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**“MAIGLIEGGLI” YODEL CLUB AND
“ZUGERLAENDLI” BAND AT
CHELTENHAM SPA.**

Visits from Male and Yodel choirs from Switzerland to this country seem to become quite fashionable nowadays.

We are informed, both through the local Press and our old friend, Mr. A. P. Walliman, Proprietor of the well-known “Savoy Hotel” at Cheltenham Spa, that the “Maiglöggli” Yodel Club and the “Zugerländli” band, including “Alphorn” blowers and “Fahnen-schwinger” recently gave a concert at the Town Hall in Cheltenham Spa before an audience of well over a thousand.

The “Gloucestershire Echo” writes about this visit of our compatriots from the “Zugerländli” as follows:—

“Greetings from the Mayor of Zug, one of the oldest towns in Switzerland, were conveyed to the Mayor of Cheltenham at the first concert to be given in this country by the famous Swiss Maiglöggli Yodel Club, at the Town Hall, Cheltenham.

Before the concert began the manager of the Maiglöggli Club, Mr. Fröhlich, read to the Mayor of Cheltenham (Ald. P. T. Smith), an address from the Mayor of Zug, who wrote:—

“The Yodel Club and the Zugerländli Band both represent characteristic Swiss peculiarities and visit

your town to bring to interested parties, through concerts, an idea of Swiss folklore.

“I gladly take this opportunity to point out to you through these ‘singing and music-making ambassadors’ the close contact between our two countries.”

In a written reply, which he read to the large audience before handing it to Mr. Fröhlich for conveyance to the Mayor of Zug, Ald. Smith said he hoped that Cheltenham had been able to give the Swiss visitors a happy and interesting time.

“We all realise how much these visitors do in promoting friendship and understanding.

“May our two countries always preserve that friendship which has endured through the centuries and may we always keep that determination to be free and independent which has carried us through many changes of fortune. Long live Switzerland!” The Mayor ended his address amid applause.

The concert itself was an unusual mixture of Swiss yodelling songs, popular band-pieces, solos on an Alphorn and short demonstrations of flag-throwing.

All these ingredients were of a national flavour, and the cheerful informality of the entertainers was delightful.

The Zugerländli Band, consisting of piano, piano-accordion, string double-bass and two clarinets, opened with a march, “Salute to Berne,” an exuberant piece with more than a touch of Sousa in it.

The yodelling itself was a little more relaxing and varied and many of the songs possessed a slightly sad or nostalgic mood.

They were all beautifully sung by the small Maiglöggli Club — each verse, after telling its story, developing into a sort of concerto for one yodelling, falsetto voice against the soft rhythmic tones of the others.

* * *

Both combinations were dressed partially in Swiss decorative costume, and the members of the Yodelling Club wore small, peakless black caps, velvet jackets with pink piping, and white shirts and green ties.

The yodellers and bandsmen are recruited from all spheres of Swiss life, and there are cobblers, farmers, builders, and merchants — all from Zug — in their ranks.

A final fillip to a delightful programme of folk-music and song was provided by Karl Waldis, whose flag throwing was as clever as it was colourful.

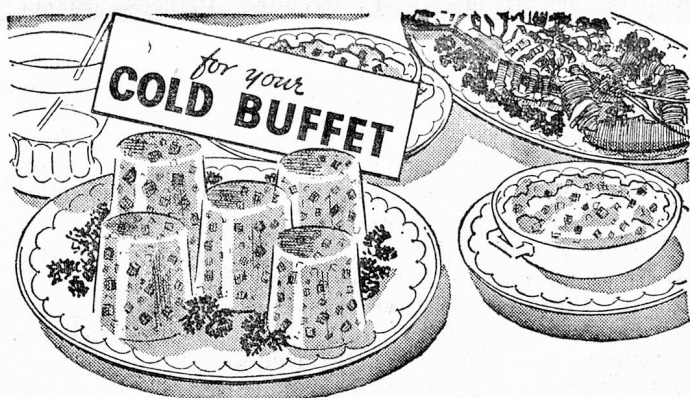
The audience included many of the Swiss boys and families now visiting Cheltenham.”

The entire choir, after their successful performance at the Town Hall, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Walliman at the “Savoy Hotel”, and we hear, that the party was an exceedingly jolly and happy one.

To acknowledge their appreciation to their generous hosts, the entire choir, on leaving Cheltenham the next morning, assembled in front of the Hotel where they gave a “Ständli” to Mr. and Mrs. Walliman.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 16th, 1949.



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