

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1946)  
**Heft:** 1050

**Artikel:** Henley Royal Regatta  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690116>

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## CITY SWISS CLUB.

### Dr. Kullmann on the Refugee Problem.

At the last dinner of the City Swiss Club held at the Dorchester on July 9th, Dr. Gustave Gerard Kullmann, our distinguished countryman who has served the cause of the Refugees for so long, spoke on the Refugee Problem as it presents itself to-day with even more urgency than after the last war. Dr. Kullmann has been Secretary and Deputy of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations for Refugees many years before the war and since the formation of the Inter-Governmental Committee by President Roosevelt our countryman has also become Vice Director and Secretary General of that Organisation. As such he has been the only Swiss to attend the very prolonged recent Refugee Conference in London which in reality was a conference of a Special Committee of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations formed for the purpose of working out a plan for the permanent solution of the Refugee Problem. For some six weeks this conference met day by day sometimes in two or three sessions and Dr. Kullmann was perhaps the most indefatigable participant at this important conference.

A new organ of the United Nations will be formed as a result of these deliberations and the consequent discussions by the Economic and Social Council in New York. It is the United Nations Refugee Organisation which will, however, not come into existence before spring or summer of next year. In the meantime, the Inter-Governmental Committee, under the care of Sir Herbert Emerson and Dr. Kullmann, will act in its place with considerably enlarged functions and powers as compared with its present tasks. It may be safely assumed that the new Refugee Organisation would not wish to forego the benefit of Dr. Kullmann's unrivalled experience in the field of the care for the Refugees. He will therefore probably be the first Swiss working under the United Nations in a high capacity. Our Minister, Monsieur Ruegger, expressed admirably the pride our Colony and Country place in Dr. Kullmann's distinguished career in a field of humanitarian activity in which our Country's name and Institutions have already attained eminence, particularly under the banner of the Red Cross.

In his most interesting survey of the problem, Dr. Kullmann reminded his hearers that there are still some 200,000 so-called Nansen Refugees left over from the last war, mainly White Russians and Armenians. This time the war ended with millions of people left stranded and displaced all over the Continent. But their total figure will probably be reduced to a hard core of irrepatriable of some 800,000 to 850,000. These are the protégées of the Inter-Governmental Committee or the United Nations Refugee Organisation to come. There are some 180,000 Balts, over half a million Poles, including Polish Ukrainians, Polish Jews and Polish Dissidents, formerly of the Anders Army or Political Refugees. There are a mixed bag of Yugoslavs, some Royalist, some Chetniks, some Catholic Slovenes, all united in the detestation of Tito and his régime. There are also some Czechs, some Hungarians and some Russians, as well as 200,000 Republican Spaniards. The main conflict at the Conference was as between the Countries of origin of these Refugees, the Eastern Bloc, and the Countries to which they have

fled or who will on humanitarian grounds provide them with a possibility of living outside their Countries and taking new roots. It was exceedingly difficult to convince the Soviet Delegate and the other Countries of the Soviet Zone of the necessity to provide continued help for those Refugees who, for political or other reasons, do not wish to return to their country of origin. However, some acceptable formula was found and it is hoped that on its basis this important work of the care for irrepatriable Refugees may continue with Russian co-operation or at least, with Russian suffrance.

The Minister thanked both Dr. Kullmann warmly for his stimulating lecture and Colonel Bon for the series of most interesting speakers he has been able to secure for the City Swiss Club during the last twelve months.

*Dr. E.*

## HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA.

Once again a Swiss crew participated at the Henley Royal Regatta, which took place at the beginning of this month. The "See Club Zurich" qualified for the final in the Grand Challenge Cup by beating "Thames Rowing Club," but were beaten in the grand final by "Leander" by three-quarters of a length. Unfortunately the Swiss had to put in a substitute stroke at the last minute owing to illness.

It is exactly ten years since (July 1936) when a Swiss crew (Zurich Rowing Club) made history at Henley by winning the three principal events, namely the Grand Challenge Cup, the Stewards' Challenge Cup and Diamond Challenge Sculls. (Rufli).

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