

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1921)
Heft: 20

Artikel: Swiss aviator Durafour
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690589>

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FETE NATIONALE
du 1er Août,
STEINWAY HALL.

The Committee of the Swiss Institute are deserving of great credit for the excellent manner in which they carried out the arrangements for the Fête Nationale du 1er Août, especially having regard to the fact that the whole work of organisation lay practically on the shoulders of the President, Mr. Arthur A. Despond, and the Vice-President, Mr. Adolphe Steiner.

However, the Committee had the satisfaction to see "House full." In fact, it was more than "House full"; an overflow meeting would also easily have attracted a numerous audience, could such have been arranged. It is a healthy and agreeable sign of the times and an indication to the organisers of these functions of the necessity of being on the look-out for more extensive accommodation in the future. It is a great pity if people on occasions such as these are disappointed through being crowded out, quite apart from the fact that those of the audience who are fortunate enough to be among the early birds, see their comfort grow small by degrees and beautifully less.

The evening's programme commenced with selections played by the Swiss Institute Orchestra.

The Swiss Minister, Mr. C. R. Paravicini, then formally opened the Fête, intimating that the speech for the particular purpose, to celebrate which he was glad to welcome so numerous a gathering, would be delivered by our distinguished compatriot, Prof. Eugène Borel, whose deep interest in the Swiss Colony of London is a most pleasing feature. Our Minister complimented the organisers of the function, emphasising that it had always given him great satisfaction to watch and follow the constant development of the patriotic aspirations of the Swiss Institute, which did much to foster harmony and union among the members of the Colony, while at the same time providing wholesome recreation and national education. Concluding, the Minister expressed the hope that the Swiss Institute may continue to flourish and pursue its noble course.

"Sempach" was then sung by the audience to the accompaniment of the orchestra, and Miss Felia Dorio delighted us with "Canto di Sera," whereafter Prof. Borel addressed the assembly with appropriate and inspiring words, which went right home, as the rapturous applause testified at the conclusion of his happy and elevating speech.

Popular Swiss airs played by the orchestra, recitations of Francesco Chiesa's "La Reggia" and "La Citta," delivered with characteristic Ticinese temperament by Mrs. Teresa Lunghi, and further contributions by Miss Felia Dorio, who proved that she is not only master of three of our national languages, but also of the fourth: "Schwyzerdütsch," all found the audience's full appreciation, as did also "O Heimat, wie bist du so schön" and "Röslein im Walde" rendered by the Swiss Choral Society under their able leader Mr. Pestou.

Not only from the entertainment point of view was the evening a pleasant success, but also financially, since the

sale of Federal and Cantonal Flags realised a total of £31 15s., a sum which does full credit to the persuasive salesmanship of the three ladies: Madame Arthur Despond, Miss Teresa Lunghi and Miss Gertrude Muller, who were untiring in their efforts to "hoist" as many flags as possible.

The above-mentioned amount was further increased by £7 5s., obtained from the sale by auction of the artistic cushions (respectively the handiwork of the ladies named) on which the flags were mounted. Prof. Borel, Messrs. P. Bessire and G. Cusi, the "victims" of Mr. Despond's expert auctioneering tactics, have unquestionably reason to be well pleased with the result of their battle-royal, having secured very nice souvenirs in exchange for helping to swell the funds of the Fonds de Secours Suisse, who will be the recipients of a cheque for £31 15s. from the Swiss Institute, the latter generously declining to deduct any of their considerable expenses from the gross revenue, excepting the item for the purchase of the flags.

On behalf of his Committee the President, Mr. A. Despond, then tendered hearty thanks to the Swiss Minister, Mr. C. R. Paravicini, and Prof. Eugène Borel, to the audience, who had responded to their call in such great numbers, and to the artistes, who had loyally and generously contributed towards the success of the evening.

"Rufst du, mein Vaterland," sung by the entire gathering, concluded the impressive celebration of our National Independence Day.—

We are informed that the Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini entertained a few of our compatriots at supper after the function. There were present: The President of the Swiss Institute and Madame Arthur Despond, Prof. Eugène Borel and Mademoiselle Natalie Borel, Mr. Theo. Ritter, former Chancellor of the Swiss Legation, Messieurs Charles Corragioni d'Orelli, Henri Martin, Emile Fontanel, Emile Stutz, Max Oederlin, William Preiswerk and Paul Ritter, of the Legation Staff.

SWISS AVIATOR DURAFOUR
lands on MONT BLANC.

We republish the following from the "N.Z.Z.":—

Der Spezialberichterstatler der "Tribune de Genève" schreibt über ein Interview mit Durafour: "Ah, es ist hoch," macht Durafour, indem er zu dem mit ewigem Schnee bedeckten Gipfel hinaufblickt. . . "Ich flog um 6 Uhr 10 auf," fährt er fort, "und bewegte mich sogleich in die Höhe mit der Richtung nach Thonon. Nachdem ich über die ersten Bergspitzen hinweg war, stieg ich höher und konnte Chamonix in 2,500 Meter überfliegen. Mein Motor gab prächtig aus, und ich hatte Vertrauen. Ich war von Lausanne in der festen Hoffnung abgereist, eine Landung vorzunehmen, und ich wollte es durchsetzen.

Um 7 Uhr 10 umkreiste ich zweimal den so ersehnten Gipfel und suchte einen günstigen Landungsplatz. Einige Sekunden vergingen, ich ging nieder, aber in diesem Augenblick schüttelte ein heftiger Windstoss meinen Gaudronapparat und warf mich heftig gegen eine Spalte,

die mich zu verschlingen bereit war.

Der Apparat kam rechtzeitig wieder ins Gleichgewicht und ich ging auf ein Schneefeld nieder, ohne mehr Erschütterung zu spüren als auf einem Flugfeld. Mein Apparat hatte weder Gleitschienen noch Eiskrampen. Kaum war ich aus meinem Sitz herausgeklertert, glücklich auf der Kuppe des berühmten Dôme du Mont-Blanc angelangt zu sein, so sah ich einen Bergsteiger auf mich zukommen; es war Henri Bregault, Generalsekretär des französischen Alpenklubs aus Paris, der mich sofort neben meinem Apparat photographierte. Herr Bregault gab mir seine Visitenkarte, auf die er die Worte schrieb: "Ich habe Durafour photographiert wie er am 30. Juli 1921 um 7 Uhr 15 auf dem Gipfel des Mont-Blanc landete. Die Landung ist in allen Teilen gelungen: eine hervorragende Leistung." Kurz hernach sah ich Freunde herbeieilen, die glücklich waren mich in einer solchen Höhe begrüßen zu können.

Nach einer kurzen Ruhe im Schnee musste ich an die Abfahrt denken. Diese war beängstigend und erschreckend. Den Motor mit Vollgas flog ich längs eines steilen Eisabhangs ab; ich wurde jeden Augenblick aus der Richtung gebracht, streifte die Eispalten, dann wurde mein Apparat gegen einen von Eiswänden umrandeten Abgrund gestossen oder vielmehr geworfen, ich musste zerschmettert werden, aber mein Gaudron bäumte sich auf, ich kam in die Leere und der Flug war frei; ich war gerettet. Wenn man mir eine Million geben würde, damit ich den Flug wiederhole, ich würde sie nicht annehmen. Um 9 Uhr 15 war ich wieder in Chamonix. Endlich war mein Lieblingstraum in Erfüllung gegangen, den Mont-Blanc zu besiegen, wie Védrine das Dach der Galerie La Fayette besiegt hatte."

SCHWEIZERBUND (Swiss Club).
74, CHARLOTTE STREET, W. 1.

On July 29th this Club held its 69th half-yearly General Meeting. Proceedings were opened by the President, Mr. F. Delaloye, 42 members being present, who rose at the request of the President in honour of the late members who have departed this world during the last six months, viz.: Messrs. G. Hungerbühler, J. Langmeier, James Schneider and V. Yost.

The balance sheet being passed unanimously, financial matters were discussed and as a result it was resolved that the Committee should study ways and means for economic retrenchment, the universal stringency being also felt in these quarters. As new Committee members there were elected: Messrs. F. Winkelmann, M. Knopf and P. Schneeberger. Mr. A. Ribaux, an old Committee member, has been elected Joint Treasurer.

EGLISE SUISSE.

79, Edell Street, W.C.2.

Dimanche, 14 Août 11h.—M. Boissonnas.
Dimanche, 21 Août 11h.—M. Boissonnas.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Monsieur Henri DURAND, membre du consistoire, né le 13 mai 1842 à Nyon, décédé le 29 juillet 1921 à Londres à l'âge de 80 ans.