

Reports re First of august Celebration

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(Valais). During the interval the ladies in particular would have welcomed a cup of tea, but this alas! was not to be had; on the other hand, there were some ices on sale, in which a brisk trade was being done, especially amongst the younger generation.

When the bell sounded for the second half of the programme, people hurried back to their seats, riveting their attention on the stage in pleasurable anticipation. This second half was again on similar lines, except for the introduction of two young and budding artistes in the persons of Miss Janine Gandon and Master Norman Boehm, both 12 years of age, who proved their versatility on the accordion and were rewarded not only with great applause, but also with a small gift, handed to them by Mr. Sommer. It is also pleasing to record that Mrs. Vreni Kneubuhl, on having completed the second group of her Jodel songs, was presented, by a little girl, with a beautiful and well deserved bouquet of flowers, which she gracefully acknowledged.

At the close of the musical programme, Mr. F. G. Sommer, President of the Organising Committee, addressed the audience in a few well chosen words. He expressed the hope that the programme had been well chosen and to every one's satisfaction and enjoyment. He next tendered his warm thanks to all the members of his committee for their great assistance and remarked that he must single out Mr. A. Gandon, the Secretary, who undertook not only the allocation and distribution of over 2,000 tickets, but who was also largely responsible for the arrangement of the programme. Mr. Gandon is well known as the energetic leader and conductor of the Swiss Accordion Club, but he has now revealed himself as a first class and untiring organiser. The generous reference to his services was loudly cheered. Finally, Mr. Sommer reminded his audience that our 1st August celebration at one of London's largest Theatres, without a charge for any of the seats, was made possible solely by the great generosity of some members of the Swiss Colony in London who, as in previous years, had again made this possible, but still wished to remain anonymous. Also this announcement was loudly cheered by the large assembly in token of sincere gratitude. Only Mr. Sommer himself, as President of the function, went without personal thanks, but his great modesty is well known and his work fully appreciated by all those who can gauge what it means to successfully organise a celebration on so large a scale. The proceedings ended with the singing of our National Anthem, which was again led by the Swiss Male Choir, accompanied by the accordionists. This time, however, the large assembly joined in wholeheartedly and fervently. Maybe that many of our English friends sang God Save The King, the tune of the two anthems being identical and why not? We all wish a long life and a happy reign to the monarch, whose land gives us hospitality and which to many of us has become a second home.

And so another 1st August celebration came to its close; a lovely and memorable one. As we left, passing through the lofty Foyer, once more greeting briefly our many friends, we were filled with beautiful impressions and precious reminiscences of our beloved homeland. May God protect it through the coming year, as He has done so graciously in the past and may we ever prove ourselves worthy sons and daughters of HELVETIA.

GALLUS.

JOURNEE DES SUISSES DE L'ETRANGER.

Nous rappelons à nos compatriotes le congrès annuel de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique qui aura lieu au Casino de Montbenon, à Lausanne, du 1er au 3 septembre. Voici les grandes lignes du programme :

Vendredi 1er septembre

- 14h. 30 Séance de la Commission des Suisses à l'étranger.
- 16h. 00 Séance élargie de la Commission des Suisses à l'étranger avec quelques délégués de nos colonies.
- 17h. 00 Séance consacrée aux questions concernant les Suisses rentrés de l'étranger.
- 20h. 00 Discussion sur des questions d'ordre général concernant nos colonies notamment celles de Grande-Bretagne et d'outre-mer.

Samedi 2 septembre

- 09h. 00 Séance plénière :
"La nationalité suisse et l'avant-projet d'une loi fédérale." Exposé introductif. Rapport des colonies sur la question. Libre discussion.
- 12h. 00 Allocution de M. le conseiller fédéral Rodolphe Rubattel, chef du Département fédéral de l'économie publique.
- 13h. 00 Déjeuner en commun des délégués (Casino de Montbenon).
- 15h. 00 Séances destinées aux délibérations séparées des colonies de divers pays.
- 17h. 00 Séance des Suisses d'Italie.
- 20h. 30 Soirée familiale.

Dimanche 3 septembre

- 10h. 30 Départ d'Ouchy, tour sur le lac Léman et visite du Château de Chillon.

REPORTS RE FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION.

Other reports regarding the above-mentioned celebration in the Provinces, have reached us too late for insertion in this issue, they will be published in our number of August 25th, 1950.

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1st OF AUGUST AT "THE MYLLET."

Proudly the Swiss flag flew over "The Myllet", Western Avenue, Perivale, on Tuesday, August 1st, 1950, the 659th birthday of our country.

I have always regretted, that it is not possible to hold the Colony's celebration on the actual day (1st of August) as it would greatly add to the "Stimmung", but somehow or other this seems not to be possible (unless it falls on a Sunday) as a great number of our compatriots would, apparently, be unable to attend.

To make amends for this, our countryman, Mr. Albert Widmer of "The Myllet", arranged a little celebration, *en famille*, which turned out to be a great success.

There was an excellent dinner, as could be expected, complete with Swiss wines of famous vintages, and there was an excellent dance band, attired in the colours of the rainbow, but the *clou* of the evening was, undoubtedly, the collaboration of the Swiss Accordion Club, under the leadership of Mr. A. L. Gandon and Frau Vreni Kneubühl, from Landiswil (Emmenthal) the charming yodeller, who, at the Colony's celebration at the Stoll Theatre, scored such an undeniable success.

Mr. Gandon, the vivacious conductor of the Accordion Club, acted as M.C., and he did his job well. He also made a speech, and here I have to make an admission; having listened to so many speeches throughout the year, I had made up my mind not to listen any more to orations, previous to my departure for a holiday to Switzerland. Thus I am unfortunately unable to report about it, which saves me, and my readers, a lot of trouble, but my "assistant" tells me that it was a very nice speech, during which the names of various prominent people in the Swiss Colony were mentioned, even the writer was asked to rise from his seat, but what for, I have not the slightest notion, and I here and now tender my sincere apologies to Mr. Gandon for my inattention, I was so busily engaged talking over holiday plans, with my charming table neighbour, who will, together with her husband, accompany us to the "fair fields" of the canton of Valais in a few days time.

There was also dancing, but the space allotted for this pastime, was so restricted, owing to the great number of diners present, that one got more "knocks" than dancing. "Ländler" and barn dances had to be danced in a very sedate manner, which was a great pity, as I longed to "swing" my partner "all over the show".

This most enjoyable celebration finished with the singing of the Swiss National Anthem, at a time I am really nervous to divulge, but the host and hostess almost implored us to "go home", lest they would be, quite reluctantly, asked to be the guests of H.M. prison authorities.

ST.

NEWS FROM THE LEGATION.

The Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté have left for Switzerland. They will be absent until the middle of October.

During the absence of the Minister, Monsieur F. Rothenbühler, will act as Chargé d'affaires.

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