

A travers la Suisse

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A TRAVERS LA SUISSE

After last Saturday's film show, presented by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group) nobody will be able to argue the point that these performances are not appreciated.

For the first time, since these film shows have been introduced to the Colony, larger and more spacious premises were booked, and instead of two performances, following each other, one show only was instituted, and all who attended agreed that the change had proved to be a great success. The Society as well as Mr. H. W. Jenny, who had placed his organisation and his great experience at the service of the N.S.H., are to be warmly congratulated.—

The show on Saturday introducing sound film for the first time, could almost be described as a *Première*: Kingsway Hall, which has a capacity of seating about two thousand persons, was almost full, and I estimate that at least 1,700 of our compatriots and friends were present.

I do not think that we have ever seen such a big audience, at any particular Swiss function, not even at Central Hall, Westminster. The Society can hardly be blamed for the fact that the atmosphere was far from comfortable, for this the architects should be blamed.

Having, however, voiced some criticism, I would like at this stage, to make one or two further remarks which might be useful for further performances, and I hope they will be accepted in the spirit in which they are tendered.

Although everyone greatly enjoyed the various and remarkable films displayed, I consider that the performance was a trifle too long, 2½ hours would have been ample.

Furthermore on previous occasions a film for the little one's had been shown, such as "Micky Mouse" adventures, or "Felix the cat," which were greatly appreciated by our youngsters, and even we older one's could laugh at their frolics.

For one reason or another, "Felix the cat" and "Micky Mouse" were barred, and some Hollywood "atrocity," acted by children, was instituted; I do not know how our little one's re-acted to this film, but I have seldom seen such "tripe" put on the screen, and if nothing better can be shown, it would be just as well to leave the children film out altogether. —

"Sunny Tessin" was the first film thrown on the screen. All those who have visited in the past this heaven blessed corner of our country must have been delighted, what a host of pleasant memories it must have brought back to all of them.

It is barely ten months since I wended my way up to the sunny slopes of Morcote, to enjoy an unforgettable view, and to pay tribute at the grave side of a great composer and an equally great actor, who are buried in that lovely cemetery. (Eug. D'Albert and Alex. Moissy).

Then again, who ever can forget that lovely walk from Lugano to Gandria, still unspoilt, because the new motoring road, fortunately does not touch this little gem.

All these views and many more were shown, and could anything lovelier be imagined; we are indeed lucky to call the "Sunny Tessin" a part of our homeland.

Next a ski-ing film was shown which greatly amused our youngsters, and also all those who are still "young" enough to indulge in this fine sport.

Then followed a view of Averst Cresta, the highest village in Europe, and here the photography was really sublime, cut off from almost every communication from the big centres of the world, these mountain dwellers live a life of their own, and judging from their happy faces, they are "none the worse for it."

In these days of world turmoil, and almost savage prosecutions of minorities it makes one often long to find a haven of rest, where one can escape from all the tribulations which beset us in this age of a twenty century civilisation. —

We were next taken to the canton of Valais, another beauty spot of our homeland, there we could see the "Matterhorn" in its majestic glory, the "Weisshorn," the "Dufourspitze," the "Gornergrat" surrounded by miles of silvery glaciers, an unforgettable sight, the "Loetschental" awakening in many of us pangs of homesickness, and filling the hearts with an immense longing to visit this earthly paradise once again.

Then again we were transported to the Bernese Oberland, of course, we had the Eiger—Mönch and Jungfrau group and could one find a finer view than these awe inspiring mountains in their celestial beauty?



THE "JUNGFRAU"

Parts of the "Lötschberg" railway were shown with their imposing viaducts and tunnels, masterpieces of Swiss engineering feats.

Another picture took us to fields of lovely mountain flowers, "Alpenrosen," "Edelweiss" and "Gentians," etc. What an inspiring view for all those gardening "fiends."

The "Pièce de résistance" was no doubt the coloured film showing that celebrated summer and winter resort St. Moritz.

Here again it brought back to me many treasured memories of an, alas, only too short a stay early this year; when the Suvretta House appeared with its fine ice rink, I nearly jumped out of my seat, had I not spent golden hours at this very place having as my host this prince of all hoteliers, Colonel Hans Bon.

If ever the time comes, when my earthly pilgrimage is nearing its end, and when one has to say *valet* to this valley of sorrow, I wish I could once again see this lovely little place bathed in sunshine, with the silvery peaks towering over it, it will make the parting from a dreary world easier. —

During the performance, Mr. A. F. Suter, the very energetic President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, addressed and welcomed the big gathering, he pointed out that the new arrangements made also meant greater financial sacrifices to the Society, and he hoped that through the generosity of some of those who enjoyed the performance the continuity of these shows could be assured.

Pasteur Pradervand, in thanking the N.S.H. for their splendid endeavours to bring our country still nearer to us, made a patriotic appeal to all and everyone to help to preserve the independence of that land which is so dear to all of us.

On the occasion of the "Ausland Schweizer Tag" of the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique," which took place in Schaffhausen on the 10th-11th of September, many resolutions were passed to improve the relations of the Swiss living abroad with the home country, much has been achieved, thanks to the unceasing efforts of our friend Dr. A. Lätt, President of the "Auslandschweizer-Kommission," but in spite of a movement, laudably supported by the Swiss Press, to make the "Fünfte Schweiz" a worthy member of the Confederation, a great deal of prejudice will still have to be set aside, before we can be satisfied that those of our comrades, who through force of circumstances have had to return to the homeland after many years of sojourn in foreign countries, will get a square deal.

We have first hand information that many of our compatriots, who have been forced to return to our country, through no fault of their own, are almost unable to find work, whilst thousands of foreigners are in more or less lucrative positions.

There are at present about 355,000 foreigners residing in Switzerland, or about 8.7 per cent. of the total population; of these 134,000 are Germans, 37,000 are French, and 126,000 Italians. It is interesting to note that only 48,000 Swiss are residing in Germany and 16,000 in Italy.

Those who have had an opportunity to study Swiss papers of late, will have noticed, with no little concern, of the agitation which some of these foreigners, who enjoy an almost unrestricted hospitality, are pursuing.

Our Federal authorities have already undertaken steps to suppress any propaganda which might be harmful to our country's independence; in their endeavours they have not only our people at home backing them up but every Swiss living abroad.

We need hardly mention from which country the trouble comes, and we sincerely hope that our authorities will be firm, there must be no propaganda, from whichever country it comes, allowed within the territory of the Confederation; organisations which have a political background should be dissolved and individuals who are trying to propagate a certain "Kultur" which is in contradiction and distasteful to our national ideals, should be forthwith expelled. There must be no policy of "laissez faire" allowed.



THE LOETSCHBERG RAILWAY.



We have of late been made to believe, that our people at home are proud of us Swiss living abroad, we have been hailed as the "Fünfte Schweiz," and although so far we have no rights in influencing the policy of the Federal Government, we claim, at least the moral right, to voice our opinions.

In the past we have been frequently approached for financial support for all kinds of organisations at home; this support has been invariably given in a most generous way.

We had to pay taxes without having the right of a vote and in the near future we may be asked to make still greater sacrifices. These we shall be prepared to make *only* if in return we get a square deal.

We repeat, and consider it our right, to see that those foreigners who act in contradiction to our laws will be dealt with properly and without mercy; we owe this to our comrades who often under trifling excuses are forced to leave the countries where they have been residing for the best part of their lives.

This paper makes it a duty to see that the policy introduced lately by the cantonal and federal authorities will not be relaxed, and we hope to have every member of the Colony behind us.

We shall watch!

ST.

SWISS STALL AT INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS SALE.

A Christmas Sale will be held on Thursday, November 24th, from 11 a.m. to midnight, at the Overseas League, St. James, S.W.1, by the Associated Country Women of the World. Many of you were there last year, and you know what a lovely afternoon it was. This year the Sale will be of an even more splendid character and will last more than three times as long. To those of you who did not go last year may I say that the "Associated Country Women of the World" is the central organisation of almost a hundred country women's societies in about 60 Countries, States and Provinces. The Hon. President is Ishbel, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, and the President is Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.A., M.B.E.

The greatest attraction for you will probably be the Swiss Stall. Through the generous help of various Swiss factories and firms as well as individuals it has been possible to furnish it very richly. I shall not tell you now of all the charming Christmas gifts you will be able to buy and I shall say nothing about all the good Swiss food you can get at the Swiss Stall.

Apart from many stalls of different countries you will be able to see an attraction every hour. Madame Colban, wife of the Norwegian Minister, will raise the national flags at 11 a.m. At 3 p.m. the official opening will be performed by Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire. There will be a play, a Dutch Auction and from 8 to 12 midnight there will be dancing. Don't you think that it will be worth while going there? And the admission is very moderate, 1/- from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 2/6 from 8 p.m. to midnight (evening dress).

I sincerely hope that many of my compatriots will come. Apart from helping a good cause you will enjoy yourselves very much indeed.

Mariann.

(Ed. Note:)

Mrs. Mariann Meier is the Swiss Representative on the Executive Committee of the A.C.W.W. and one of the Vice-Chairmen. She will be in charge of the Swiss Stall, and Mrs. W. Schedler, Mrs. M. Nash-Weber and Mrs. M. Bruggisser will help her.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY. CITY SWISS CLUB.

We wish to state that members of the Swiss Colony who desire to attend the Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club, which will take place on Friday, November 25th, at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W., should book their tickets not later than Tuesday, November 22nd noon. (In order to avoid disappointment re seating, it is essential that all applications should be made by this date).

"BENEFICHIAMO."

The popular Concert and Dance which the Unione Ticinese organize annually in aid of the "Fonds de Secours" will this year be held at

"PAGANI'S," 42-48, Great Portland Street, W.1, on the evening of Tuesday, November 29th.

The following artists, have already promised to contribute to the interesting programme:

Signorina Eva Cattaneo, soprano;
Signorina Marietta Albertolli, mezzo soprano;
Monsieur Howard de Courcy, deceptionist;
Monsieur A. Gandon, accordeonist;
Messrs. Théodore Weil and E. P. Dick, violin and piano.

Tickets, at the modest price of 3/- (including Tax) may be had from any Committee member or direct from the Secretary, Mr. P. De Maria, 4, Luxembourg Gardens, W.6.

The Organizers hope that, in view of the very deserving cause, everyone will make an effort to attend.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, November 24th — 8.30 p.m.-2 a.m. — Helvetia Club — "Old Friends" Dinner and Dance, at 1, Gerrard Place. (See advert.)

Friday, November 25th — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Tuesday, November 29th — Unione Ticinese — Concert and Ball in aid of the Fonds de Secours, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Monday, December 12th, at 7h. — L'Escalade Dinner at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W. (For tickets apply to committee members or the *Swiss Observer*.) (See notice.)

Wednesday, February 22nd, 1939 — Unione Ticinese — Annual Banquet and Ball, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

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Dimanche 20 novembre 1938 :

11h. — Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

11h. — Ecole du dimanche.

6h.30 — Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

7h.30 — Répétition du Chœur.

BAPTEME.

Le 13 novembre, Brenda-Marguerite-Louise Whittall, fille d'Herbert et de Marguerite née Malosse, née le 26.6.1938.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Le 14 novembre, Alice-Marceline-Céline Guignard, née Francey, du Sentier (Vaud), âgée de 58 ans.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 20. November 1938. Totensonntag.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst u. Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.