Our own National Day celebration

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TEN THOUSAND REFUGEES IN SWITZERLAND.

There are 10,000 refugees, mostly Jewish, in Switzerland. 3,000 of them are without means, and are entirely dependent on Jewish charitable organisations. The resources of these organisations are rapidly decreasing.

BRITISH RAILWAY QUEEN.

Miss Helen Forrest, the British Railway Queen, arrived at Zurich, and was welcomed by the Mayor of Zurich, to whom she brought a message from the Lord Provost of Glasgow.

She received as a present from the city a hand-carved and hand-painted model of a linen chest.

The railways and the railway trade union presented her with a gold ring as a symbol of good relations between British and Swiss railways.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The balloon "Louis Wolgroth" belonging to the Zurich section of the Swiss Aero Club was burnt on its maiden flight, on landing it came in touch with overhead electric cables.

The pilot and the three passengers escaped without injuries.

* * *

M. Volkmar Andreae, the famous Swiss composer and conductor, has celebrated his 60th birthday.

BERNE.

Dr. Rudolf Zeller, Professor of Geography at the University of Berne, and Vice-Director of the Historical Museum in Berne, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

BASLE.

Dr. Fr. Fichter, since 1903 Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

Professor Fichter is one of Switzerland's foremost scientists, and he has represented our country on a number of International Congresses with great distinction.

He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich, and an officer of the Légion d'Honneur.

ST. GALL.

The twenty years old Erwin Bürkli, member of the St. Gall section of the Swiss Alpine Club, was killed when ascending the Ringelspitze (3251 m.), he fell 1,000 feet down onto the Glaser glacier.

GRISONS.

The death is reported from Andeer of Abraham Conrad, a former member of the Grand Council and President of the "Verkehrsverein des Hinterrheintals" at the age of 74.

TICINO.

National Councillor Dollfus, from Lugano, has given an amount of 100,000frs. to the "Pro Infirmis," a Fund created for helping children under twenty in the canton of Ticino, in remembrance of his son who was killed in an accident last May.

SWISS VICTORY AT HENLEY.

The Zurich R.C. has won the Stewards' Challenge Cup at the Centenary Henley Regatta, against the Oriel College, Oxford team.

Oriel started off at 10, 20 and 40 to Zurich's 10, 20 and 39, and the crews raced level up the Island. Then Zurich began to go away fast, had two-thirds of a length at the ¼-mile, were clear by the Barrier in 2.16, and had 1¾ lengths at the half-mile.

Hodgson then made a good effort, and, being well backed up, was gaining past Fawley, 3.50, and had reduced the Swiss crew's lead to 1¼ lengths at the ¾-mile. Past Remenham Club the Swiss crew began to go away again, had two lengths at the Mile, and won comfortably by four lengths in the good time, considering the conditions, of 8 min. 9 sec.

To rowing men all over the world Henley Royal Regatta, stands for everything which is characteristic in their sport. It is the ambition of every rowing club to send a crew to Henley, not only because a victory in the Royal Regatta confers a distinction which can be achieved in no other way, but because of the opportunity it gives to see English amateur sport at its delightful best. During these hundred years Henley Regatta has become the great annual festival of English rowing. The keenness of the rivalry between the various schools, colleges and clubs, and the strenuousness of the racing, have not prevented it from becoming a kind of family picnic at which oarsmen from all over the country meet in good-fellowship. This good-fellowship has always embraced the visiting crews. Whether they have come from the Dominions or the United States or other countries they have been sure of a hospitable welcome, and have taken away and left behind them many happy memories.

International sport has not always tended to promote international friendship, but at Henley nothing except good has come from the admission of oarsmen from abroad to compete in the classic events of the Regatta. The sportsmanship characteristic of amateur rowing has been proof against the narrow chauvinism which regards it as patriotic to begrudge a foreign victory earned by superior skill or by longer or more strenuous training. In fact, some of the most popular and the most enthusiastically admired victors at Henley have come from abroad — such as, to mention only a few, the Belgians in 1906 and 1907, the Swiss in 1935 and 1936.

Perhaps the outstanding foreign crews of post-War years, however, were the Zurich Rowing Club Four, which won the Stewards' Cup in 1935 and 1936, and their Eight which won the Grand Challenge Cup in 1936. These were very fine crews, powerful, well together, with a fine beginning, and, what is far too rare in modern English crews, a fine finish.

It was in 1921 that the present Emperor of Japan, then Crown Prince, on seeing the Grand Challenge Cup at Magdalen College, Oxford, was so impressed by its story that he announced his intention of getting rowing developed at Tokio University to a standard that would enable them to send a worthy crew to compete for it. The crew came to Marlow in 1936, rowed 50 to 54 strokes to the minute, and the effect was that of a jiu-jitsu expert on old time wrestlers. They were rigged perfectly in accordance with their stature and won their first race with the greatest ease. But at Henley good big ones were to prove too much for good little ones. In the end Zurich, rowing their hardest from start to finish, left nothing to chance and beat the Japanese by six lengths.

OUR OWN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

We all know how happy we are when we receive a present which we have been wanting for years. This is what most of us feel now that we are going to have an official National Day Celebration in London. I am sure we shall all make the most of it. St. Pancras Town Hall is an attractive meeting place and easily reached. You will find all the details on the enclosed leaflet. But I should like to remind you to get your free tickets in good time and to tell all your Swiss friends — especially those who perhaps cannot afford to take the Swiss Observer — to come along. It will be truly Swiss — you can listen to our four national languages and sing many homely tunes. You can all come along without having to buy a special frock or a new tie for the occasion. It's the spirit that counts and the good will to show that we are as truly and sincerely Swiss as our compatriots at home. At the present times we have to stand together and where can we show better that we are still "one for all, all for one" than when commemorating the foundation of our beloved Switzerland.

One more word to those who own or could get a national costume. Do put it on for this occasion. They are very beautiful, our Swiss costumes and will never be more appropriate than on Tuesday fortnight at St. Pancras Town Hall.

Mariann.

CONCERT NEWS.

MARGUERITE ROSSET'S ENGLISH DEBUT.

At the invitation of the Music Board of the London Lyceum Club, Marguerite Rosset, a Swiss singer, gave a short recital — her first in England — in the club's common room, accompanied by Louise Sumner. Mme. Rosset is an artist of some distinction. Her voice has the true soprano timbre and also a full soprano range, since its higher register is reached without apparent effort.

Her tastes are catholic enough. Opera she has avoided so far; but her programme included examples of music from Belgium, Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, America and Spain, and she gave equally sympathetic interpretations of songs as different in texture and character as Dvorak's "Songs my mother taught me" and the "Air de l'Archange" from Franck's "Rédemption," Mozart's "Alleluja" showed how agile Mme. Rosset's voice can be. But her most completely satisfactory contribution was Duparc's "Chanson Triste"; its passionate expression was conveyed in a way that was devoid of all exaggeration but nevertheless profoundly moving.

F. B.

1st OF AUGUST SERVICE.

A 1st of August catholic service will be held at the Church of St. Peter and St. Edward, 43, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Sunday, July 30th, 11 o'clock by the Rev. A. Lanfranchi.

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