

72nd Fête suisse

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bank, and the resolution passed to that effect by the Bretton Woods Conference will not be carried out."

Humanitarian

The first batch of British War Invalids have arrived in Prévéranges near Morges, where they will stay for three months. An amount of Frs.300,000 has been collected in Switzerland for British War Invalids of which nearly half of this amount has been collected in the canton of Berne.

—oOo—

The Swiss "Schiller Foundation" held its Annual Meeting in Zurich under the Presidency of Professor Robert Faesi. The following awards for 1946 have been accorded:—

German language sphere: Ernst Zahn, frs.2,000.— on the occasion of his 80th birthday; Albert Ehrismann (Zurich), Hermann Hiltbrunner (Uerikon), and Werner Kaegi (Basel), frs.1,000.— each; J. V. Kopp (Lucerne), Cecil J. Loos (Basel), and Emanuel Stickelberger (Basel), frs. 1,000.— each; Marie Frei-Uhler (Zurich), Max Pulver (Zurich), and Karl Schoelly (St. Gall), frs.700.— each.

French language sphere: Renè Morax (Morges) frs.1,500.—; Léon Bopp (Geneva) frs.800.— and Maurice Kuès (Geneva) frs.700.—.

Italian language sphere: Ulisse Pocobelli glanco (Melide); and Enrico Talamona (Lugano) frs.500.— each; Felice Filippini (Lugano), and Giovanni Boffa (Agne) frs.300.— each.

Romantsch language sphere: Frs.1,000.— to the "Lia Rumantscha.

* * *

The next Federal Singing competition will take place in Berne in the month of June in 1948.

* * *

Five members of a Swiss mountaineering expedition which will soon start climbing operations in the Karakoram and Gangotri ranges in the Himalayas have arrived at Karachi. The expedition will divide itself into two parties. One will proceed to Gilgit, reaching the foot of the Karakoram in June, while the second party will follow the pilgrims' trail through Badrinath to the Gangotri peak, where the River Ganges rises.

* * *

Statistics for last year show a great improvement in Switzerland's demographic situation which for years has been causing considerable concern.

Last year the number of marriages was 38,747, the highest ever attained in Switzerland.

Births also show a considerable increase — 89,102 — only 8,000 less than the highest figure ever recorded, which was in 1901.

Last year the birthrate exceeded 20 per thousand, the minimum recorded being approximately 14 per thousand in 1937. The proportion of births over deaths was 38,867 beating the 1902 record by 88.

The situation is stated to be due to progressive social legislation and improved economic conditions.

During the last 30 years military statistics show that the average height of males in Switzerland has increased about two inches.

72nd FETE SUISSE.

As announced elsewhere in this paper, the traditional Fête Suisse — the 72nd of its kind — will be held on Saturday, 14th June, at 5.30 p.m. at the Central Hall, Westminster.

This ancient annual reunion, which dates from 1864, needs no introduction to the Swiss residents of London. Its popularity, its strong patriotic appeal have made it what it is. And well they know why more hundreds from year to year have flocked to it until the 1,000 mark was passed in 1935 to reach nearly 1,600 in 1939. Then came the war, which put a temporary stop to this great gathering and sent home a good many of our young people. Last year, this annual event in the Swiss colony was renewed; over 900 compatriots and friends patronised it and showed that the Fête Suisse had not been forgotten but, indeed, had remained dear to their heart.

Once again, an attractive programme has been arranged which will delight all, old and young, and will bring back happy memories, to many. Real alpine flowers freshly gathered from our mountains will, it is hoped, arrive in time to bring greetings from our homeland.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. There will be the usual long interval in the programme to enable friends to meet, and the end is timed for 9 p.m. There will be teas and light refreshments for all, and how good they always are!

So do come to the Central Hall on Saturday, 14th June. Tickets at 2/- for adults and 1/- for children can be obtained in advance or at the door on the day. Incidentally, you will help the Swiss Benevolent Society.

J. Z.

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