

Swiss national day celebration

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THE SWISS MINISTER'S OPENING ADDRESS.

Reading from left to right: Pasteur M. Pradervand, The Swiss Minister M. Paul Ruegger, Col. Ch. de Watteville, Rev. A. Lanfranchi.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

1291



1945

at STOLL THEATRE, KINGSWAY, W.C.2

on SUNDAY, 29th JULY, 1945.

The "cease-fire" has sounded over the four quarters of the globe, the sword has been put back in its scabbard, and with it a period of wanton destruction, untold miseries and sufferings has come to its close.

The shadows of night which have spread for so long over a war weary world, have been pierced by the golden sunrises of Peace, the first messengers of a hope that from the ruins of the past a better and a more just world may arise, a world in which the family of nations can live in peace, sharing with each other the good things which Providence has showered on them for the short span of their earthly life.

During the wave of intense relief which has swept, like a hurricane, from North to East, and South to West, our country has celebrated its 654th anniversary of its foundation.

On this memorable occasion it behoves us, to bend our knees and bow our heads in humbleness and gratitude to God Almighty for having spared us from the horrors of war. With a deep sense of thankfulness,

we have remembered on this 1st of August all those who have so gallantly fought and given their lives for those principles which are the key-stone of our constitution.

We thank our Government which has steered the ship of State passed many a dangerous cliff safe to port, for their undeviating will to uphold our century old neutrality; we thank our valiant army for their determination to fight and cast out any intruder who might be tempted to cross our borders; we thank the Swiss people for having borne steadfastly all the privations imposed on them, and for having during these nearly six years of conflagration opened their hearts and purses to mitigate the sufferings of millions of their fellowmen.—

In order to give a chance to as many as possible, to foregather and celebrate the birthday of the Swiss Confederation, it was decided that the London Swiss should meet on Sunday, July 29th, two days previous to the actual date. The organising committee under the wise guidance of that great humanitarian Dr.

Kullmann is to be congratulated on having acted with foresight in acquiring again a theatre which ranks amongst one of the largest in London.

Thanks are due also to all those generous and anonymous donors, who, by their splendid gifts, made it possible to hire these premises. In the report I made of the last 1st of August celebration two years ago, I suggested that in future admission should be by ticket only, in order to prevent unauthorised people gaining access, and I am glad that my tentative proposal was acted upon. Thus some of the not very edifying scenes which occurred previously, were eliminated, and everything worked very smoothly and according to plan.

The theatre was again gaily decorated with large and small Swiss flags and the twenty-four cantonal escutcheons. Much admired was the floral decoration presented by Mr. Ch. R. Jaeger, consisting of white and red carnations and depicting the National emblem. I was told that no less than 120 dozen carnations were used. It is a pity that not a more favourable position, f.i. in the centre, was chosen for its display, as those sitting on the extreme left of the theatre were deprived of its view.

The programme started with an impressive prayer by Pasteur M. Pradervand and by the reading of the Swiss Pact (Bundesbrief) by Father A. Lanfranchi. A short introduction was given by Colonel Ch. de Watteville, Vice-President of the 1st of August committee, in the unavoidable absence of the President, Dr. Kullmann.

The patriotic oration on this memorable day was confined to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, who received a hearty reception on rising.

He said :

Chers compatriotes,
Suisse de Londres,
Mes amis,

Après un long intervalle dû aux circonstances si graves de l'époque que nous avons vécue, intervalle qui a été certes douloureusement ressenti par de nombreux excellents citoyens, notre Colonie suisse de Londres a aujourd'hui la joie de pouvoir se réunir au complet, ou presque, pour célébrer le six cent cinquante quatrième anniversaire de la Fondation de notre Patrie.

Je partage, mes amis, l'émotion qui, visiblement, étreint beaucoup d'entre vous. Je remercie les organisateurs de cette manifestation patriotique, ardemment souhaitée par les Suisses de Londres, je les remercie de tout coeur de n'avoir ménagé aucune peine, aucun effort pour donner à chaque membre de notre Colonie la possibilité de communier avec la Patrie en cette date sacrée entre toutes.

Il y a une année, peu de temps après mon arrivée à Londres, j'avais été, avec ma femme, témoin de la déception de beaucoup des nôtres de n'avoir pu, comme le veut la tradition de temps sereins voir se réunir nos compatriotes dans une grande manifestation unique. La rigueur des temps l'interdisait. Le péril des bombes volantes, qui apportèrent le deuil ou la destruction aussi dans des



THE SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

Reading from left to right, top row: E. H. Schlatter, R. Voegtli, L. Jobin, A. Jaccard, E. Luterbacher. 2nd row: A. H. Haab, U. A. Keyser, W. Jent, E. Ritzmann, H. Schwander, M. Luthert, W. Wagner. 3rd row: F. J. Meier, F. L. Grossenbacher, F. G. Sommer, E. P. Dick, J. Gerber, A. W. Sommer, F. G. Finsler. Bottom row: J. Manzoni, J. H. Berger, P. Mathys, E. Weber, Rev. A. Lanfranchi, E. Gloor, J. Wehrli, C. Sykora, J. J. Pfändler, E. Broglie, R. Mathez, F. von Bergen, F. Leibfarth.



THE UNIONE TICINESE.

The Cast of the " Village Wedding," an amusing sketch produced by Carlos Valchera.

Reading from left to right, top row: **V. Berti, C. Valchera, E. Berti, Miss L. Diviani, C. Berti, T. Valchera.**
 2nd row: **J. Bonetti, Miss R. Abate, Miss R. Darani, Miss M. Andreazzi, Miss I. Abate, Miss S. Morosi, Miss C. Allegranza, C. Cima.** 3rd row: **P. de Maria, R. Simoni, Mrs. C. Berti, Mrs. P. Diviani, Mrs. C. Cima, Mrs. G. Abate, Mrs. A. Allegranza, Miss M. Ferriroli, Mrs. F. Bruni, M. Berti, W. Ring.**
 Bottom Group: **C. Berti, jnr., P. Bonetti, Miss N. Pencavel, P. Morosi, C. Colmani.**

foyers suisses, était encore grand. Sagement, les dirigeants de vos sociétés, ont dû, bien malgré eux, proposer le renvoi à des temps meilleurs de la convocation de la colonie tout entière qu'il ne fallait pas exposer, dans son ensemble, au risque, même lointain, d'une catastrophe qui eut coupé la sève de notre vie sociale.

Aujourd'hui, cette période pourtant récente paraît s'être perdue dans la brume des temps. Ainsi le veut fort heureusement, la loi de la régénération de la nature. Nous avons maintenant la vive satisfaction de pouvoir nous rencontrer tous, d'envoyer ensemble nos pensées à la Patrie, d'exprimer ensemble notre inaltérable attachement à la Suisse. Notre joie est accrue, doublée du fait que le péril militaire s'est éloigné du sol de nos ancêtres, que l'encercllement de la Suisse a pris fin et que nous n'avons plus de craintes pour le Pays tel que nous l'aimons et voulons le conserver; uni pour protéger son patrimoine essentiel, mais assez décentralisé pour garantir à chaque région, à chaque canton son génie propre. Une démocratie vigilante et armée, petite dans l'espace, grande dans le temps et dans ses aspirations idéales, respectueuse de la personnalité humaine, tendue vers le progrès social. C'est un immense bonheur, après des années de dures épreuves et de soucis, que de revoir ainsi, trait par trait, le visage aimé de la Patrie. C'est un cadeau

incomparable qu'il nous est donné de contempler en célébrant, cette année notre Fête Nationale.

However, my dear countrymen, in accordance with a long tradition of our Colony, I have been asked to address you mainly in English, the language that, as a vehicle of thought, is familiar to all of you. It is not for me to break any of your time-honoured traditions. Moreover, on a date as near to our hearts as our National day, the birthday of our ancient democracy, it is the thoughts and feelings common to us all that count infinitely more than any form of outward expression.

Our feelings, first of all, are of the deepest gratitude to the Almighty for having led our beloved country unscathed, unharmed, unbroken through the raging seas. Our flag, with the beloved colours and the cherished emblem of Schwytz, then of Switzerland — an emblem which, we must never forget, recalls the sacrifice of Christ in a constant appeal to charity — this flag of ours has never ceased to fly gallantly over the central fortress, the watchtower of Europe — even in the times when the rest of the Continent had, for the greatest part, appeared to crumble.

After six years during which, more than once, the dangers of war and of invasion loomed near to our valleys and our homes, we may also gratefully recognise that our people have not failed to stand

the test of the times. Quietly, courageously, earnestly intent on doing their duty, our countrymen and countrywomen at home have fulfilled, in their overwhelming majority, the tasks assigned to them, prepared as they were to fight at any moment, in the spirit of the Covenant of August 1st, 1291, for the independence of our homeland, and lest any self-decreed "foreign judge" should try once again to impose his will upon the souls of our free citizens — similarly to what was so perilously near at the dawn of the 14th century and so often since in Swiss history.—

Between the Scylla of military danger from abroad and the Charybdis of an equally possible economic strangling of our land-bound country, the Swiss Confederation has achieved to steer undauntedly its course; and well may it be that this proud achievement will appear to future generations of our people — for *our* generation has lived too intensely this period to see beyond its perils and discomforts the glamour which surrounds it — as a glorious *Odyssey of freedom*.

On August 1st, 1945, the Swiss Confederation stands upright and to use a happy expression of an eminent English friend of our Country's, as the "*land-locked country of the free*". I should wish especially that the young members of the Colony meditate to-day on the deep significance of this fact. Certainly, in the words of *Gottfried Keller*, we must endeavour, like Martin Salander, never to confuse patriotism with self-conceit, but a not lesser danger would be to *under-estimate* the political, moral and historical assets which flow from the spirit of determination and resistance shown again by our people since the crucial days of September 1939, or even since Munich, until VE-day. The maxim of State which made it possible for our country to live, to survive and to act in the spirit of solidarity so splendidly expressed in our ancient national Charter is, as to its moral value, second to none. The motto "*Inter Arma Caritas*" of the International Red Cross — ultimate refuge of humanity and charity — has, from our soil, inspired countless unselfish activities and on an unprecedented scale.

As has been rightly said, the international status of Switzerland, as it stands, has not been shaped merely for the protection of the Alpine passes, but also to keep open, in periods of worst turmoil, some secure paths for goodwill.

A grateful tribute must be rendered, on this first National day of ours celebrated again amidst an atmosphere of freedom and security, to our Army and to its Commander-in-Chief, General Guisan,

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who, in three weeks time, will relinquish, with the simplicity natural to this great citizen and soldier, his high post of command. He keeps however the trust and affection of our people who were under arms from '39 to 1945 and I would wish the Colony of London to join in the unanimous declaration of grateful appreciation which found, a short time ago, an unique expression in our Parliament. And though Swiss democracy, *because* it is the most direct democracy existing — is usually adverse to any form of personification, we should also remember to-day those names familiar to you, in or outside the Government, which have become a symbol of the Country's successful efforts to weather the storm.

My dear countrymen, the days of difficulties are not yet over. It is only by many efforts, much thought and perseverance that in due course, our beloved country, Switzerland, may hope to develop again the bases of her prosperity, to have, once more, sufficient access to world trade and to solve likewise the problem of its cooperation with the international institutions of to-morrow. The prosecution of these tasks will only be possible, successfully, if we revert, ever and again, to the fundamental principles underlying the admirable Charter of August 1st, 1291. To the fundamental charter which our great statesman Giuseppe Motta once described as consecrating the wedlock between liberty and popular law.

The Swiss of London and of Great Britain will not forget, whilst celebrating their National Day, the generous hospitality they have enjoyed in this great country, England. During the last trying period, the ties of sympathy and mutual understanding between our two countries have always been woven closer. And who more and better than the Swiss of London could testify to their countrymen at home of the splendid spirit, probably unique in history, which could be witnessed here, in difficult times, within the walls of this glorious city, so incomparably great and dignified amidst the scars and bruises inflicted by a savage war.

In lifting our thoughts to H.M. the King and to the Royal Family, we send our wishes also to the late and to the present and future Government of His Majesty. And there is one thing more I should like to emphasise to-day. That, whatever the political creed of these eminent servants and leaders of the British Nation was and is and to whichever party they belong, I have not ceased to find, on their behalf, since the day I had the honour of being appointed to the Court of St. James, the most friendly and sympathetic understanding of the needs and aspirations of our country. This also must and will be remembered and gratefully acknowledged. Liebe Landsleute,

Ich habe das Bedürfnis noch — ganz kurz — ein Wort an die alte Garde unserer Kolonie zu richten. An die alte Garde, die in der langen Periode der Abgeschnittenheit von der Heimat die Fackel der Anhänglichkeit an unsere Schweiz nie hat erlöschen lassen. Die Heimat weiss, dass Eure Situation nicht leicht gewesen ist, dass Ihr, bei allen Schwierigkeiten, das Möglichste getan habt, um auch bei unserer Jugend, der Hoffnung von morgen, den Kontakt mit unseren Land wenigstens

geistig aufrechtzuerhalten. Die Vereine, alle Vereine, unserer Kolonie haben ihre Pflicht erfüllt, sie sind in die Lücken gesprungen, welche eine stets neue Entwicklung auftrat, gewissermassen als die administrative Maschinerie unserer kleinen Schweizerstadt in London. Auch das weiss die Heimat, und im Namen des Bundesrates möchte ich Euch heute, bei Anlass unserer 1. August Feier, seine Anerkennung und seinen Dank zum Ausdruck bringen.

Vorrei, infine, cogliere l'occasione di questo 1° Agosto del dopoguerra, celebrato in seno della Colonia nostra di Londra, per mandare un saluto speciale ai nostri ticinesi ed ai concittadini delle vallate italiane della Rezia. Noi, Svizzeri di Londra, sappiamo tutti, ma lo sanno anche coloro che seguono i nostri sforzi nel Paese, lontano e pur così vicino al nostro cuore, di cui celebriamo la gloriosa nascita, quanto è grande il contributo della nostra operosa collettività ticinese e grigionese all'opera della colonia svizzera tutta. L'Unione ticinese ha celebrato, pochi mesi fa, imperterrita davanti alla minaccia allora ancora viva delle bombe volanti, il settantacinquesimo anniversario della sua fondazione. Tutti, noi ringraziamo i Ticinesi per le prove del loro costante e fedele attaccamento al nostro diletto Paese e, ben spesso, per il loro esempio. Per il loro lavoro sobrio, tenace, costruttivo, che riflette le migliori doti della loro magnifica stirpe, dal San Gottardo divisa mai, ma anzi congiunta per sempre ai fratelli del settentrione delle Alpi. Il mio saluto a Voi viene dal profondo dell'anima. E quando, la sera del 1° Agosto, le luci si accenderanno sulle vostre, le nostre colline rispecchiandosi nei laghi, rinnoveremo, come rinnoviamo oggi, il patto di fratellanza e di assistenza in ogni bisogno.

Ed alla Confederazione Svizzera mandiamo insieme la promessa della fedeltà nostra indefettibile e del più fervido attaccamento.

Evviva la Svizzera !

The Minister's excellent speech was loudly cheered by the entire gathering. He also read out a telegram of patriotic greetings received from the Swiss in Manchester, which was much applauded. (It is to be regretted that the microphone could not have been tuned in more adequately.)

Then followed the singing of the "Schweizerpsalm" by the audience, led by the Swiss Choral Society, and the Swiss Accordion Group. The audience seemed to feel rather shy in following the excellent lead by the choir, a more rousing response from them would have kindled a warmer atmosphere.

When the curtain rose, the Swiss Accordion Group received an enthusiastic welcome, they played, under the efficient leadership of Mr. Gandon, a selection of Swiss Melodies. The war has sadly depleted this once numer-

ous group. I understand that many of the former members are either on the high seas or in foreign lands, but what remained of them gave a very creditable performance, and their appearance, dressed in national costumes brought a little colour and warmth into the hitherto rather drab scene. The patriotic atmosphere began slowly to rise.

Hardly had the last chords died down, when the Swiss Choral Society in full strength appeared on the stage, under the conductorship of that vivacious and ever young merry-maker E. P. Dick. They opened their turn with Huber's "Vaterlandsgruss" followed by "Nos montagnes" by Bovet. Both songs were excellently rendered, the second song being especially impressive.

The lights were then lowered for the showing of two films, "Hochgebirgspatrouille" and "Année Vigneronne." The former depicted a reconnoitring party of Swiss soldiers in the high alps. Their daring exploits amongst ice and snow were followed by the audience with the keenest interest. What tremendous progress has been made by our valiant army, during the last twenty years, can only be appreciated by those, who, like the writer, served during the last frontier occupation. Although only this small episode out of their daily task was shown, it was evidence enough to see that the spirit of daring and adventure, which centuries ago inspired our forefathers on many a battlefield, still lives in our army. Had they been called upon to defend the sacred soil of our homeland they would have carried out their heavy task, with the same courage which, as of old, made Swiss soldiers famous where and whenever they fought.

The second film took us to the vineyards on the shores of some of our picturesque lakes and into the plains of the Rhône valley. What a jolly and happy crowd those grape pickers were, it made one long to be amongst them and join in the fun. Who, amongst



THE SWISS ACCORDION CLUB.

Reading from left to right: **W. Hausermann, F. Adam, A. Gandon, Miss M. Willi, C. Fontana.**

the onlookers would not have liked to take part in the eating of these delicious grapes, or in the kissing which went on amongst bursts of laughter? The sampling of some of the vintages by connoisseurs was almost agonising to watch.

These two films concluded the first part of the programme, and everyone just having seen the last film, expected to adjourn to the Foyer, where hundreds of bottles of sparkling Neuchâtel and delicious Fendant would be made available for hundreds of thirsty throats. Alas it was only a dream, not even a cup of tea could be had, but is it to be wondered at, after the experience of two years ago, when a multitude of people fought like lions to get a cup of tea and a bun, with the result that the majority could get neither?

The second part of the programme again opened with the showing of two films, entitled "One way remains open", and "Il neige sur le Haut Pays".

The former took the audience to the headquarters of the International Red Cross at Geneva, where hundreds of busy hands, mostly volunteers, are helping to mitigate the horrors of war. For millions of people all over the world, this humanitarian institution, founded by our illustrious countryman, Henri Dunant, is almost the only means for communicating with their dear ones. It brought a lump into our throats, when we saw with what immense relief and joy messages through the intermediary of this greatest of all institutions were perused by the respective recipients; many an anxious heart has been relieved and many a bitter tear have thus been dried. And who could master his emotion, when we saw the little children, mere skeletons, begging for a crust of bread, the sight of it brought vividly before us the horrors of war in its cruelty and misery.

Flashes and scenes from the battlefields and bombed towns showed on one side the destruction and desolation brought on mankind, and on the other side the healing and merciful power of the International Red Cross. Indeed we Swiss can be proud of having thus helped to soften the cruel blows inflicted on our fellowmen, their work, during the last six years of immense sufferings is perhaps the only redeeming feature of this greatest of all wars. Switzerland in this colossal fight for human rights and liberty could not stand aside, it has played its part nobly, and thus has contributed its share, which should entitle her to take part in future deliberations concerning the building up of a better and more human world. In having thus helped, we have only done our duty and desire no rewards nor cheap glory.

"Il neige sur le Haut Pays", depicted the life in some of our villages in mid-winter. Cut off almost entirely from the outside world for months, through heavy snow drifts, it showed how these hardy mountain inhabitants spend their daily life, which, from an outsiders point of view might look dreary and monotonous; and yet we were able to get a glimpse of their toils and also of their pleasures. Their days are spent in woodcarving, spinning, painting and modelling; or on sledges bringing in the food for their cattle, and wood to heat their cosy, if primitive homes, and yet this seemingly dreary existence is not devoid of its brighter aspects, dancing, singing and such simple pleasures brighten their lives, and keep them content. They are indeed a sturdy race, honest, Godfearing and hard working.



Two of our many compatriots in National Costume.
(Mrs. W. Meier and son).

The next number on the programme was billed as "Village Wedding" and the actors and singers were the members of the Unione Ticinese Choir. I have no hesitation in declaring this performance the star turn of the day.

Our compatriots from the sunny Ticino, in their picturesque national dresses, at once captured every heart by their excellent performance. It was as if a whiff of colour and brightness, so abundant in their lovely native canton, had pierced the alps and ridden the waves of the high seas to bring us the greetings of our homeland.

Not only was the singing on a high level, but the acting was equally fine. The blushing bride and her happy spouse were a delight to watch. And what about the best man, who sang himself into the hearts of every performer and every member of the audience alike. The two waiters, one slow and the other full of life, brought forth peals of laughter, it was acting in its finest tradition; no less enjoyable were the frolics of the cow which gate-crashed and which, after having partaken of the contents of the loving cup, started to dance a *pas à deux*. The accordion playing, the fiddling and the singing of the choir were a real feast to listen to, there was not a dull moment from beginning to end.

Bravissimo cari Ticinesi! The Unione Ticinese Choir is heartily to be congratulated on their colourful addition to the programme, and chief honour should go to Mr. C. Valchera, the producer and Mr. C. Berti, who both must have worked very hard indeed to present us with such a delightful little comedy. I have just heard that the bride and bridegroom for that day only, have since become engaged, and is it to be wondered at?

Good luck to both of them, I wish I could be their best man, but unfortunately I cannot sing.

The next number, brought us new delights. Once again the members of the Swiss Choral Society appeared. This time they sang two songs, namely "Chuejerbuëbelied" and "Le Ranz des Vaches". The former was excellently rendered and included a solo yodel sung by our old friend Mr. von Bergen. I would like to pay a special compliment to the choir for their really efficient singing of the "Ranz des Vaches", it was a fine performance, full of life and excellent in harmony. The conductor of this choir, Mr. E. P. Dick, has shown us what can be done by relentless rehearsing. Bravo Swiss Choral Society!

For the second time the Accordion players made their entrance on the stage giving us a further selection of Swiss melodies, which were gratefully acknowledged by the audience. Here again I raise my hat to Mr. Gandon and his faithful collaborators.

This year 1st of August celebration concluded with the singing by the audience of the "Sempacherlied" and the Swiss National Anthem, a befitting finale to an enjoyable and inspiring afternoon.

In summing up we can be all satisfied in the way this celebration has been conducted. It has been said, that it was one, if not the best performance we have witnessed for a long time and I agree with this verdict; but we must be fair, when this anniversary was last celebrated great armies were still locked in mortal conflict on the Continent of Europe and the menace of aerial attacks lay, day and night, over Southern

England. This ordeal made adequate rehearsals difficult, nor did the mood of the people prove responsive in the same way as now to celebrations of this kind.

I cannot end this report without thanking the Organising Committee for the fine team work and their labours, and in singling out a few names I feel I cause no heartburnings amongst their colleagues. First and foremost Mr. Ch. Chapuis and Mr. Jules Zimmermann deserve high praise for their efforts; it is due to them that everything went off without a hitch. Mr. Th. Ritter, who was in charge of the distribution of tickets has accomplished his difficult task with great credit. Thanks should go to Mrs. Jenne and to the twenty charming young Ladies, mostly dressed in Swiss National costumes, who sold programmes, postcards and emblems and thus did a tiresome job with ever smiling faces. No thanks are due to those who procured tickets and then did not turn up for one reason or other, thus depriving a large number of their fellow compatriots, who were unable to procure them, from taking part in this celebration, the least they could have done was to return their tickets.

* * *

And now, dear confederates the shadows of night have passed, in our homes there has returned peace and silence. Tomorrow at dawn God's resplendent sun will shine over a new, better and more just world, let us be worthy of it and let us join in the work to secure for our children a brighter and happier future.

God bless our beloved country!

ST.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT THE SWISS CHURCH.

The Swiss Colony responded in large number to the invitation to the service of worship in connection with the National Day Celebrations at the Eglise Suisse, Endell Street, on Sunday morning the 29th July. The altar was profusely covered with flowers representing our national colours.

The opening hymn: "Grosser Gott, wir loben Dich." — "Grand Dieu, nous te bénissons", directed our thoughts to Him who in the past has protected our homeland.

Rev. P. Rad chose his text from II. Chronicles 20, which brings out three points which we should take to heart. First King Jehoshaphat had a great God. It is the same omnipotent God whom Calvin knew. We see His power in the majesty of our mountains and no wonder the Psalmist wrote: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Furthermore we have a merciful God, because He revealed Himself in Jesus Christ who is our great Lord and Saviour. We have also a victorious God. In Jesus Christ God gives us the greatest victory, the victory over death. Where He is, there is victory. He gives us strength to live, and victory in death.

After the first part of the service, a violin solo was played with the accompaniment of the organ.

Rev. M. Pradervand mentioned that for the first time after 6 years of war we could unite in the assurance that the dangers of war were over. We thank

God for His preservation, and although difficulties, economic and political, are still there, we have new hope. He then spoke on the passage in I. Corinthians 3.11: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ." The scriptures maintain that Jesus Christ is the only foundation, and our family life and our national life should be built on it. We have beautiful national songs, but how often we sing them without realising their meaning and they merely touch our emotions. The Gospel and its message has been neglected. As we love our homeland, let us be ready to accept Him as the foundation for our national life. We need divine guidance to solve the many difficulties which face us, and the nations on the Continent, to-day. He is able to guide us.

The celebration concluded with a hymn sung by the choir and the national hymn sung by the congregation. May these joint services prove more and more a source of spiritual uplifting to many of our compatriots whose faith has been so severely tested during the war. The influence created by such united worship will not fail to leave its mark for good in the life of the colony.

WF.

