

Reform of the calendar

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to him and 'The Torch' at the first night at the Apollo. Mr. John Knittel, the author, furnishes many violent contrasts and some exceptionally vigorous scenes, but he lacks the art of finished stagecraft, and is apt to strain situations."

The *Western Morning News and Mercury* describes the first night:—

"'The Torch,' the new play at the Apollo Theatre, was witnessed by a large and distinguished audience. Maurice Moscovitch, the Russian actor, knows his public, for as soon as the doors opened 'full house' boards told their own tale. The story is very old, simple and full of emotions. Equally volcanic was the audience. They shouted, raved, cheered, whistled."

From the *Nation* comes bewilderment:—

"I profess I am unable to criticize the play at the Apollo. If the extraordinary family, whose gambols in this world of sense it illustrates, had appeared in a moon of Jupiter, or the Valley of the Roc's Egg, I could not have been more dumb-founded than by their appearance of existing in Switzerland, and by their adventures in that divine but unexciting land. Mr. Moscovitch has been given one or two chances of showing the natural force and dignity of his incomparable manner, and he makes the most of them. With this I retire into the silence begotten of pure amazement."

From the *Illustrated London News*. At last! One witty critic who likes the last act!

"It is a pleasure to see these reformed characters led in by the ineffable Abel Winkelried, The father embraces as many children as his arms will hold, while strong sons lift their young arms in gestures expressive of hope and faith. The whole was oddly reminiscent of the 'Swiss Family Robinson,' and one expected to see a flock of mountain goats, if not a real chamois or two, gambolling round the performers. But not so much as a cow put her head out of a stall to add her voice to the general applause."

Taken at random:—
"A thrill of the first magnitude."
"A tremendous opportunity for large-scale acting of the old romantic type."

"'The Torch'—well, I like it, and the part gives me great opportunities; the strength of it appeals to me; I have worked hard at it, and I believe in it."—MOSCOVITCH.

"The burgomaster takes to the woods and the mountains, where, unhappily, we do not see him. We should like to admire a Swiss burgomaster on a Swiss peak."

Mr. J. Knittel wishes to give all his compatriots, resident in London, an opportunity of seeing his play at moderate prices.

We, therefore, have pleasure in announcing that a reduction of 50% on all reserved seats will be allowed during next week's run of "The Torch" at the Apollo Theatre to anyone presenting at the box office the coupon printed below:—

"THE TORCH"

JOHN KNITTEL.

"Swiss Observer" Subscribers' Coupon

entitles holder to one ticket at half-price in all reserved parts of the Theatre during the week commencing October 2nd (except Saturday).

Ordinary prices of seats:—

Stalls	...	...	10/6	tax extra
Dress Circle	...	...	7/6	"
Upper Circle	...	...	5/-	"

S.O.—29. 9. 22.

REFORM OF THE CALENDAR.

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

Sir,—By courtesy of the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce, my attention has been called to the very interesting articles on this subject in your issues of 25th March and 1st April last. My thanks are due to the writer for his very generous appreciation of my modest brochure "Bank Holidays Fixed—Father Time Interviewed."

It is quite true, as he remarks, that I was unaware of the very considerable progress already made towards realizing this reform, nor of the name of Professor Grosclaude, the author of the pioneer Geneva scheme. That I was not alone in this ignorance is proved by the fact that although many newspapers both in London and the Provinces referred to my proposal—amongst others "The Times," "The Daily News," "The Financial Times" and "The Statist"—no reference was made to the author of the Swiss scheme, nor indeed to any other proposal, except in one instance to the Swiss and American plans in general terms. Furthermore, such well-known public men as Dr. Clifford, Dr. Orchard, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, Mr. W. A. Appleton, Mr. T. E. Naylor, M.P., Sir Francis Harrison Smith, Bart., R.N., and several others who wrote to my publishers with approval of the proposal, made no reference to any other, evidently regarding it as new.

I now recognise that practically the only new feature of any importance in it is my suggestion that the Intercalary Day should be Christmas Day, but I expressly pointed out in my pamphlet that this is not an essential feature. Indeed, as I have since written to the Chamber of Commerce Journal in a letter published in that journal on 30th June last, it is not only possible, but desirable in view of the attitude of the Churches, for Calendar Reformers to promote legislation for the adoption of an unchangeable and perpetual Calendar, without any alteration of existing Church festivals, in pursuance of the resolution adopted unanimously by the International Chamber of Commerce in 1921. If this step be taken, it is more than likely that the Churches would then gladly avail themselves of the opportunity thus presented to them of co-operating in the appointment of fixed anniversaries for what are now moveable festivals, and which must so remain as long as the Calendar exists in its present form.

But before initiating legislation, Calendar Reformers must agree between themselves as to the best scheme. Twenty years and more have gone by since Professor Grosclaude propounded his scheme! Each of the various authors of other schemes believes, quite naturally, that his own is the best. It will only be by all Reformers obtaining a full knowledge of all proposals, and hearing arguments for and against, that any agreement on any particular scheme can be arrived at.

In my letter before referred to an appeal was made to all to sink minor differences and join forces to make a combined push for this great reform in the interests of commerce throughout the world. In an editorial note, the Editor of the Journal was good enough to refer to this appeal as an excellent one, and added: "Possibly a round-table conference would be the best means to this end."

In pursuance of this suggestion arrangements are being made for an informal conference on the subject in London some day in October of those who are interested in the Reform. The main object of this conference would be to decide on a plan of campaign. I am convinced that once this first step can be taken of bringing together the sponsors of various schemes, all having the one common object of a Reform of the Calendar, but also keeping an open mind as to the method and details of carrying that object into effect, it will be possible to devise such an effective plan of campaign as will overcome the "pure inertia" which, as Bernard Shaw has said, is really the only obstacle to the carrying out of so desirable a reform.

May I solicit your valuable assistance by publishing this letter and inviting suggestions from any of your readers who are interested.

London, Sept. 21st, 1922.

Yours faithfully,

W. ARNOLD.

FOYER SUISSE.

We understand that the Council of Management of the above concern is at present negotiating for the purchase of extensive premises in the immediate vicinity of Russell Square. Full particulars will be forthcoming as soon as arrangements permit.