

Journée des Suisses de l'étranger

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1954)**

Heft 1235

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692886>

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CABARET RUEBLISAFT.

A pleasant entertainment for our Colony.

We have pleasure in announcing an early performance in London of the Swiss Cabaret Rüeblisaft from Zürich. It is a new enterprise of a small group of young artistes in the field of inoffensive political satire and good-humoured parody of everyday life in our homeland. The Cabaret Rüeblisaft, scarcely a year old, has taken the whole of Germanic Switzerland in a storm of delighted applause. Their programme also includes some French numbers and possibly one or two English ones.

The Cabaret Rüeblisaft has been invited to London for this performance on October 20th (details see advertisement) by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique to provide the Colony with a little wholesome fun. The artistes receive no fee, but the costs are fairly heavy. The N.S.H. is this time bearing the whole risk alone in the confident hope that the other societies and the Colony at large will take full advantage of this opportunity and thus help to cover the costs. A pleasant evening full of laughter will reward them.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 24th, 1954.

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JOURNEE DES SUISES DE L'ETRANGER.

Geneva, August 27/29.

The annual gathering of the representatives of Swiss Colonies, organised by the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'étranger, an off-shoot of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, was this time held at Geneva. Some 200 Swiss living abroad were present, including from our own Colony: Dr. H. W. Egli, Prof Inebnit and Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Suter, as well as our Consul Jakob Huber. As always many high officials of the Federal and Cantonal authorities attended the meetings to hear the wishes and complaints of the Swiss abroad, to explain their own difficulties and intentions and to assure the gathering of their goodwill. The President of the Federal Council Rodolphe Rubattel, the President of the National Council Henri Perret, State Councillor Adrien Lachenal and the President of the Conseil d'Etat de Genève addressed the meeting.

In the first session, devoted to the Swiss living in English speaking countries, Dr. Egli expressed our appreciation of the conclusion of a Social Insurance Agreement with Great Britain, of the great benefits of the Old Age Insurance Scheme available to the Swiss abroad on advantageous terms, of the newly granted facility for formerly Swiss women to reacquire Swiss nationality, and of the progress of the negotiations for a double-taxation agreement about to be concluded. On the other hand he condemned the recent referendum against the Federal Government's offer of devoting a fund of 121.5 million Swiss francs, received from Germany in connection with the Washington agreement and the German clearing debt to Switzerland, to a specially liberal assistance of all sufferers of war-damage still in need of help. The referendum led to the rejection of this plan with the result that the 121 million francs may be lost forever to the Swiss abroad and that the assistance to those in need may fall far short of what was intended. The claim put forward by the organisers of the referendum, that the said sum or part of it should be distributed to all victims of war-damage irrespective of their need, was described by Dr. Egli as unjustified and immoral and completely at variance with at least our Colony's thinking on the matter. For this once the trouble-makers, who have been poisoning the atmosphere at many previous journées remained utterly silent. Having succeeded in their irresponsible enterprise they are appalled too late of the consequences of their folly.

The chief problem of most Swiss Colonies in Europe remains how to attract new-comers from the homeland. The answer in each case is principally to make them as welcome as possible in the Colony, to help them in all difficulties and to provide agreeable conditions for them. The initiative and effort must come from the Colonies, the necessary support from the homeland will not be lacking, as was made clear by officials and organisations concerned in reply to the interesting discussion at this journée.

H.E.

PINSCHEWER FILMS.

The Swiss folk-songs cartoon films of the Swiss producer Julius Pinschewer which were shown last month to the Swiss Colony in London, have been admitted to the Edinburgh film festival.