

Swiss national day celebration at Kingsway Hall

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SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT KINGSWAY HALL.

On Sunday, July 28th, 1946, a combined divine service of both the French and German speaking congregations of the Swiss Church took place at Kingsway Hall, W.C.2, to celebrate the 655th Anniversary of the birth of Switzerland. A large number of compatriots followed the call to worship. The service was opened by prayer, and then the congregation sang the well-known hymn:

"Grosser Gott, wir loben Dich! Herr, wir preisen Deine Stärke.

Vor Dir beugt der Erdkreis sich und bewundert Deine Werke.

Wie Du warst vor aller Zeit, so bleibst Du in Ewigkeit!"

Rev. E. Jomini, in his sermon, drew attention to the majesty of God on the one hand and our small country on the other, but to God are known the great and the small nations. In preserving our land from the horrors of war, He revealed His sovereign power of protection. General Guisan, in his report, stated that he would never forget that Switzerland's preservation was due to divine protection. It was a manifestation of pure grace, but we have not appreciated the true value of grace. We cannot sufficiently express our thankfulness in patriotic songs. As a nation, and as individuals, we must show greater devotion to God, and then the words recorded in Psalm 33 will come true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance."

Rev. H. Blum spoke of the impressions which so many visitors to our homeland have brought back to London in recent months. They talk in the highest terms of the standards of life there, so much that they call it a paradise. This should not mean that the Swiss are as perfect as angels, but that they had a measure of protection which none of the other countries enjoyed, and this makes us profoundly thankful. God had been our help and our shield. It was He, not man, who held the shield! How often we are fearful and discouraged, and shrink back from taking decisions. Let us be clear that the Lord who protected our

country is also able to help each one of us who draws near to him. Even men who are devoid of a knowledge of God admit that the protection of Switzerland was a miracle. If God lets a miracle take place, then He has a purpose, which in this case is twofold: First He wants us to listen to what He has to say, and then He wants us to be obedient to what He has shown us. This is the command of the hour in which we live! Be obedient to what God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Scriptures. Obedience is linked to prayer, and out of a life of prayer flows the strength and the joy which are so essential to life. Men of faith are men of joy.

After a violin solo played by Mrs. E. Spier the service came to a close by prayer, and the congregation sang the hymn, which is so expressive of our highest thoughts:

"Seigneur, accorde ton secours au beau pays que mon coeur aime,

Celui que j'aimerai toujours, celui que j'aimerai quand-même.

Tu m'as dit d'aimer, j'obéis: Mon Dieu protège mon pays."

F.

RUETLI LADIES' CLUB.

On the 1st of August, the Rütli Ladies' Club held their annual Dance at the Hornsey Town Hall to celebrate our National Day.

Many Swiss brought their friends along to enjoy the Dance and the floor and surroundings suited all. English dancing and continental waltzes were from 7.30 p.m. to 12 p.m. with high spots at 9 p.m. when the Swiss Male Choir, under the direction of E. P. Dick, kindly sang us some Swiss songs, followed by the Rütli Ladies in costume making a little display of cantonal flags, endings in the position of the Swiss cross. At 10.15 p.m. excitement ran high when the traditional Tombola was held; prizes included, pictures of Swiss scenery, china, wine and "gügelhopf."

May we thank everybody who helped us enjoy the evening amongst our Swiss compatriots.

M.V.B.

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