

Editor's postbag

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The radio tax in Switzerland is 15 Swiss francs (about £1) a year. From this source last year the S.R.G. received about 5,000,000 Swiss francs. Of this sum about one half was accounted for by technical maintenance, interest, and depreciation of the technical installations, while the other half was used in connection with the programmes.

Of this other half, 71 per cent. was spent on the programmes themselves, 23 per cent. on general expenses, and 6 per cent. on various sundry expenses — an exceptionally pleasing distribution which shows the listener that out of the 15 francs he pays every year he gets direct benefit from 7.61 francs.

In Switzerland — just as in Holland — the so-called "telephone broadcasting" is extraordinarily popular. Three companies, the official Post Office, "Rediffusion," and "Radibus," relay to their subscribers regular programmes, which include the most important programmes from abroad as well as those of the Swiss stations. In accordance with the desire of these companies, the S.R.G. has made agreements with France, Germany, Austria, and Italy whereby, for the payment of a small cable fee, the programmes of these countries are transmitted to Switzerland and relayed to the telephone broadcasting subscribers.

These listeners, therefore, do not have a receiving set. They simply have a loud speaker connected with the central relaying station, and need only switch on to hear the programme of the Telephone Radio. These relays have the advantage of being received without interference, but on the other hand there is, of course, no choice of programme, and the listener has to be satisfied with whatever fare the telephone broadcasting company happens to offer.

The programmes of the Swiss broadcasting stations have an excellent reputation in Europe. One finds that there are two main features to which the German Swiss and the French Swiss transmitters adhere. German Switzerland seems to favour literature above all, and besides this has introduced the so-called "Heimatstunden," folklore programmes, which are entirely suited to the conservative and tradition-loving character of the German Swiss. French Switzerland, on the other hand, which culturally and traditionally is allied to France, is an exponent of the musical side of Swiss Radio.

The nearness of France, the influence of French culture, and last, but not least, the personality of the head of Radio Geneva, the musician, F. Pommier, have resulted in French Switzerland's special interest in modern French music and, through the influence of the French impressionists, in the Russian which is so closely allied to it. In Ernest Ansermet, the conductor of the West Swiss radio orchestra and of the "Suisse Romande" orchestra, Geneva and Lausanne have a man who has done a tremendous lot in the development of modern music.

German Switzerland, on the other hand, which in Berne, Basle, and Zürich has truly music-loving towns, is, from the musical point of view, far more conservative, or classical. Felix Weingartner, who lives permanently in Switzerland, is a frequent guest conductor of Swiss musical programmes. Dr. Kurt Schenker, the head of Radio Berne, is an expert on educational broadcasts, tourists propaganda, and similar radio plays.

I cannot call this article complete without mentioning a Swiss who has done a very great deal of good for Radio, Maurice Rambert, the head of the S.R.G., who was recently elected president of the Union Internationale de Radio-diffusion in place of the retiring Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Carpendale.

Maurice Rambert has an adventurous career behind him. He has built hotels in Constantinople, has constructed bridges, had the first Swiss radio factory.

Not much is heard of Italian Switzerland. This may be due to the fact that the Monte Ceneri transmitter is still very young and that the resources at its disposal are not so great as in other parts of Switzerland. Radio Lugano is directed by F. Vitali, a young journalist, who was often heard as an announcer on the German Swiss station before Monte Ceneri was built.

An important part in Swiss broadcasting is, of course, played by transmissions from the League of Nations. These have become fewer and fewer of late, perhaps because so many broadcasting companies in Europe and America have League of Nations events described by their own correspondents. Moreover, the League of Nations has its own shortwave station at Prangins.

An extremely pleasing off-shoot of Swiss radio is the so-called "Swiss Radio Fellowship." This is an association of young Swiss listeners who have united in order to help one another to serve the community.

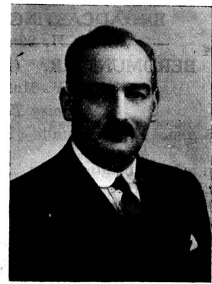
Wireless Magazine.

Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Club, Birmingham

on Saturday, March 14th, 1936, at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham.

P. BRUN,

President of the Swiss Club, Birmingham.



The Annual Dinner and Dance of the Swiss Club Birmingham, on Saturday, March 14th, at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham, was attended by 91 Members, Friends and Guests — Mr. P. F. Brun, the President being in the Chair.

The Dinner, excellent in choice and preparation, no doubt due to personal attention of Mr. Oerli, the Manager, and the efforts of the Midland Hotel's famous Swiss Chef, was served in splendid manner and "Swiss Airs" played by a lively band formed musical accomplishments. —

After the Loyal Toasts, proposed by the Chairman, Mr. Brun welcomed the guests from London, Manchester, Liverpool and Bradford, and also thanked the members and friends, some of whom had come from as far as Exeter, Cardiff, Liverpool, Blackpool, West Hartlepool and London for attending the function in such good numbers. — Notable absentees were Mr. and Mrs. Kunzle, through indisposition, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ellison, who wired best wishes from Switzerland, and Mr. G. Marchand, London, also telegraphed his greetings. The absence of the "Swiss Observer" was also specially noted and regretted. —

Mr. Montag, Swiss Consul in Liverpool, in very humorous strain, replied for the guests, Mr. Billeter, President of the City Swiss Club, added words of thanks for the hospitality received, and expressed wishes of prosperity for the Swiss Club Birmingham, whilst Mr. Lamb, of West Hartlepool, a British subject, but great admirer of our Homeland, sang the praises of Switzerland and its people in well-chosen words. —

In place of the usual collection for its own charitable institution, Mr. Brun announced that this year the money would be devoted to the "George Dimier Fund for aged Swiss." Mr. Brunner, Vice-President, warmly supported the appeal. The collection amounted to £7 10s. which out of the Club fund was increased to £10. Mrs. Beckman, Member of the Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society, thanked all present who had so generously contributed. —

A pleasant surprise item was the special toast reserved for the eldest member present, Mr. Ecker now in his 85th year, to which the Jubilar replied in strong clear words, and better still he with Mr. Gattiker treated us with a real Swiss Yodel. —

Soon after 9 o'clock, dancing commenced and lasted till midnight, intermingled with songs and yodelling. —

"Some" I fear did not get into the feathers till well in the morning, so jolly and happy was the select party in the Hotel Lounge. —

The Sunday morning outing brought some 45 members and friends in Cars and Bus to Droitwich where a visit to the renowned and renovated Norbury Hotel was paid. It was unfortunate in more ways than one, that no brine baths could be had at the hour of visit — we had to be content with internal lubrication. —

EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

London, March 15th, 1936.

The Editor,

Swiss Observer,
London,

Dear Mr. Editor,

My hearty congratulations for your article, "Naturalization in Switzerland."

Perhaps I can best express my feelings by making a peep into the future, as follows:

Eidgenössisches Sängerkunst in Zurich, Aug. 1955:

Committee: Dr. Klotzbi, Präsident, Herren Kaibowicz, Trombotzky, Fuffiberinsky, Duchablinsky, Popoffsky, Schnapskinsky, Schwobemeier, Mauerblümchen und Nazimeier.

Die Festrede war von Herr Jacob Miansky. Die "Harmonie" Zurich eröffnete mit dem Lied, "O, mein Heimatland, o mein Vaterland, wie so innig feurig lieb ich dich" unter spezieller Mithilfe von Herren Goldenstein, Kummellinski, Vodkanunsky und Himmelblümchen.

The Luncheon party at the Midland Hotel was attended by 54 — it was a real happy family gathering and rightly the only speech made was to give thanks for the untiring efforts of Mr. P. Brun, not only to make this annual re-union such a great social success, but also for his devotion to the Swiss Club Birmingham, over which he has presided so successfully for eight years.

The Finale as usual took place in "Oakfield" Handsworth, the President's private residence where about 35 friends spent in the large gardens and the well stocked dining room a few more pleasant hours in Song and Music before returning to normal life again. —

J.B.B.

Amongst the guests were:

Mr. and Mrs. Billeter (representing the City Swiss Club, London); Mr. J. Boos (representing the Swiss Mercantile Society, London); Mr. and Mrs. Beckmann (representing the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London); Mr. J. Faivre (representing Swiss Club Liverpool); Messrs. Spargnapani and Heinrich (representing Swiss Club Manchester); Mr. Montag, Swiss Consul in Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. Hilpert, London; Mr. and Mrs. Bertschi, London, Mr. and Mrs. Schedler, London; Mr. Horricks, Liverpool; Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, Hartlepool; Mr. and Mrs. Bolter, Blackpool; Mr. Bertschi, Bradford; Mr. and Mrs. Curnew, London; Miss Aeberhart, Miss Molinari, London; etc., etc.

SCHWYZERCLUB BIRMINGHAM.

Immer tuet's eim wieder freue
We der "Swiss Club" sine Gescht
Sig's i "Bäre" oder "Leue"
Jladet zu sym Jahresfest.

Natürli weiss a jederma
Dass me für a ganze Obe
Sich hätzlich amüsiere cha
Nach alter Schwyzermode.

Do trifft me alli liebe Fründ
Vo näher u vo fern,
S'dunkt eim we me Zäme sind
Mi sigi eifach z'Bern.

Au z'Aesse het de wäger oh
gar grüseli guet gfallt,
Der Chef, dä hüt si's beste do
Verdient gwüss z'Lob vo alle.

Für's Tanze, gheit, sono di no
Der Aeltischt, au i d'Falle,
U fö si afo Jodele
Wäiht Schwyzlerluft dür d'Halle.

So Festli si as grosses Glück
Für d'Landslüt i der Fremdi,
Me fühlt sich näher zäme grückt
Ein für Alle, bis ans Ende.

H.E.

August 1955. Uruguay: Der Schweizerclub hielt sein Jahresfest und die Kolonie war stark vertreten durch die Familien: Anderegg, Krähenbühl, Imboden, Bolli und Benteli. Das Fest begann mit dem Lied: Von ferne sei herzlich begrüsst."

With best wishes for success to your outspoken words,

Yours sincerely,

Alter Zürcher.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

Dr. H. P. Zschokke, Zentralpräsident of the N.H.G., Legal Adviser of the "Ciba" Basle, hopes to pay a visit to London which would give him an opportunity of speaking to our Colony on Friday, April 3rd, at "Swiss House," on "Einiges zur politischen und wirtschaftlichen Lage der Schweiz." We believe this to be of sufficient interest as to extend an invitation to the Members of all the Swiss Societies in London. A further announcement will appear in our next issue.