

70th Fête suisse

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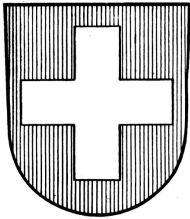
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70th



FÊTE SUISSE

The "Fête Suisse" too, has passed a mile stone, and the seventieth Anniversary was celebrated very happily at the Central Hall, on Thursday, June 15th.

Those pessimists who predicted that the attendance this year might not reach previous figures were wrong; not only were last year's record figures reached (1,599) but a further record was established as over 1,600 people attended; a splendid testimonial for the popularity of the "Fête Suisse."

There are various reasons why this annual gathering proves to be such a draw, first of all a very attractive programme is presented, and secondly, the material wants of the company are not neglected; but to my mind the chief reason of the increasing popularity is, that we Swiss feel the urge to get in closer contact with one another.

There are heavy and threatening clouds on the horizon, and at any time, the storm may break upon us in all its fury; we have to be prepared for this, so that we can help each other, when help will be needed, and for this reason we must get closer together to establish that contact which has made our little country strong and united. —

I have written so many accounts of this Annual gathering in the past, that I feel, I must shorten this year's report somehow. I am not doing this for any other reason, because I enjoyed this Festival from beginning to end, and whilst in the past I sometimes voiced some criticism, this year I have hardly any complaints.

Although, this year for the first time, the middle part of the Gallery was opened to the public, the congestion in the "Foyer" was still very noticeable, and at times it was almost impossible to pass from one end to the other, and I think this question should again be studied by the organisers. As an example of how uncomfortable it was to walk only a few yards, I would describe my own experience. I was sent to purchase a plate of those delightful strawberries, and after having been pushed, squeezed, sworn at and bullied, I emerged from the "maddening crowd" with half of the strawberries lost, some of the cream on my waistcoat, and some kind person had dabbed his mustard, which ought to have gone on the "Wienerli's" on my back. Although I had lost some of the strawberries, one sweet little girl put half a strawberry tartlet upon my plate, saying that having eaten six, she simply could not "carry on" any longer, it was sweet of her, but not much use to me, I am afraid.

There were the usual stalls again in the Foyer behind which charming Ladies, some dressed in our becoming national costumes, (I wish more Swiss costumes could be seen) sold Alpine flowers, "Käppli's" silk handkerchiefs, etc., etc., even sets of Swiss stamps were to be had. In addition little flags from the various cantons were for sale.

The programme started punctually, with an organ Solo, played by Mr. E. P. Dick; he started his musical interlude with a melody "Leise, leise fromme Weise" from the "Freischütz" opera, ending it with the hymn, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott." I was somehow at a loss to understand, why the audience had to stand up for the first part, whilst when the Hymn was played, they were asked to sit down, I think it ought to have been the reverse.

After the organ recital the gathering sang the National Hymn, "Trittst im Morgenrot daher," and as they "had been had" before, they sang it sitting, which was wrong.

Owing to the fact that the Swiss Minister was unfortunately unable to reach the Hall in time for the official opening of the Fête, owing to a previous engagement, this ceremony was dispensed with.

Amidst great applause, a number of young Ladies and Gentlemen appeared on the platform, all dressed in Swiss costumes, it was the Swiss Accordion Club, and they played a March "Frohe Heimkehr" and a "Walzer Ländler" called "In der Reblauben." They played very well under the conductorship of their efficient conductor, Mr. A. L. Gandon, and the hearty applause which their

performance earned proved that the audience thoroughly enjoyed their playing.

The next item consisted of a pianoforte solo, by Mr. Rolf Senn, who played the "Polonaise" (A flat major) from Chopin and Valse (G flat major) also from Chopin, with much warmth and efficiency. This creditable performance was much applauded.

Then came the turn of the youngsters of the Colony, a choir of the children sang "Autour du Clocher" by Grunholzer. Although they were rather shy in the beginning, they "warmed up" during the performance and finished very lustily, everybody greatly applauded the efforts of our young friends.

Suddenly a tremendous applause could be heard, and dressed in the costume of the canton of Thurgau appeared, full of smiles, Mme. Maria Aus der Au, who came specially from Switzerland to give us a number of her famous "Yodeling" songs. Mme. Aus-der-Au who is no stranger to the London Swiss Colony, having sung a few months previously at the Swiss Orchestral Society concert, at once captured the hearts of everybody in the way in which she rendered her songs, she has an attractive voice, and she knows how to make use of it. The applause was a thundering one, and she had to give a few encores.

This concluded the first part of the concert, and everyone then filed out into the two "Foyers" to partake of the many delicious refreshments, such as "Wienerli's," strawberry tartlets, flans, sandwiches, ices, coffee, lemonade, etc., etc.

As in former years, the "Wienerli" counter had to stand the biggest onslaught, and some of the younger generation, fought almost savagely to get there, it looked as if they were on the verge of starvation, a little more restraint in the eagerness to still their material wants would not have been out of place.

The calm and usual courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid (Glendower Hotel) and their large staff, who were in charge of the catering arrangements, was a fine contrast, and they are warmly

to be congratulated on the efficient way in which they carried out their duties. I am told that over 1,500 pairs of "Wienerli's" were consumed apart from hundreds of other delicacies. (The former were supplied by Mr. O. Bartholdi, surely a fine compliment to the excellency of his goods). —

The second part of the programme was started by the Swiss Orchestral Society under the conductorship of that versatile member of our Colony, Mr. E. P. Dick. They played the well-known March "Roulez Tambours" with much gusto, it was followed by a Potpourri of Swiss Folk songs, and everyone joined in singing, those lovely folk tunes, which many of us have sung years ago, when we were children, they awoke happy and tender memories.

Really well played, was Suppé's overture "Morning, Noon and Night," the orchestra, made, what is called a direct hit, no wonder that a storm of applause went through the big Hall. An English friend of mine, nearly jumped out of his skin with enthusiasm, his only regret was, that during the Potpourri of Swiss songs the orchestra did not include that lovely song "Oh mein Heimatland," because he, for months, had practiced that song, and he was eager to show his Swiss friends, and I think also his wife, what an Englishman can do. Well we will see that his beautiful voice can be heard next year. —

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, who had arrived in the meantime gave a short address, which was followed by a patriotic oration by Pasteur Pradervand.

Again the Swiss Orchestral Society appeared, this time they played the William Tell Overture from Rossini, if the "second fiddlers" would have followed the example of the rest of the orchestra this performance would have been almost perfect.

Both Mme. Aus-der-Au and the Swiss Accordion Club appeared in the second half and earned great applause, those who heard Mme. Aus-der-Au sing, "s'Mieterli" will not soon forget it.

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The Swiss Choral Society conducted by Mr. E. P. Dick, then followed, considering that they are still a trifle out of practice they have made fine progress, I particularly liked the song "Addio la Caserma" which was really well sung, and the "Mein Schweizerland Wach auf" in the *Finale* together with the orchestra; many of us will look forward to hear this choir again, which has been dormant far too long.

Mr. E. P. Dick, who I understand is responsible for the *finale*, is to be congratulated on his fine idea, it was a befitting ending to a really enjoyable evening.

After the Swiss National Anthem had been sung, the company slowly dispersed. —

It would be ungrateful not to pass thanks to all those who have worked so hard and given their support to this 70th Fête Suisse. The Committee, headed by Mr. A. F. Suter, deserve the appreciation of the large gathering, equally entitled to thanks are the artistes (all of Swiss nationality), and I wish to single out Mr. E. P. Dick, who worked like a Trojan. Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid, also should not be forgotten, they can claim a large part of the success, heartiest thanks should go to the various stall holders for their hard work.

The schoolchildren in Switzerland, who so kindly gathered the Alpine flowers on the slopes of our lovely mountains, and sent them to us by "Swissair" as a greeting from our homeland will be remembered in many a grateful heart.

And thus we can look back to this 70th Fête Suisse with real joy, and let us hope that a kind providence will allow us to gather together once more next year to celebrate this Festival of unity and strength in perfect peace, in this noble land which accords us such generous hospitality.

This is my ardent and most sincere wish.

ST.

FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION, LUCERNE.

The following letter has been sent to the Swiss Minister in London, by the "Gabenkomitee":

Luzern, den 31. Mai 1939.

Sehr geehrter Herr Minister,

Wir erhielten Ihre beiden Schreiben vom 2. und 23. Mai 1939 betreffend die Gabensammlung in England und bestätigten den Empfang der uns übersandten

£97. 8. — Check auf London

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Fr.100.— Check auf London.

Sodann nehmen wir gerne zu Kenntnis, dass das "London Swiss Rifle Team" eine Ehrengabe im Werte von Fr.350.— und die "Société Culinnaire Suisse" eine solche im Betrage von Fr.180.— überbringen wird.

Das prächtige Resultat, das ein Mehrfaches der Sammlungen für die beiden letzten Schützenfeste in Bellinzona und Freiburg beträgt, freut uns ausserordentlich und wir sprechen Ihnen für Ihre grossen und erfolgreichen Bemühungen um ein gutes Ergebnis unsern verbindlichsten Dank aus. Wir bitten Sie, allen Spendern für Ihre Beiträge, die wir als ein Zeichen der Verbundenheit unserer Landsleute in England mit der Heimat entgegengenommen haben, unsern herzlichen Dank auszusprechen.

Den Mitgliedern des Organisationskomitees, welche mit der Sammlung in England betraut wurden, haben wir persönlich und direkt für ihre grosse Mühe und den schönen Erfolg gedankt.

Genehmigen Sie, sehr geehrter Herr Minister, die Versicherung unserer vorzüglichen Hochachtung.

Eidg. Schützenfest Luzern 1939,

Für das Gabenkomitee:

Der Präsident: Der Rechnungsführer:
(Gez.) F. Ringwald (Gez.) Weber.

PERSONAL.

We are delighted to inform the many friends of M. Louis Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club, that the operation which he underwent recently has been successful and that he is now on the way to recovery. We are sending our best wishes to M. L. Chapuis for a speedy and complete recovery.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dupraz, who are celebrating on the 4th of next month their Silver Wedding anniversary.

A ENDELL STREET.

L'Eglise Suisse célébrera dimanche 25 juin 25 anniversaires qui lui tiennent à cœur.

Au culte du matin, à 11h., ce sera le 25e anniversaire de l'Ecole du dimanche, fondée en 1914 par M. et Mme. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. On entendra les enfants, qui redonneront le Chœur de la Fête Suisse, ainsi qu'un cantique.

Le soir, à 7h., ce sera le culte de fête pour célébrer le 177e anniversaire de l'Eglise Suisse. Le Chœur mixte chantera.

Le 25 juin sera une grande journée pour l'Eglise Suisse. Faites votre possible pour y participer.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, June 27th at 7.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Réunion d'été — at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (Ladies invited.)

Tuesday, August 1st — National Day Celebration at St. Pancras Hall.

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Dimanche 25 juin 1939:

11h. Culte de Fête à l'occasion du 25e anniversaire de l'Ecole du dimanche. Chœur d'enfants et soliste. M. M. Pradervand.

7h. Culte spécial à l'occasion du 177e anniversaire de l'Eglise Suisse. Le Chœur chantera. M. M. Pradervand.

Jeudi 29 juin, à 8 p.m., au Foyer Suisse,

Soirée missionnaire à l'occasion du départ de 5 missionnaires.

Invitation à tous les paroissiens.

Samedi 1er juillet.

Course de l'Ecole du dimanche. Rendez-vous à 9h.45 devant l'Eglise.

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Sonntag, den 25. Juni:

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst
Pfr. E. Bommeli.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst
Pfr. E. Bommeli.

Anfragen wegen Religions — bzw. Konfirmanden Unterricht sind erbeten an Herrn Pfarrer E. Bommeli. Sprechstunden: Jeden Dienstag von 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche. Jeden Mittwoch von 5-6 Uhr im Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

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