

# Swiss Fortnight : A great Success

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## SWISS FORTNIGHT

5th to 17th OCTOBER, 1959

### A GREAT SUCCESS

The "Swiss Fortnight", the first overall national trade and cultural promotion in Great Britain, has come and gone, and, as far as can be ascertained at this early stage, has fully answered its purpose—to bring home to the British population that Switzerland has cultural as well as commercial values to offer.

It may be recalled that "Swiss Fortnight" was held in response to an invitation made by Mr. Duncan Sandys, a member of H.M. Government, on the occasion of the "British Week", which took place at Zurich in 1953.

Work for this counter part exhibition in Great Britain began some two years ago between the sponsors, the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade (OSSEC), Pro Helvetia, the Swiss National Tourist Office, the Swiss Economic Council (London), and the Swiss Embassy in Great Britain.

Principally responsible for this undertaking was the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, on account of its status as a semi-official organisation and its having had great experience in the organisation of similar undertakings in various other countries.

It was soon realised that an enterprise of such dimensions would prove a fairly costly affair, and at an early date contributions for defraying the costs were requested and obtained from industrial and commercial concerns, banks cultural organisations, tourist, travel, forwarding and shipping firms, etc. Swiss firms in Great Britain contributed their share, and a modest subsidy was obtained from the Swiss Government. (We hear from a reliable source that the total costs of "Swiss Fortnight" will be in the neighbourhood of one-and-a-half million Swiss francs.)

The financial position more or less ascertained, the tremendous work of organising the many exhibitions, displays, fashion, film and television shows, social, cultural and sports events, etc., began in earnest, and by 5th October, with a last minute strenuous effort, everything was ready for the opening.

The Headquarters of the "Swiss Fortnight" were at Park Lane House, Park Lane, W.1, where were housed the exhibitions of watches, textiles, shoes, embroidery, tourism, foods and wines.

It is a pity that all the various exhibitions held in different parts of London could not have been confined under one roof; it was, however, found impossible to obtain large enough premises. On the whole, the various exhibitions were well presented and attended. It is doubtful whether any country has done more than Switzerland at this moment to present itself to the people of Great Britain. The "Swiss Observer" would have liked to publish on the conclusion of the "Swiss Fortnight" an enlarged Number, but the high costs of such an issue, and the financial set-back which the paper has suffered owing to the recent printing dispute, made it impossible.

However, we give below particulars of the many events which took place, for the benefit of those of our readers who were not in possession of the official time table, or were unable to visit all the exhibitions, concerts and social affairs.

Previous to the date of the official opening, various events took place. On Saturday, 26th September, Friedrich Dürrenmatt's play, "One Evening in late Autumn", was on the air (B.B.C. Home Service).

From 30th September to 18th October, performances of Dürrenmatt's remarkable and somewhat macabre play, "The Marriage of Mr. Mississippi", were given at the Arts Theatre Club.

On 30th September the B.B.C. television service put on the screen a film entitled "Souvenirs" (four people are reminded in different ways of a holiday by rail in Switzerland).

Friday, 2nd October, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker went to Great Ormond Street Hospital to distribute chocolates to the children, a gift from the Swiss chocolate industry.

The Swiss churches held services on the day previous (Sunday) to the opening. At Bisley an Anglo-Swiss rifle match was held, assisted by Mr. August Hollenstein, world crossbow champion and "Weltmeisterschütze". On Sunday afternoon a giant Swiss cheese was driven to Park Lane House in a gaily decorated traditional cheese-cart, and the B.B.C. television service showed a Swiss musical film, music composed and arranged by Robert Blum.

Monday, 5th October, saw the Opening of the "Swiss Fortnight", it started with a reception for the Press by the Swiss Ambassador. Before and after the address, Swiss folklore music and songs were rendered by the "Chanson de Lausanne", the Appenzell Folklore Group, and "La Musique du Folly Vevey-St. Moritz".

The Ambassador spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure and great satisfaction to welcome you this morning to the Opening of the Swiss Fortnight which—I hope—in spite of electoral turmoils—will have some impact on the life of this great Metropolis. In 1953, in opening a British Week in Zurich, Mr. Duncan Sandys asked us to put likewise Switzerland on show in this country. The suggestion has been taken up by the Swiss Economic Council of our colony and ever since, this aim which is without precedent, has been kept in mind. Fortunately the initiative fell on fertile ground at home. During the last two years, the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, in close co-operation with the Swiss National Tourist Office, have pushed ahead with their preparations and gave the idea a concrete shape. From an early stage, very happily, the Swiss Foundation "Pro Helvetia" has taken an active interest and thus made it possible to combine both the economic and the cultural aspects and present to the British public a comprehensive show of present day life in Switzerland.

It is therefore my pleasant duty first to express my gratitude to all those organisations who have given their active support in order to make our plans a reality, to the Managements of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swissair and "Pro Helvetia", as well as to our authorities and those many trade organizations and individual firms which participate in this show or have given us otherwise a helping hand. I wish further to express my satisfaction that the Swiss Federal Government have given their backing to this venture, and to thank particularly the Swiss Economic Council and its Executive Committee for their many excellent counsels and their good work; nor must I forget those many helpers who, until the last minute, laboured gallantly in order to get the manifold exhibitions in the Swiss Fortnight ready for the day.

Above all, I am grateful that our initiative has met with such a wonderful understanding from the British authorities, the great Corporations in this country such as the L.C.C., the B.B.C., the Arts Council, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Geographical Society, who, by granting facilities allowed us to extend the show to many fields; last but not least I am grateful to the many private firms who fell in line and nobly supported our effort for the common cause.

When for the next two weeks our cantonal flags will be fluttering gaily under the blue London skies, when the white cross on red ground surrounded by Alpine flowers will be seen in so many shop windows and remind the startled passers-by of happy holidays in Switzerland, it will be a symbol of the close affinity and everlasting friendship between our two Nations! Contacts between the two peoples are deeply rooted in the past. They extend over many fields, from the spiritual, the scientific to the economic, and even to the military, as shown by the panels in this hall. The Swiss community in Great Britain is of equally ancient date. Under the very liberal conditions of a Convention of establishment and trade and under the protection of the sanctity of law, this colony quickly flourished; it proved to be the start for the expansion of commercial relations which nowadays extend far beyond the mere exchange of goods and include the realms of finance, insurance as well as technical and scientific knowledge.

It would be impossible to give here a comprehensive picture of our industrial production; some of the most representative industries, like heavy engineering or chemicals, had to be left out though in Hulton House you will find some light machinery exhibited and in the exhibition in the Royal Institute of British Architects you will be able to study the architectural structure of our modern factories.

Whatever consumer goods are to be exhibited, and I refer particularly to the special show of watches, textiles, embroideries and articles of food in this building, they will all bear testimony

to those typical features of Swiss workmanship: precision and quality. Proof of such precision work may also be found in the skill displayed by our cartographers of which you will find examples in our exhibition "Mapping in Switzerland" at the Royal Geographical Society.

A country whose very life depends — as with Great Britain — on world-wide trade can only survive if and insofar as specialisation and the quality of its manufactured goods guarantee successful competition. It may interest you that on an average 30% of our manufactured goods and in some branches 75% and even 90% go into export. An industrious and thrifty mind, skill and inventive talents, a solid general education combined with highly advanced technical training, have at all times been the solid foundations of our success and prosperity. Moreover, it is hardly surprising that Britain, in her struggle against a discriminatory and protectionist Europe has found her closest ally in Switzerland; indeed, about 40% of Swiss exports go to non-European countries and, as André Siegfried mentioned ten years ago in his excellent book, Switzerland has many reasons "to remain reticent towards all projects envisaging the establishment of a purely European continental order".

We shall hardly need to introduce Switzerland and her landscape; she is well known to the British as the most favoured playground in Europe. But few British tourists will find the time and leisure to care for the emanations of the Swiss creative mind, for the achievements of our people in the arts, literature and music. Perhaps they will stroll through some of our Galleries and look for pictures of old masters, some of whom acquired their fame in this country. Thus they do not know what are the present day activities in these fields. The picture of modern Switzerland would not be complete if we did not show some features of our cultural life; we are indeed most grateful for the facilities offered in London and other British towns. I refer to the Exhibition of Swiss Arts of the 20th Century which will open on Saturday at the Tate Gallery and to the Exhibition of Paintings and Sculptures by Swiss Women Artists at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, to the exhibition "Good Design" at the Tea Centre, to the two book exhibitions at the Festival Hall and the Times Book Club, to the exhibitions of Swiss Posters, representative of our graphic art, to the Concerts of Swiss symphonic, chamber and organ music under the direction of foremost Swiss conductors. I hope that many of you have enjoyed yesterday afternoon the Music film specially produced by Pro Helvetia with the help of a B.B.C. team.

Let us then hope that this Swiss Fortnight will reach its aim to be a comprehensive show of Swiss life at the present day. Let us hope too that it will strengthen the ties which have always so happily existed between our two Nations. We, in Switzerland, admire Great Britain as the champion of freedom and we are conscious that we owe to the heroic struggle of the British people the salvation of the free world. The British public values our democratic and federal institutions which explain our particular position among the Nations. May this Swiss Fortnight be an invitation to the many British friends not only to come and visit our country, but also to understand still better what our people are striving after and what they have achieved.

With these words I have the great pleasure to declare the Swiss Fortnight open.

The Ambassador was followed by M. Ed. Primault, President of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, and by M. Bolli, Director of the Swiss Watch Chamber.

In the afternoon M. Daeniker opened the Swiss Postage Stamps Exhibition, organised by the Swiss General Post Office, at the House of Bewlay, the exhibition "Swiss Industrial Architecture" at the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Exhibition of Historical and Modern Swiss Maps. Dr. R. Faessler, Commercial Counsellor, opened the Exhibition of Swiss Light Engineering Products and Precision Instruments at Hulton House, and in the evening was host to the Commercial Attachés of the Diplomatic Missions in London.

A Fashion Show of the Swiss Embroidery and Cotton Fabrics Industry for their customers was held at Park Lane House, followed by tea and cocktails. The same day the B.B.C. Home

Service gave a broadcast about the Swiss Colony, and on the Third Programme a studio performance of "The Tempest" by the Swiss composer Frank Martin, conducted by Ernest Ansermet, was given.

The following day, Tuesday, 6th October, the Swiss Ambassador opened the Watch Exhibition at Park Lane House in the morning. At noon, a brilliant Fashion Show of the Export Association of Swiss Fashion Groups, for Buyers and Fashion Press, was held in the big ball-room of the Dorchester Hotel, at which the Ambassador spoke. The show was followed by cocktails. In the afternoon, the following exhibitions were opened at the Royal Festival Hall: Book Exhibition of the Swiss Association of Booksellers and Publishers, "Glimpses of Switzerland" (assembled by Pro Helvetia), "Industry in Landscape" (colour transparencies assembled by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade), "History of the Travel Poster", by the Swiss National Tourist Office.

The social highlight of the "Swiss Fortnight" was the Anglo-Swiss Ball at the Dorchester Hotel in the evening, when nine hundred guests were received by the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker.

The ball was in aid of the British Pestalozzi Children's village, which is being built on similar lines to the Pestalozzi Children's village at Trogen (Ct. Appenzell).

During the evening the Swiss Ambassador presented a cheque for £8,400 (with a promise of more to come) to Sir John Wolfenden, President of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust. (This is the result of a collection made in Switzerland and in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. Credit for the large amount collected at home should be given in the first instance to Director A. J. Staehelin of OSSEC).

Sir John Wolfenden, in his acknowledgement, warmly thanked the Swiss Ambassador and the many generous donors, for what he termed "this staggering gift". As a tombola and a raffle were held, no doubt, a further substantial amount will be forthcoming. In the Ambassador and Mme. Daeniker's party one noticed Sir William Montagu-Pollock (British Ambassador to Switzerland), Viscount and Viscountess Tenby, Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Mrs. Alastair Cameron, the Rt.-Hon. Reginald Maudling, Professor de Salis, (President of Pro Helvetia) and Mme. de Salis, M. E. Primault (President of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade), Dr. Landolt (Mayor of the town of Zurich) and Mrs. Landolt, Mr. A. J. Staehelin (Director of the Zurich Office of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade) at Mrs. Staehelin, Mr. Meili, (President of the Swiss National Tourist Office) and Mrs. Meili, Mr. Bittel (Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office) and Mrs. Bittel. Most of the Embassies were represented by either their Ambassadors or Counsellors. The "Chanson de Lausanne" and the Appenzeller Folklore band provided the musical programme, and the high-lights from the morning's Swiss Fashion Show made their appearance. It was a most distinguished gathering, attended by many well-known British personalities, and members of the Swiss Colony, and if everything went without a hitch it was in no small manner due to the organisers, Mme. Daeniker, the ladies of the Swiss Embassy, and the organising secretary, Dr. E. M. Bircher, Cultural Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy.

Wednesday 6th October, saw the opening of further exhibitions, such as the exhibition of "Swiss Designs" organised by the Swiss Design Association. The exhibition of "Prints and Sculptures", by the Swiss animal bird and flower painter, Robert Hainard, was opened by the Swiss Ambassador at the Tryon Gallery; he also opened the H. Wilsdorf collection of Geneva enamels, at Garrards, Regent Street. Madame Armin Daeniker opened the Private View of an exhibition of "Swiss Printed Books (1474 to 1959)" in the Library Lounge of the Times Bookshop.

The eminent Swiss conductor, Ernest Ansermet, introduced two unfamiliar Swiss works by Honegger and Frank Martin, at the B.B.C. Symphony Concert at the Royal Festival Hall—broadcast in the Home Service—which was followed by a reception by the British Broadcasting Corporation for the Swiss Ambassador and Ernest Ansermet.

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Dr. V. Umbricht, Director of the Federal Finance Administration, addressed, the same evening, the members of the Lombard Bankers Association on "The Swiss Gold Policy" at the Palmerston Restaurant.

The following day, 8th October, at noon, a lecture on "Swiss Wines" was given by James Hall, followed by a film about wine growing, at the National Film Theatre. In the afternoon Madame Daeniker opened the exhibition of "Paintings, Sculptures and Handicraft" by Swiss women artists, and the exhibition "The Swiss help the Swiss", on social work in the Swiss Colony since the foundation of the Swiss Church in London in 1762, at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. At Park Lane House a cocktail party for leading Fashion Houses, arranged by the Embroidery and Cotton Fabrics Industry, was given, followed by a dinner at the Dorchester Hotel; and the National Film Theatre opened a Swiss film season.

On Friday, 9th October, in the morning a Press View of an exhibition, organised by the Arts Council together with Pro Helvetia Foundation, "From Hodler to Klee" (Swiss Art of the Twentieth Century), took place at the Tate Gallery, and at noon the Swiss Processed Gruyère Cheese Association and the Swiss Cheese Union gave a cheese and wine tasting, followed by a documentary film at the National Film Theatre. In the evening, the General Management of the Swiss National Tourist Office, the Swiss Federal Railways and Swissair held a reception for Travel Agents at Park Lane House. At 10 p.m. a Gala Evening, "Under Swiss Skies" (night sky as seen from the "Jungfrauoch"), took place at the London Planetarium, the speakers being Mr. B. Tussaud and Dr. H. C. King, M.Sc., F.R.A.S.; there was also a Swiss Fashion Show. The "La Chanson de Lausanne", "La Musique du Folly", and the Appenzell Folklore Group provided the musical items.

On Saturday, 10th October, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker held a reception in the late afternoon for the Swiss Colony at Park Lane House, and the "Confrérie Vaudoise" gave a Soirée at the Dorchester Hotel with entertainment by the "La Chanson de Lausanne", and the "Musique du Folly, Vevey-St. Moritz".

The following day, Sunday, 11th October, Professor Max Wildi (Zurich) gave a lecture at the Royal Court Theatre on "Modern Swiss Drama", by arrangement with the English Stage Society, with short scenes from works by Dürrenmatt and Frisch.

On 12th October the Management of the Swiss Bank Corporation held a reception at the Park Lane House, and the Swiss General Post Office gave a cocktail party for the Royal Philatelic Society at the House of Bewlay. In the evening the Swiss Ambassador and Mme. Daeniker gave a private reception, mainly to the Diplomatic Corps, at the Tate Gallery.

The following day, 13th October, the Swiss Wine Growers' Association held a reception for the Wine Trade, with wine and cheese tasting, at Park Lane House, and the Swiss General Post Office received Travel Agents at a cocktail party at the House of Bewlay.

On 14th October the Swiss Association of Booksellers and Publishers gave a reception at the Royal Festival Hall in the afternoon, which was followed by an organ recital by Eduard Müller. At 6 p.m. the unveiling of a wax model of Henri Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross, was performed by the Swiss Ambassador at Park Lane House. The choir "Genève Chante" was in attendance.

During the last three days of the "Swiss Fortnight" various entertainments and concerts were given by the "La Musique du Folly", Folklore Group "Ladina", Appenzell Folklore Group, "Genève Chante", and the Geneva Region Brass Band, in some of the big London and suburban stores, at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester, Town Hall, Bournemouth, Municipal Building, Poole, The Dome, Brighton.

On Friday, 16th October, the Collegium Musicum Zurich, conducted by Paul Sacher, gave a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, which was followed by a reception by the Swiss Ambassador for the Chairman of the London County Council and Paul Sacher. At the Town Hall, Bournemouth, a concert by the three folklore groups, organised by the Anglo-Continental School, was held, and an address by the Director of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, Mr. A. J. Staehelin, was given.

On 17th October a concert by the well-known Consort of Viols of the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, leader August Wenzinger, was given at Wigmore Hall, and at the Dome, Brighton, a concert by the Lake of Geneva Region Brass Band, the "Genève Chante", the "Ladina" band from the Grisons, with flag thrower, arranged in collaboration with Thos. Cook & Son Ltd., was given, and so

the "Swiss Fortnight" came to its close amidst music and songs.

There was held, on Wednesday, 21st October, the Scottish-Swiss folklore evening, organised by the British Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust and the "Fête Suisse" committee, at the Royal Albert Hall, at which various groups from Scotland, the Appenzell Folklore Group, the Grisons Group "Ladina", "Genève Chante", the Lake of Geneva Region Band, and the "Corale Ticinese di Londra" took part. It was a worthy aftermath of the "Swiss Fortnight" and proved to be a huge success. On Thursday, 22nd October, the exhibition of prize winning Swiss posters opened at the De La Rue House.

During the "Swiss Fortnight" a number of football fixtures with Swiss Football Clubs were held with mixed success. The match between Arsenal and Grasshoppers Zurich ended with a win by the English team (8—2). The International Gymnastic Competition, at the Sports Arena of the R.A.F., between a R.A.F. équipe and a Swiss team, ended with a victory for the Swiss competitors.

A "Swiss Fortnight", but on a smaller scale, was also held in some of the Provincial towns such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and elsewhere—all interwoven with that general feeling of happy relationship which has for so long existed between the two countries.

Never before has one seen so many Swiss flags displayed in this great Metropolis. Oxford Street particularly went gay from end to end with Swiss federal and cantonal flags. Most of the large stores, such as Harrods, Derry and Toms, Selfridges, Swan and Edgar, Lillywhites, and many others, exhibited Swiss goods beautifully arranged either in their shop windows or at the counters. Conspicuous as to decorations were the Head Offices of the Swiss Bank Corporation at Gresham Street, E.C.2.

"The Times" and the "Manchester Guardian" issued special supplements, with a number of articles on Industry and Commerce of Switzerland.

A "Quinzaine Gastronomique" was held at the Dorchester Hotel and the Mirabelle Restaurant, in association with the Hotel Euler, Basle, and the Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, during which no less than twenty-one Swiss dishes and thirteen Swiss wines were served.

Looking back on the "Swiss Fortnight" with its vast programme of cultural, commercial and social activity, one can say—without boasting—that this undertaking has been an undeniable success in every direction. (We have been informed by some of our business friends that already substantial orders have been placed by British business houses.)

It would be ungrateful not to give credit to the many who worked so hard and incessantly to make the "Swiss Fortnight" the success it proved to be.

First and foremost our gratitude should go to the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, and in particular to Mr. A. J. Staehelin, Director, and Dr. H. Brunner, Vice-Director, who have tackled this big job with great efficiency, patience and tact. Equally indebted are we to Professor de Salis, President of Pro Helvetia, for his splendid collaboration in the cultural sphere and his financial support and the Swiss National Tourist Office and Swissair.

The Executive Committee in London, consisting of the following: Hon. President: H.E. the Swiss Ambassador (with the collaboration of the Commercial and Cultural Counsellors); Chairman: Alfred Renou; Treasurer and Finance: R. J. Keller; Transport and Tourism: W. Wyler; Fashion Section: Alfred Renou; Publicity and Horological Section: O. Rohn; Receptions and Catering: G. Ronus; all have rendered conspicuous services during the two years preceding the "Swiss Fortnight". Innumerable meetings had to be attended and weighty decisions had to be taken; they can look back with satisfaction at the result, their labours have been crowned with success.

Grateful thanks should be rendered to H.E. the Swiss Ambassador and Mme. Daeniker, who, especially during the "Fortnight", had a most strenuous time, and must have been well-nigh exhausted. They were ably and devotedly assisted by the gentlemen of the diplomatic staff and their ladies, as well as by the Embassy's office personnel.

There were, of course, many ladies and gentlemen who deserve recognition for their useful and helpful collaboration; it is not possible to name them all, but we wish especially to mention M. de Watteville (Switzerland), Mr. A. Renou, Mr. C. H. Nuescheler, Dr. R. Faessler (Swiss Embassy), Doctor E. M. Bircher (Swiss Embassy), Dr. Hans Müller (Swiss Embassy), Mr. O. Rohn, and Mr. Wiesendanger.

Mr. A. Kunz, the Secretary of the "Swiss Fortnight", is entitled to a special vote of thanks; he and his staff worked exceedingly hard both before and during the "Swiss Fortnight"; they can rightly claim a large share in the success.

The B.B.C. has been throughout most helpful, and their collaboration has been greatly appreciated.

The members of the various choirs and bands deserve thanks for their many appearances, at opening ceremonies and at special concerts. They had a very busy time. Also, thanks are due to the many young and charming ladies who ever smilingly served refreshments.

The members of the Swiss Colony, both in London and the Provinces, have shown throughout the "Swiss Fortnight" a lively interest in this undertaking, and their attendance at the various exhibitions, concerts, etc., has been noted with satisfaction.

The "Swiss Fortnight" will leave behind many pleasant memories; it has been an undertaking everyone can be proud of, and it has undoubtedly brought our two countries still closer together.

## CRONACA NOSTRANA.

Improvvisamente è morto domenica, 11 ottobre, in una clinica di Lugano dov'era stato trasportato il giorno prima a seguito di un malore che lo aveva sorpreso mentre si accingeva a prendere il treno per Bellinzona, il **Consigliere di Stato Piero Pellegrini**. Sembrava cosa non grave, che non aveva lasciato tracce all'esame cardiografico; un semplice malessere causato da disturbi circolatori — ci aveva assicurato l'on. Consigliere di Stato Dott. Zorzi, che si era subito recato da lui nel pomeriggio — ma poi il polso gli venne meno; e la penosa notizia diffusasi nelle prime ore della domenica ha suscitato profonda costernazione in tutto il Paese, che Piero Pellegrini si era accinto a servire dai banchi del Governo con fermezza di propositi e chiarezza di vedute, succedendo, il 24 dello scorso agosto, all'on. Canevascini. Alla direzione del Dip° delle opere sociali è certo che la sua spiccata personalità si sarebbe imposta; la sua preparazione specifica nell'arredo politico, nell'amministrazione comunale prima e cantonale poi, nel giornalismo, gli aveva conferito indubbe competenze in un ramo in cui già la sua idealogia pubblica lo spingeva ad approfondire il senso umano dell'azione sociale, ad intendere la molteplice portata dei problemi, a sceverare nella folla delle idee, delle proposte, dei temi che si avvicendano intorno alle istituzioni sociali gli aspetti meritevoli di indagine e di considerazione per coglierne l'essenziale. La palestra politica di Piero Pellegrini fu soprattutto il giornale. Entro' alla "Libera Stampa" nel 1921 e la diresse dal 1936 fino alla sua entrata in Consiglio di Stato. La sua attività parlamentare iniziò nel 1932. Fu membro ascoltato di molte commissioni. Presiedette ultimamente la Gestione e la Commissione per le forze idriche; sapeva fare. Alla presidenza del Gran Consiglio pervenne nel 1951 e nel 1958. I suoi interessi politici spaziavano oltre il Cantone. Europeista convinto era vicepresidente del dell'Istituto internazionale per le relazioni comunali con l'UNESCO. Fu pure presidente della Stampa ticinese e dell'Associazione della stampa svizzera. Naturalmente rappresentava il partito socialista ticinese negli organi centrali del P.S.S. e in parecchie commissioni politiche. Il Ticino perde con Piero Pellegrini un uomo onesto e un cittadino che la sua vita dedicò per un'idea ai più alti interessi della collettività.

## CONFABULANDO.

BERNA — La deputazione ticinese alle Camere federali, riunita il 23 settembre sotto la presidenza del cons. naz. Alberto Verda, ha dedicato attento esame ai problemi stradali in relazione all'ordine del giorno recentemente votato all'unanimità dal Gran Consiglio ticinese. Si è deciso d'incaricare l'on. Maspoli, che fa parte della commissione del Nazionale per la legge stradale, d'intervenire nel dibattito alla Camera sulla legge stessa per puntualizzare le rivendicazioni del Ticino, soprattutto in relazione alla strada del S. Gottardo. La deputazione ha sollevato anche la questione della ripartizione fra i Cantoni della parte loro riservata sui proventi del dazio sulla benzina. Ampiamente discussa è stata altresì la questione del sussidiamento da parte della Confederazione degli acquedotti agricoli. Su questa questione si attende ancora la risposta del Consiglio federale al postulato inoltrato dal cons. naz. on. Olgiati. La deputazione ticinese ha infine ascoltato una breve relazione presidenziale sulla questione del sussidiamento federale della scuola romanda di Berna.

BELLINZONA — Nella sua seduta del 24 settembre il Gran Consiglio del C. Ticino ha votato a grandissima maggioranza la nuova legge sugli assegni familiari.

BODIO — Il 30 settembre presso la sede dell'ATEL si è svolta la consegna degli impianti della Biaschina allo Stato, rispettivamente all'Azienda Elettrica Cantonale sulla base delle convenzioni 14 settembre 1959 e 9 aprile 1959. Per la Società Aar e Ticino presenziavano il dir. Gianella, l'ing. Fabio Nizzola e l'avv. Augusto Bolla legale della Società. Il Consiglio di Stato era rappresentato dal suo presidente on. Stefani; il Dip° delle Pubbliche Costruzioni dall'on. Zorzi; l'Azienda Elettrica Cantonale dall'on. Canevascini e dal dir. ing. Sadis.

MENDRISIO — Al Convegno distrettuale l'avv. Brenno Galli ha ricordato la posizione del Ticino nella Confederazione; e dopo l'avvertimento, essere la vigilanza sulle leggi federali compito urgente ed essenziale per tutti, affinché esse tengano veramente conto delle necessità di ogni singola regione e non siano soverchiamente influenzate dagli interessi di una maggioranza cui i ticinesi solitamente non partecipano, ha espresso la sua deplorazione per il fatto che lo sbandierato principio della compensazione finanziaria intercantone che suscitò non poche speranze con la riforma delle finanze federali, è già praticamente morto ammazzo dall'incomprensione egoistica delle solite maggioranze parlamentari.

BIASCA — La Direzione della S.A. Officine Idroelettriche di Blenio comunica che la messa in esercizio parziale della centrale di Biasca è prevista per la fine del corrente mese. Richiama pertanto all'attenzione del pubblico che l'immissione delle acque dei torrenti Boggera, in Val di Cresciano, Nala, in Val di Osogna, e Leggiuna, in Val Pontirone, avverrà l'8 ottobre 1959. La messa sotto tensione della stazione di smistamento di Biasca è prevista per la metà del mese di ottobre.

LUGANO — In occasione della 58esima Assemblea annuale dell'Associazione dei bibliotecari svizzeri, svoltasi nelle giornate 11 e 12 ottobre, veniva inaugurata alla Biblioteca cantonale la Mostra "Dante e la Svizzera" allestita con cura particolare e passione dalla dottoressa Adriana Ramelli.

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