

Catholic service on the occasion of the Swiss national day celebrations

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**CATHOLIC SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF THE
SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS
SUNDAY, 28th JULY.**

The cordial invitation to all Swiss Catholics, their families and friends extended by the Committee of Swiss Catholics and by their Chaplain, Father Lanfranchi, to a service of thanksgiving and prayers for our beloved country, at St. Peter's Church, Palace Street, Victoria, put at our disposal by courtesy of its rector, Major Dempsey, Chaplain of H.M. Forces, was well attended by all classes, headed by the Swiss Minister, Dr. Paul Ruegger, who on this day of patriotic rally had his time much taken up before and afterwards that we are doubly grateful to him for attending.

Grateful we are also for the assistance of Father Würms and two other missionaries from Bethlehem — Immensee for the Solemn High Mass which was celebrated with great reverence and was very impressive. It was indeed a very solemn service and a rare occasion in London when four Swiss priests could be present in the same Church and at the same time. The Swiss Catholic Choir, though depleted by members being away on holiday, rendered the full High Mass very successfully.

Father Lanfranchi, in his patriotic sermon, impressed upon the congregation that Switzerland had much to be thankful for, being spared the ravages inflicted all round it. All along, it had been and was now doing, as far as was in her power, to help healing the wounds inflicted. He also referred to General Guisan's appeal for aid to soldiers whose health had suffered in the manifold call upon their services during the ever recurring mobilisations. Donations for this fund will be gratefully received by the Swiss Legation in London. Switzerland, he said, founded more than six and a half centuries ago on the Rütli, for mutual help, was established under the protection and in the name of God Almighty and he reminded his hearers that without God's help, human efforts could not be successful.

The clergy had made their entrance with the congregation singing the "Sshweizer Psalm" and the service ended with the National Anthem.

As usual the Church was decorated with the Swiss colours in flags and flowers and everybody went away stimulated for what was to follow in the afternoon at the patriotic rally at the Stoll Theatre.

C.F.S.

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"SWITZERLAND."

**Exhibition of Swiss Planning and Building
at the Royal Institute of British Architects,
66, Portland Place, W.1.**

September 19th - October 26th, 1946.

The first comprehensive Exhibition of Swiss architecture ever held in London will be the chief autumn event at the Royal Institute of British Architects. Organised with the co-operation of the foremost architects and associations in Switzerland, it will present a complete picture of building and planning to-day in a country unravaged by war.

Although development was curtailed during the war years, when the country was in a state of armed preparedness, progressive ideas were unhampered. Switzerland at the present time is among the leaders in the rebirth of the modern architectural movement envisaged from the social angle, which before the war was springing up in every country of Europe.

The possibilities for building a brave new world which architecture has to offer will be fully demonstrated in sections covering every phase of modern life. Building for work, building for recreation, housing, town and country planning, schools and hospitals are among the subjects covered. Particularly interesting features will be the preservation of old and historic buildings and the countryside, and the re-planning of winter sports resorts, for which an extensive programme has already been started.

Switzerland has many of the same housing and planning problems as England, but as the country was industrialised much later they have avoided anything like the 19th century manufacturing towns which are such a blot on England. Housing is regarded as the most pressing social question to-day, and how they have dealt with shortage of building space, the decentralisation of factories, and better homes and better living for the workers will be of great general interest here.

How Switzerland makes the most of her wild and lovely landscape will be shown in a series of magnificent photographs of buildings against the background of mountains and lakes. The Alps have had their effect on architecture as on every other phase of Swiss life, and building is conditioned by the contours and climate of the country. The development of a national architecture through the centuries will be a striking feature of the Exhibition. In it will be shown the evolution of the chalet, with its thick roof built to stand its winter blanket of snow, and how each valley, isolated by the mountains, was obliged to build entirely with local stone and local timber until the railways opened up the country, with characteristic and beautiful results.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will, D.V., be published on Friday, September 13th. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their enlarged subscriptions: Th. Schaerer, A. J. Walker, M. de Frenne, J. Frei, Miss A. M. Germann, Mrs. H. Ellison, J. W. Frick, A. R. Tissot, E. G. Stauber, R. de Cintra, M. Schaerer, C. Landau, J. Graf, L. Chapuis, A. F. Clemens, Miss B. Sandmeyer.