Schweizerkirche

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1939)**

Heft 921

PDF erstellt am: **19.03.2024**

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One cannot deny that an efficient army, based on strict military discipline, with the authoritarian leadership above and the implicit obedience below which that implies, it not in itself an essentially democratic institution. However, it is without any intention to seem paradoxical that I declare that there is no other institution in Switzerland which so powerfully fosters the feeling and the practice of social democracy as the army. For a few months, at the age of twenty, and for two or three weeks a year until middle age, all able-bodied Swiss, whether they are the sons of bankers or farmers, factory workers or university dons, are subjected to exactly the same mode of life in the barracks or in army manœuvres in the country. Although the time spent with the colours is too strenuous to be looked upon as a pleasant vacation by most Swiss soldiers, none of us who have been through the military mill would miss the experience or be without its memories and comradeships. We have, of course, a limited number of professional soldiers to instruct recruits and man the permanent fortifications, but our military defence rests essentially on an army made up of all able-bodied citizens between the ages of twenty and sixty.

As I say, I have no doubt that our unanimous co-operation in the one task of preparing for the defence of our country against external aggression has done more to stimulate what I want to call the democratic patriotism of the Swiss people than any other single factor. A professional army, made up of those whom you call volunteers and whom we usually call mercenaries, would, as we see it, present a far greater threat to political freedom than an army officered and manned by our citizenship. The Swiss army is not only the most popular of Swiss public institutions, but it is probably also more popular with the Swiss people than is any other army with its own people abroad.

All this has never seemed so obvious as to-day. Anti-militarism, which was formerly preached in certain political quarters, has completely disappeared under the threat of recent developments beyond the Rhine and the Alps. Our national army is less contested in principle to-day than any other Swiss institution. In the consciousness of the average Swiss, the people, the army and the country have been welded into one. The fact that every able-bodied Swiss is authorised and indeed obliged to keep his military equipment, including his rifle and, in these days of tension, even his ammunition, with him in his home, is both a symptom and a proof of this state of affairs.

One word more! Switzerland to-day, like every other free country, is facing one supreme problem, the problem of democratic efficiency. Can we adapt our political methods to the requirements of the economic and international peculiarities of our age? Can we so organise our institutions and so develop the spirit of our people that we may remain at once prosperous, secure and free?

I believe that the future of Swiss, as of every other democracy, depends on our reply to this question. It will be our highest endeavour to defend in Switzerland the ideals of a state which remains fully responsive to the will of its citizens and is yet strong enough to protect and generous enough not to enslave them. And while in our small Alpine republic we work towards this, we shall always look upon the great and free British Commonwealth of Nations with hope and good will and confident friendship.

(*The Listener.*)

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JOURNEE DES SUISSES DE L'ETRANGER 1939.

Le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger et l'Exposition Nationale invitent cordialement tous les Suisses à l'étranger et leurs amis à la

18e Journée des Suisses de l'Etranger,

qui aura lieu à l'Exposition Nationale de Zürich, les 12 et 13 août 1939.

Pour ne pas nuire aux fêtes du 1er août des colonies suisses et pour tenir compte du désire de certaines sociétés suisses d'Italie et de France de venir en voyages collectifs à Zurich à l'occasion des congés du 15 août (Assomption), nous avons renoncé à placer la Journée des Suisses de l'Etranger à la fin de juillet.

Cette manifestation aura lieu les *samedi et dimanche 12 et 13 août*. Des réunions moins importantes auront lieu le 14 août et, sur désir spécial, le 15 août.

La Suisse, Zurich, l'Exposition nationale, le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, tous vous attendent avec la plus grande joie. Faites en sorte que votre colonie soit représentée le mieux possible à la manifestation solennelle organisée en l'honneur des Suisses à l'étranger.

PROGRAMME GENERAL

Samedi, 12 août
à la fin de l'après-midi :

au Bâtiment des Congès :

Ouverture de la Journée des Suisses de l'Etranger.

Rapports du Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger.

Discussion de questions actuelles.

Soir : au Bâtiment des Congrès : Souper en commun ; soirée familière.

Dimanche, 13 août

Matin : Services religieux dans les diverses èglises de Zurich avec prédication d'ecclésiastiques suisses de l'étranger.

Manifestation officielle dans la Grande salle du Bâtiment de Congrès.

Réception par l'Exposition nationale. Visite de la " Haute Avenue " de l'Exposition nationale.

Midi : *Banquet officel* dans la salle des fêtes du Palais des attractions.

Soir : Représentation de la " Heimatschutzbühne " de Berne, au théâtre de l'exposition.

Lundi, 14 août

Matin : *Réception au Pavillon des Suisses à l'étranger.* — Visite de l'Exposition.

Soir : Souper en commun au " Landgasthof " suivi d'une soirée récréative.

Mardi, 15 août Sur demande spéciale, excursion en commun sur le lac ou dans les environs.

Le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine" at every meal—for Health!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, July 17th at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Committee Meeting — at Westgate House, 28-29, Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Thursday, July 20th, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Lecture by Mr. W. Gysler, on " Lebenserkenntnisse des Königs Salomo " (Aus dem Buche des Predigers) to be followed by Quarterly members meeting, at Westgate House, 28-29, Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. *All Young Swiss Invited.*

Thursday, July 27th, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Lecture by Mr. W. Fischer, on " Higher Guidance," at Westgate House, 28-29, Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. *All Young Swiss Invited.*

Tuesday, August 1st from 8.30 p.m. — 2 a.m. — The Helvetia Club — Celebration of Swiss National Day — at 1 Gerrard Place, W.

Tuesday, August 1st — National Day Celebration at St. Pancras Hall.

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SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION, ZÜRICH
May 6—October 29, 1939. Every aspect of Swiss life — culture, husbandry, industry and commerce—shown in gay and lovely surroundings.

EXHIBITION OF SPANISH ART TREASURES, GENEVA
June 1—August 31, 1939. A unique selection of some 200 famous paintings and tapestries from Spain.

THE LUCERNE MUSIC FESTIVAL
August 3—29. Celebrated musicians including: Adrian Boult, Bruno Walter, Gigli, Horowitz, Huberman, Kipnis, Paderewski, Rachmaninoff, Toscanini.

CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL PLAYS, BERNE
July 1—August 12. *Our Lady's Jester.* Famous Mystery Play from the Middle Ages. *The Eternal Dance.* Dance Cantata derived from ancient folk songs performed outside the beautiful Gothic Minster.

INFORMATION Swiss Railways and State Travel Bureau, 11-B Lower Regent Street, London, S.W.1. (Whitehall 9851). Railway Continental Enquiry Offices, and Travel Agents.

Divine Services.

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Dimanche 16 juillet 1939 :

11h. Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

7h. Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

8h. Répétition du Chœur mixte.

Retenez la date du dimanche 30 juillet. Cultes patriotiques à 11h. et 7h.

BAPTEME.

Le 9 juillet, Ann-Marie *Tovey*, fille de Leslie-Ernest Tovey et de Marie-Madeleine née Gerber.

A partir du 17 juillet, et jusqu'à nouvel avis, prière de s'adresser, pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, à M. le past. U. Emery, Foyer Suisse, 15 Bedford Way, W.C.1 (Phone MUSeum 3100).

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St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
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Sonntag, den 16. Juli :

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst
Pfr. E. Bommeli.

11 Uhr morgens, Sonntagschule
Hr. Fischer.

Während der Monate Juli und August fallen die Abendgottesdienste aus.

Anfragen wegen Religions — bezw. Konfirmanden Unterricht sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer E. Bommeli. Sprechstunden : Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche, Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

Printed and Published by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.