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Even the Casino is obliged to conduct roulette in "espèces" instead of in "numéraire." Mr. Banco arrives and is greeted with enthusiasm by everyone except Isabelle. One of his conditions is that he shall be made Dictator with full powers to reorganise the finances of the country.

The Queen and her Ministers are furious but the Treasury is empty. Banco dismisses the Ministers, giving them an appointment for 9 o'clock next morning. That night the Ministers plot to kidnap the Usurper and so does Isabelle's young man who mobilises his orchestra to help him.

The two parties meet in Banco's bedroom and in the fight that follows Banco receives a blow on the head. The next morning Banco meets the Ministers, but the blow on his head has affected his brain, and his decrees for the reorganisation of the finances are distinctly original. He has forgotten about his projected marriage. In a word the state of the country becomes such as might have been imagined by King Pausole, and this part of the film is a mixture of comedy and satire which is simply superb.

In the meantime, during his absence, Banco's affairs at home go from bad to worse, and finally he too is ruined. In Casinario, the Queen decides to get rid of Banco and induces her son to dispose of the Tyrant by shooting him with a gun used by one of his ancestors to free the country from a former despot. Naturally the gun will not work and the Prince endeavours to do the job by hitting Banco on the head with the butt of the gun.

The blow does not succeed in killing him but does succeed in restoring him to his senses.

He sent for the Queen and announces that he wishes to complete the arrangements for his marriage as soon as possible. Next morning he meets the Ministers and is astonished at their fantastic behaviour, the result of decrees issued during his period of madness.

Isabelle, when the Queen tells her that the marriage with Mr. Banco will take place shortly, informs her that she is already secretly married to the man she loves.

Banco learns that he is ruined. Isabelle and her husband elope and when they are caught just as they are about to start their motor-boat, two little children are discovered hiding in the boat. Isabelle confesses that they have been married for three years and in the confusion caused by this news they make their escape.

The Queen announces that she will sacrifice herself for her country and the final scene takes place just after the wedding celebrations. The Queen learns from the newspapers that Banco is ruined. She shows it to Banco who replies, "Did you not know, Madame, but doubtless you will now grant me a small pension." — Such is the story of the film, but it should be seen to appreciate the various incidents.

Max Dearly plays the part of Banco. Martha Mellot is superb as the queen. Marcel Carpenter is Banco's private detective who makes a mess of everything and complicates the various situations in a delightful and most amusing way. Renée Steijr is the Princess and José Noguero plays the part of her lover.

Raymond Cordy, who will be remembered as the famous taxi-driver in *Le Million* is a valet at the Palace and once again is extremely funny.

I suppose it is impossible not to compare a René Clair film with *Le Million*, but *Le dernier Milliardaire*, although perhaps lacking in the delicate touch that made *Le Million* such a joy, is intensely funny and is a real comedy and at the same time a satire.

At the first performance on Monday last, the proceeds were entirely devoted to the Shoreditch Infant Welfare Centre at the special request of H. R. II. the Princess Royal who had graciously consented to be present.

Mr. René Clair came over from Paris specially for the event. It may also be mentioned that the Academy Cinema announces regular Saturday morning performances with specially selected programmes for children. There will be two sessions each Saturday at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. — Prices 6d. and 1/-. ck.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, November 11th, at 8.15 p.m. — Swiss Gymnastic Society — Display followed by a Dance, at the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund) 74, Charlotte Street W.1.

Wednesday, November 14th, at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. — The Meeting will be followed by a lecture (8.30 p.m.) by Professor Dr. G. P. Gooch on "The European Situation."

Wednesday, November 14th, at 9 o'clock p.m. — Annual Banquet and Ball — Union Helvetia — 1, Gerrard Place, W.

Saturday, November 17th, at 2 and 4 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Lecture in French by Monsieur Charles Gos, on "La Conquête des Alpes on comment la montagne conquiert l'homme," with lantern slides, at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road.

Tuesday, November 20th — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Cinderella Dance at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, Russell Square, W.C.1. (Details to follow).

Wednesday, November 21st at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — at Swiss House — 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Friday, November 23rd — City Swiss Club — Annual Banquet and Ball at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Sunday, December 2nd, at 8.15 p.m. — Swiss Gymnastic Society — Display followed by a Dance, at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Street, W.1.

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M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79,
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7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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