

Swiss open-air parliaments

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7.50 p.m. M. und E. Bernhardsgrütter bereitet eine frohe Stunde.

9.10 p.m. Benno Haller liest lustige Geschichten.

SOTTENS.

SUNDAY, May 10th.

(Greenwich Time).

7.40 p.m. Le dimanche sportif.

8 p.m. L'oeuvre de Chopin.

9 p.m. Concert par l'Orchestre Radio Suisse Romande.

MONDAY, May 11th.

8.35 p.m. Orchestre de genre.

9.30 p.m. L'oeuvre intégrale de J. S. Bach pour orgue.

TUESDAY, May 12th.

8 p.m. Maison, ma petite maison, Féerie Musicale de M. E. Moser.

10 p.m. Les travaux de la S.d.N. par Me. M. W. Suès.

WEDNESDAY, May 13th.

9 p.m. Les Rivaux amis, comédie en 1 acte et en vers par M. Forgeot.

10 p.m. Les travaux de la S.d.N. par Me. M. W. Suès.

THURSDAY, May 14th.

7.45 p.m. Concert par l'Orchestre Radio Suisse Romande.

8.40 p.m. Concert par l'Harmonie de Sion.

10.15 p.m. Les travaux de la S.d.N. Par Me. M. W. Suès.

FRIDAY, May 15th.

8.10 p.m. Quintette de Mozart, pour clarinette et cordes.

9.15 p.m. Cabaret des Sourires.

10.15 p.m. Les travaux de la S.d.N. Par Me. M. W. Suès.

SATURDAY, May 16th.

8.10 p.m. Concert par l'Orchestre Radio Suisse Romande.

9.40 p.m. Concer. par la Fanfare L'avenir.

MONTE CENERI.

SUNDAY, May 10th.

(Greenwich Time).

8 p.m. Il Bernina e la sua Gente.

9.30 p.m. Concerto di Musica Moderna.

10 p.m. Lo Sport Della Domenica.

MONDAY, May 11th.

8 p.m. Trasmissione dalla Svizzera interna.

TUESDAY, May 12th.

8.30 p.m. Calze di Seta, Un atto di Mario Tiranti.

WEDNESDAY, May 13th.

8.50 p.m. Radio Cronaca.

9.45 p.m. Musica popolare.

THURSDAY, May 14th.

8 p.m. Trasmissione dalla Svizzera interna.

FRIDAY, May 15th.

9 p.m. Fem La Comedia? Due attimi brillanti.

SATURDAY, May 16th.

8 p.m. Operette "Classiche."

9.30 p.m. Serata per gli emigranti.

9.50 p.m. Di che parlano i nostri confederati.

SWISS OPEN-AIR PARLIAMENTS.

Switzerland, known the world over as a champion of democracy, has still, in a few of her cantons, an institution dating back to the earlier days of her political evolution. The "Landsgemeinden," or open-air parliaments, have been carried down from the Middle Ages, and to-day exist in Glarus, both Appenzell cantons, Obwalden and Nidwalden.

Once a year, on the last Sunday in April or the first in May, all men of voting age meet together and elect the members of their canton's government. Even the canton's "Landammann," or president, is elected in this outdoor meeting by open vote. At this time, too, the canton's government submits all proposed changes and introductions of law, as well as the annual budget. People come on special trains from all over Switzerland to watch the proceedings.

The earliest written record of the Glarus Landsgemeinde is dated 1387. Yet the first of these meetings was held much earlier, probably at the beginning of the century. Like the old Germanic "Thing," or "Ding," upon which it is based, the Landsgemeinde is also held in an outdoor ring open to the public. On this annual day the town is always rich with an antique, festive atmosphere. People come from the surrounding valleys and mountains, and gather together in the middle of the city. School children throng to their special place in the stand built in the centre of the ring. Each youngster, learning from his elders, begins to realize the inseparability of home, community, and country. Nothing binds the individual so closely to his fatherland as the oath in which he vows loyalty to his native land, and gives cheerfully a small part of his personal freedom for the common welfare.

The Landsgemeinde in Appenzell has naturally been the principal political event in the canton since the heroic time of Switzerland's struggle for independence early in the fifteenth century. Later on, in 1597, Appenzell was divided into two cantons, Appenzell Innerrhoden

and Appenzell Ausserrhoden. Both still hold their Landsgemeinde every year, and the day of the great occasion finds all men of twenty-one and over meeting in the picturesque town square, either in Appenzell, Trogen, or Hundwil. Each man wears a sword, generally an heirloom of the family for generations, or at least his militia bayonet. Rolling drums, shrill piping flutes, clanging church bells, martial music and patriotic songs fill the spring day with festivity. The assemblies are all usually opened with a religious ceremony, everyone finally joining in devout prayer led by a priest. Then there is mass singing of the Landsgemeinde hymn "All Life Comes From Thee." Following this comes the solemn oath of allegiance: "I realize that which is my duty, and I will endeavour to perform it to the best of my ability. In this I hope and pray God will help me." This year, the Landsgemeinde of Appenzell-Ausserrhoden was held in Trogen.

Already in 1309, when they were granted their independence, the towns in the lake of Lucerne district were able to hold the Landsgemeinde as a political institution, and the constitutions provided for a democratic-confederate type of government. In the cantons of Schwyz and Zug the Landsgemeinde existed until 1847, and in Uri until 1928. In the canton of Nidwalden, the Landsgemeinde started in 1398, and to-day meets in the charming town of Wil. Obwalden holds its open-air parliament, existing since 1621, in Sarnen. In Obwalden, old battle horns are sounded, and in Nidwalden, old war banners fluttering over the heads of the crowd, are reminders of the glories of old Helvetia.

Once in the spring of each year, on these days of the Landsgemeinden, the pages of history are turned back, and for a brief moment, the heroic past unites with the present. Everywhere there is a feeling of good will, a deep gratitude for the freedom that is Switzerland's, and a pride in her triumphs—so much greater even in peace than in war.

S.N.T.O.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, May 13th at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting, followed by a lecture by Professor, Dr. G. P. Gooch, on the "European Situation" at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Friday, May 15th at 8 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting with lecture by Doctor med. W. Behrens from Davos-Platz, on: The British Children's Home in Davos, with Lantern slides, at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, May 23rd — Swiss Sports — at Herne Hill.

Saturday, May 23rd — "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) Special Gala Dance — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, June 16th, at 7.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Réunion d'été — at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See Advert.)

Thursday, June 18th — 67th "Fête Suisse" at Central Hall, Westminster.

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Dimanche 10 Mai — 11h. — M. R. Sauty.
Ecole du Dimanche 11h. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

7h. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Sh. — Répétition du Choeur.

Mardi 12 Mai — 3h. — au Foyer-Réunion de Couture.

BAPTEME.

Michel Jean Trembley, né le 16 Mars, 1936, fils de Jean Paul et de Noëlle Gabrielle née East — de Genève — le 2 Mai, 1936.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 10. Mai 1936.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr Chorprobe.

Dienstag, den 5. Mai 1936.

3 Uhr nachm., Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse."

BESTATTUNG.

Am 5. Mai wurde beerdigt: Otto Albert Koenig von Wiggiswil (Bern), geb. am 25.12.1878, gestorben am 30. April.