their conductor, M. Jean Daetwyler, who enjoys a great reputation in our homeland as a fine artist and choir conductor, whose aim is to make his country, his canton, its dales, rivers and mountains, live in the songs and dances, most of which he has himself composed.

M. Daetwyler prefaced each item with a few words in French and "Schwyzerdütsch", but this was hardly necessary as the perfection of the singing more than

illustrated the subject of the songs. They opened with the "Le Pays du Soleil", and followed with "Le Printemps". As a third item the choir rendered "Berceuse annivarde", beautifully sung, finishing with a graceful dance.

Not a wrong note, the utmost harmony of voice, and to say that their performance was perfect is no over statement. The choir had the audience completely enthralled from the moment they appeared on the stage.

With a gracious gesture, the ladies of the "Chansons", on leaving the platform, threw their bunches of "Alpenrosen" to the audience.

Mr. A. Renou, President of the "Fête Suisse" committee, then appeared, and received a great ovation. Excellent orator that he is, everyone looked forward with eager anticipation to his address, which he gave in English and French. He said:

"Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, Madame Daeniker, Monsieur le Préfet, mes chers compatriotes, Liebe Landsluete, Cari Ticinesi . . . and all of you Ladies and Gentlemen who are with us to-night to celebrate our 85th Fête Suisse. Some of you perhaps lost your heart one day to a pretty Swiss girl or — who knows? — to one of those handsome Swiss! Whatever the reason for your presence to-day I say: Welcome to our Fête Suisse.

"Last year we met at the Albert Hall, some 6,000 of us. It was in honour of the 'Swiss Fortnight', that wonderful 'British' manifestation of your affection for our little Homeland! This year we have returned to the Central Hall, our home for the last 25 years. Not so many Swiss Folklore Groups have come, but quality is here. You have already applauded the 'Chanson du Rhône'; you will also hear the 'Corale' of 'Unione Ticinese', who always get such a wonder-



By kind permission of Ringier Swiss Illustrated.

The Younger Generation of the Colony.

ful reception; then a young Swiss pianist, Made-moiselle Weisbrod, not forgetting the 'younger generation'. To all those who are thus contributing to our pleasure tonight I express our sincere gratitude, not forgetting the many helpers who have been and are working behind the scenes.

"We are again honoured by the presence of the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker, and with them a Member of the Government of the Canton du Valais. This is a part of our country well known to the British because of its majestic mountains, but also for its wine, its pretty girls . . . and those so good-looking ski instructors!!!! I am sure, therefore, that you will allow me to greet our Friends in their own tongue — and after all French is one of our national languages, English being only the 5th!!

"Monsieur le Préfet, mon cher Ami Daetwyler, et vous, jolie Chanson du Rhône: Je voudrais vous dire au nom de nous tous avec quelle joie nous vous avons attendu, combien nous sommes heureux de vous avoir parmi nous ce soir. C'est en 1952 que vous êtes venus pour la première fois et le souvenir que nous avons gardé de vous est tel qu'une seconde visite s'imposait. Merci d'être venus, de nous apporter une grande bouffée d'air du Pays, merci de la beauté de vos productions.

"Nous vous remercions, Monsieur le Préfet, d'avoir bien voulu accompagner la Chanson et de témoigner par votre présence votre respect et votre affection pour cette grande nation qui accorde à des milliers de Suisses — et ceci depuis des siècles — une hospitalité particulièrement généreuse. — Je suis de même heureux de saluer en vous le poète admirable des textes du repertoire de la Chanson. (Applause.)

"Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, Membres de notre Colonie suisse: Beaucoup parmi vous se souviendront qu'il y a presque exactement 12 ans, en juin 1948, nous célébrions ce qui restera dans les annales de notre Colonie la plus belle Fête suisse. Ici, à l'endroit même où je me trouve, montait aux acclamations frénétiques de près de 3000 personnes qui avaient inondés cette salle, l'homme le plus aimé, le plus respecté, que notre Pays n'aie jamais connu: Le Général Henri Guisan. C'était sa première visite officielle à une Colonie suisse; la réception inoubliable qui l'accueillit lui témoigna l'immense gratitude des Suisses à l'Etranger, conscients qu'ils étaient de notre dette envers celui qui, aux heures graves de l'été 1940, avait su se montrer non seulement le Chef courageux et inébranlable qu'exigeaient les circonstances, mais aussi le grand homme vers qui toute la nation pouvait se tourner pour recevoir l'inspiration et la vision sans lesquelles le moral du peuple risquait de flancher.

"Réunissant au Grütli tous les Commandants de l'Armée, sans ceder aux craintes alors exprimées, il leur parla, et au travers d'eux à tout le peuple suisse, et sans aucun doute aussi aux dictateurs qui nous menaçaient. Ses ordres étaient clairs: Toute tentative d'invasion serait repoussée par les armes, il n'y aurait ni faiblesse ni compromis, l'indépendance de la Suisse serait défendue jusqu'à la dernière goutte de sang. Ces paroles peuvent sembler étranges aux Jeunes d'aujourd'hui, qu'ils s'inspirent et se souviennent toutefois de cet exemple; tous ceux qui ont connu cette page tragique de notre histoire leur diront que sans le Général Guisan nous ne serions peut-être pas

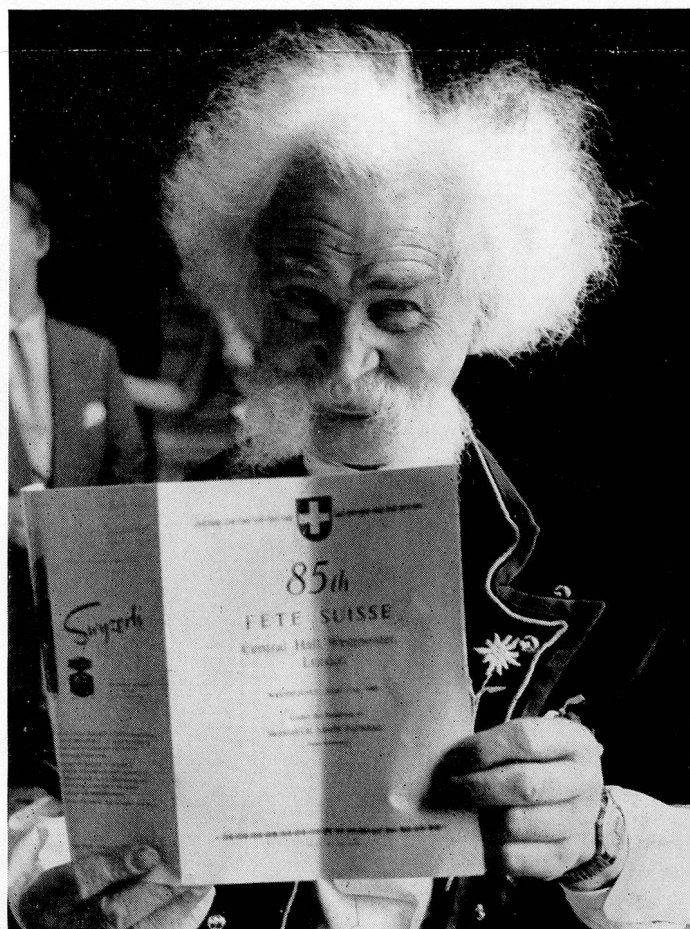
rester le peuple libre que Dieu nous a, par dessus tout, accordé d'être durant ces années de lutte, années qui virent tant d'autres peuples souffrir, puis perdre ce qu'ils avaient de plus précieux: La Liberté. Il y a quelques jours seulement, le Parlement suisse honorait, à l'ouverture de la session, la mémoire de ce grand soldat, de cet homme respecté par tout un peuple et aimé de chacun. Je suis certain que vous tous désirerez vous associer à l'hommage que je vous demande de rendre à la mémoire de notre Général.

"Ladies and Gentlemen: You all know that Switzerland has recently lost her most distinguished citizen, General Henri Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army during the War. He was the most beloved man our country has ever known, to him we owe in no small measure to have remained a free people. I am sure you will wish to join us in paying our tribute to his memory by rising in silence.

"Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous demande de bien vouloir vous lever pour rendre hommage, dans le silence, à la mémoire du Général Henri Guisan. (The choir sang the 'Prière Patriotique' by Dalcroze while the whole assembly stood.)

"Et maintenant je vous souhaite à tous une belle fête, dans la communion avec la Patrie, cette Patrie à laquelle nous sommes fiers d'appartenir et que nous aimons de tout notre cœur.

"To all of you: a very happy evening."



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"Old Faithful."

Long and sincere applause greeted the address of the dynamic president of the "Fête Suisse".

When quietness was restored, Miss Annette Weisbrod made her *début* at the "Fête Suisse", and received a very sympathetic reception. She played, with much competence and artistic feeling, "Pastourelle", by Francis Poulenc, and Rachmaninov's Prelude in G minor; in the latter she gave a dazzling example of her brilliant technique. Each number was deservedly applauded, and at the close she received a large bunch of "Alpenrosen" from one of the ladies of the "Chanson", a touching gesture from one artiste to another.

Then came the turn for the youngsters of the Colony, the "Kinder der Schweizerkirche". A number of young ladies who, I am sure, would object to being called "Kinder", appeared on the platform eagerly awaiting the entrance of the "little ones". These arrived — amidst applause — after some delay, and it was feared that at the last moment they had decided to go on strike; in fact it was rumoured that, shortly before their entry was due, they had discussed whether to keep their appointment or not, owing to the interference of their "Union"! However, they decided by a majority vote to honour their engagement, and there they were, singing and dancing, accompanied by the young ladies, most delightfully; some were obviously a little nervous appearing before such a large gathering, taking the wrong turn in the "Cavalcade", but this only added to the delight of watching them. One of the items was a sing-song called "Dei oben uff em Bergli", during which they had to change their shoes, "Dei legg du Vatter's Schleerpen a ond tanz du lushti Heidelidomm". Well, father's slippers were far too big for some of the little feet, thus causing great difficulties in the execution of the "ballet". These little ones were coached by Mrs. Mariann Meier, no doubt with much patience, and she is to be congratulated for her successful efforts. The children were accorded much applause.

Once again the Valaisan singers lined up to render three songs, "Les Mercenaires", "Litanies Paysannes", and "Ai-na-na", and once again their exquisite singing "brought the house down".

This ended the first part of the programme, and almost everyone adjourned for the "feeding of the multitude". This time a new experiment was tried out, by forming two large queues, thus preventing a front onslaught on the food tables, which had been witnessed on former occasions, where elbowing was much in evidence. If everybody had moved along quickly, instead of lingering, much time could have been saved, and everyone would have arrived much sooner at the "Bartholdi Würstli Counter". It nevertheless was an improvement on former occasions. One must, of course, realise that it is no easy matter to feed over a thousand hungry mouths in a relatively short interval. Mr. E. Bonvin, who was in charge of the catering, almost solved an always perplexing situation, for which he deserves credit.

Fortified, all returned to the hall to resume their seats, where in the meantime community singing had been taking place for those who did not partake of the refreshments, or who had, very wisely, gone to the refreshment quarters before the programme started.

The second part of the programme saw the "Corale" of the Unione Ticinese make their bow. It was no easy task, and one wondered what might be

their reception after the flawlessness of the previous items, but the audience soon showed their appreciation and applauded each song heartily. Amongst the "Canzonette" were old and new ones, all sung with great vivacity under the efficient baton of Sig. L. Bruni. One does not often hear yodelling amongst the Ticinese, but this time a pretty young lady hailing "from the other side of the Gotthard" gave a yodel solo which was much enjoyed.

This happy band of singers, dressed in the colourful costume of the canton of Ticino, have the knack of bringing vividly to their hearers many treasured memories of happy hours spent in their lovely canton. They were recalled to the footlights by general acclamation for an encore, and on finally vacating the platform with their signature tune, "Ciao", they were accorded a tremendous ovation.

Whilst the applause was still resounding from the four corners of the hall, Mr. Renou announced over the microphone that the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, would address the audience. On appearing in front of the platform our popular Ambassador was warmly cheered. He said:

"Dear friends,

"It is with pride and quite a special pleasure that I accepted the honour to preside over this, the 85th Fête Suisse, and to welcome you all, young and old, to this happy meeting.

"First of all, let me thank — and I am sure that I speak on behalf of all those present — the promoter of this Festival, M. Renou, who, with his characteristic perseverance, in spite of manifold difficulties and frustrations, has spared no sacrifice, despite his delicate health, to secure the continuation of this traditional gathering, the greatest of all the annual reunions of the Colony. Once again he presents us to-night with a most excellent programme. May I express the hope that for many years to come M. Renou will give us the benefit of his great ability and of his drive, which are so happily combined with patriotic ardour and an inexhaustible fund of good humour.

"I feel equally grateful to those who have helped in the preparation of the Fête and to those who have already and will embellish this festival with their talents, the very distinguished Swiss pianist, Miss Weisbrod, our old friends from the Unione Ticinese and the Swiss Church, and our most welcome guests, la Chanson du Rhône.

"How many in this large meeting are aware of the real meaning and origin of the Fête Suisse? It was 97 years ago, at a time when undoubtedly the Colony was growing and the City was expanding, that an enterprising pastor had the excellent idea of inviting his parishioners once a year to come to the Church for a cup of tea with 'bricelets', and thus to foster the bonds of friendship amongst compatriots and to turn their minds in a mutual act of remembrance towards the home country. At that time the annual celebration of the 1st of August was not yet known, there was no Legation but only a Consulate to look after the compatriots, but being good Swiss, they no doubt already had a flourishing social life. The Fête Suisse, which took as its motto 'Dieu et la Patrie', always had its own particular character; and such was the success of the Fête that it very soon attracted an attendance of hundreds and later even of thousands.

"Let us then pay tribute to those who initiated the Fête Suisse, almost a hundred years ago. Still

now its ancient motto holds good. It rallies the compatriots throughout the Colony, far beyond the parish limits, and unites them in a common feeling. Let it be the meeting place: for the many whom old age will not allow to go back to the home country, which has become a faint but cherished memory in their isolated lives; for those many members of the Colony who now bear the brunt of responsibilities in the Churches, Societies and committees; and last but not least for the many thousands of the younger generation who come to this country and leave it within a year. I hope that on their return home they will take with them not only a wider knowledge of the language, a wider outlook in their professional sphere, but also a vivid impression of the life of our Colony; the life of a vast family in whose ranks solidarity is more than just an ideal but is a reality and which is anxious to uphold its reputation. What better proof could we have of the high repute which the Swiss enjoy with this hospitable nation than the spontaneous and magnificent support given by the British public to that great venture, the Swiss Fortnight 1959. It was a token of deepfelt sympathy which we shall never forget.

“ However, such feelings of patriotic attachment should not be kept and expressed only on festive occasions. The existence of the Swiss abroad is so deeply linked with the fate and well-being of the home country that we also have to share in the preoccupations of our people about their problems and difficulties. In spite of continued prosperity, we are to-day confronted with far-reaching decisions such as we seldom had to face in peace-time. Is there really a risk that our policy, relying on full independence and strict neutrality, will lead us into isolation, when new tendencies claim for co-operation, partnership and integration within a united Western Europe in which our country lies at the heart, and for which our federal structure was for a long time looked upon as a model? It needs clear thinking and a great sense of responsibility to take the right decisions on these issues.

“ Speaking of Switzerland as the prototype for a future united Europe, may we not liken the Canton du Valais to our Swiss Confederation? The Valais, country of contrasts, with its large fertile plains, deep and narrow valleys reaching to the foot of dazzling white glaciers, its rocky ridges and lofty silvery peaks, and above all the Rhône which in its majestic flow



The “Chanson du Rhône” at the London Airport.

links all parts of the canton and has been as much a source of awe as of wealth to the arid alpine soil. A flourishing agriculture finds its counterpart in a newly blossoming industry, high dams and mighty power stations are the pride of Swiss engineering skill. Within the thirteen districts of its federative structure, harmony between the French and German elements has been achieved throughout the course of history. An English traveller who visited the Valais eighty years ago found that the distinctive features of its people were a grave disposition of mind, a jealous love of freedom and deep religious faith. But above all it was hard labour, the accumulated exertions of generations, struggling relentlessly against the unfriendly forces of nature and bringing to fruition all its resources, which brought prosperity to this, our largest canton.

"To-day our friends of La Chanson du Rhône present us their country in a lighter and gayer vein. We are grateful that they make us enjoy their songs and music; they evoke in us happy memories of the sunny slopes of the Rhône Valley.

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome in our midst 'La Chanson du Rhône' and the Préfet de Sierre, M. Theytaz. I thank them warmly for having responded to our call and would express the hope that they too will enjoy their visit to London.

"Monsieur le Préfet,
"chers amis,

"J'ai le grand plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue, au nom des Suisses ici réunis sous le drapeau fédéral et de vous remercier de bien vouloir honorer cette fête traditionnelle de votre présence. J'ignore combien de vos concitoyens valaisans vous rencontrerez dans cette grande assemblée, mais nombreux sont les confédérés qui ont eu le privilège de séjourner pendant leurs vacances dans votre beau canton et comptent retourner souvent parce que nous tous nous gardons le meilleur souvenir des heureux jours que nous y avons passés.

"Vous assistez à une réunion dont les origines remontent à bientôt cent ans. Chaque année cette Colonie se rallie sous la devise 'Dieu et Patrie', pour manifester leur attachement à la mère patrie, pour respirer un peu l'air du pays, passer quelques heures de bienfaisante fraternité et se reconforter en revivant leurs impressions de jeunesse. J'espère que votre venue parmi nous vous donnera la conviction que la famille formée par la Colonie suisse à Londres est une réalité vivante et que les distances qui nous séparent du pays n'ont pas affaibli les liens qui nous rattachent inébranlablement à notre patrie. Ainsi, Monsieur le Préfet et chers amis de la 'Chanson du Rhône', je vous remercie d'être venus et d'avoir si largement contribué au succès de cette soirée."

Scarcely had the applause died down — which had thanked the Ambassador for having led us on an interesting excursion into the past of the "Fête Suisse" — when Miss Weisbrod reappeared. She played three items, "Barcarolle", by F. Chopin, "La cathédrale engloutie", by C. Debussy, and Gabriel Pierné's "Etude de concert". Again we admired her fluent and obedient fingers which might well be the envy of many a pianist. Miss Weisbrod is a richly gifted artiste with a technique that could make her a virtuoso pianist if she wished to travel in that direction. The almost never-ending applause induced her to give an encore, and showed how much her playing

was appreciated, and I hope that all those who so fervently applauded her will attend the recital which she is giving in October at Wigmore Hall. Before leaving the platform she was presented with a lovely bouquet as a small token of thanks for the pleasure her performance had given.

This memorable programme concluded with the reappearance of the "Chanson du Rhône", who rendered "Aux jardins d'automne", "Chado", "Le mulet", "Vilonnelle", "Ora, Ora", "Le Rhône sourit", and "Le chant du retour", and competently executed a number of dances. Owing to lack of space, I shall only mention "Chado", a prayer in the Anniviers dialect, "Oh! Make my husband not so beautiful", beautifully sung, and the lovely "Le Rhône sourit".

This ended the performance of our visitors from home, a performance which, I am sure, will not quickly be forgotten; they have by their fine singing given us untold pleasure, and made us long to see once again the mountains, lakes and hamlets of our beloved country. Thank you, members of the "Chanson du Rhône", for what you have given us in such artistic abundance!

I am equally sure that, in their turn, our visitors left this country with many pleasant memories. During their short visit they were invited by the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker to an *Apéritif* at the Embassy, and by Mr. X. Speckert, President of the City Swiss Club, and Mrs. Speckert, to their lovely home in Englefield Green, Surrey. Mr. E. Bonvin and Madame Bonvin gave a reception after the "Fête Suisse" at the Montana Hotel, which lasted until the early hours of the morning. In spite of the hustle and bustle the choir found time for a forty-eight-hour stay at Margate. Much appreciated also was their gesture in going to the French Hospital, where they gave a short concert which thrilled both the patients and staff. They also appeared on television in "Tonight".

Another welcome visitor was our old friend, Mr. W. Wyler, of Swissair, accompanied by Madame Wyler. They specially flew from Geneva to attend the "Fête Suisse".

Before the grand finale, Mr. Renou warmly thanked all the artistes who had taken part in the programme, Monsieur Jean Daetwyler, conductor of the "Chanson", his collaborators, amongst them Messrs. Speckert, Bonvin, Tobler, Zimmermann, and Fischer, who had made it possible for everything to go without a hitch; the programme and flag sellers, stall-holders, stewards, not forgetting the efficient "piano shifters", who kept the stage clear whenever required, with a delightful touch of humour. The only one he did not mention was *himself*. Well, perhaps he could not very well do so, but on behalf of all those who very much enjoyed the evening, I associate myself fully with the Ambassador, who in his address paid a glowing tribute to him. He deserves a "Grand Merci Beaucoup".

The lights were then dimmed, and with great enthusiasm and deep patriotic feeling, the choir and the entire audience sang the Swiss National Anthem, followed, as a compliment to our English friends, with "God Save the Queen".

This unforgettable gathering has vividly taught us again that our object should be "our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country".

and, by the blessing of God Almighty, may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of wisdom, of peace, and of liberty, upon which the world may gaze with admiration for ever.

ST.

**SWISS CLUBS BRADFORD, LEEDS AND
MANCHESTER.
"LANDSGEMEINDE 1960".**

For the twelfth consecutive year the third Sunday in June was earmarked for the "Landsgemeinde" of the Swiss in Lancashire and Yorkshire, held at Harcastle Crags in Yorkshire.

We gathered in the Memorial Gardens at Hebden Bridge and were welcomed to the district by the Chairman of the Hebden Royd Urban District Council, Councillor J. K. Wilcox, J.P., his wife and his two charming daughters. We were honoured also to meet our guests of honour Mons. J. J. de Tribolet, First Counsellor of Embassy, and Madame de Tribolet, representing H.E. Mons. Armin Daeniker, Swiss Ambassador, and Madame Daeniker.

Harcastle Crags is situated in the territory of Hepton Rural District, a stone's throw from Hebden Bridge. The beauty of this enchanting valley has been described already in reports of previous meetings but, all the same, each year it seems better than before. A new path accommodated three years ago on the east bank of the river, without spoiling the natural charm of the valley, is now used for our walk to the crags. It is a most enchanting ramble enhanced by the babbling of the water amid a variegated vegetation and a profusion of secular trees giving a refreshing shade, even in the warmest weather.

Much too soon we reached the stepping stones crossing the river to "Cosy Corner". Here we enjoyed a picnic lunch, washed down by excellent tea or minerals supplied by the conveniently situated Cosy Corner Café. Our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Moor, and their charming daughter, Margaret, gave the feeling that they really like our coming, even though we monopolized their land, tables, benches and everything at hand for our convenience. We express gratitude for their solicitude, and we look forward to seeing them again next year.

At the "Landsgemeinde", started at about 2.30 p.m., we were joined by the Chairman of the Hepton Rural District Council, Councillor A. Howarth, and his wife, who welcomed us to their territory. Councillor Wilcox and Mrs. Wilcox also came over from Hebden Bridge to attend the ceremony.

The proceedings at the "Landsgemeinde", conducted by Professor Jean P. Inebnit, began with the singing in unison of "Le Vieux Chalet" (Abbé Bovet). This was followed by a concise history of the formation of Switzerland, from 1291 to 1815. As this proceeded, as only Professor Inebnit can do it, with skill and wit, starting with Uri, Schwyz and Unterwald, that is in 1291, and ending with Geneva, in 1815, the respective cantons, represented by the participants from these cantons, entered the circle. Thus we could see Switzerland growing in number. Some chose to sing a melody from their particular canton. Finally, friends of Switzerland from France, Germany, Austria

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