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Autor: L.M.
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home to our beloved country the good wishes of the staunch and patriotic Manchester Swiss Colony for whose loyalty to the Mother Country he could vouch.

He ended with a sincere and well deserved tribute to the Committee of the Manchester Swiss Club, whose excellent team work on behalf of the Colony was appreciated by all; he had a special word of praise for Messrs. Heinrich and Monney, who organised to-day's outing with such care and success.

Professor Schib then rose to deliver an exceedingly fine and well appreciated address. He started by drawing a picture of the National Day celebrations at home, saying that during and since the war the 1st of August was being celebrated in Switzerland in a much more serious mood. Everyone felt a sense of deep gratitude that Switzerland had been spared the misery and ravages of war and the chaos and collapse which it had brought in its trail. What a blessing to be Swiss! and to whom, he asked, are we indebted for our good fortune? Doubtlessly in a large measure to the resolute will to defend ourselves, but perhaps also, he added, to the fact that not only the Pact of 1291, but also the Constitution of 1848, gives first place to the name of God.

After tracing the great improvements in the economic and social life of the country which had taken place during the last 100 years, Professor Schib emphasised the increasing interest and solicitude which our Government and people at home were manifesting for us Swiss abroad. He illustrated this by referring to the continuous extension of the Consular Service during the last 100 years and to the benefits now available to us under the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Scheme. He also emphasised the wisdom of our policy of neutrality which had allowed Switzerland to concentrate on her internal problems. The Swiss State was a state of social progress, but also a state where the individual citizen still had the will and the energy to remain independent and to stand on his own feet.

He paid a fine tribute to the Swiss soldier's patriotism and determination to defend his country against any foe and to the financial sacrifices which our country had made for the defence of its perpetual neutrality. No doubt, he concluded, you Swiss in Great Britain have often had moments of deep anxiety for your Homeland in the years 1940/1941, when Great Britain, through her supreme effort, saved us all. No doubt too, if Switzerland should ever be in danger again, she would be able to count on the moral and material support of her compatriots abroad.

After the well earned applause which Professor Schib's fine and sincere words had evoked, all those assembled rose and sang with feeling the Schweizerpsalm. This was indeed the high moment of a memorable First of August celebration.

After that we had almost an hour's community singing, thanks to the enthusiasm of our excellent young singers' running the whole gamut of popular Swiss songs. It was a most pleasant ending to a perfect day at Southport. Seven o'clock came all too soon, the time when we had to take our seats again in the coaches, to be sped homeward through the Lancashire and Cheshire countryside.

When we separated at last at Piccadilly, Manchester, we had each of us the certainty that the memory of our Bundesfeier 1948 would long remain.

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION IN LIVERPOOL.

The small Swiss Colony in Liverpool spent a happy evening on the initiative of the Consulate when they met on the 31st inst., to celebrate the 1st of August. It is true, there were only a few veterans present, but how pleased we were to see those faithful ones, whom one always meets at least on our National Day. One who never missed that occasion was Mr. Tüscher, whose death after a long illness, we deplored a few months ago. Many were absent on holiday in Switzerland among them Mr. Schärer, the acting Vice-President, who with his wife sent us greetings by telegram. Mme. Davidson who together with Mme. Schärer had "mothered" the Swiss girls in the past year was also away and all regretted their absence. Mr. Egger, the new Chancellor acted as our host and in a short speech pleaded for more happy reunions. He had arranged the showing of two charming Swiss films which filled our hearts with pride for our country and may be, also a little "Heimweh"! All joined with fervour in the singing of many of our Swiss songs, but none of us was brave enough to get up and thank the many who made the meeting a happy one so to Mr. Egger and Miss Schuster, the Consulate's Secretary, who had worked hard to get us together, to Frl. Glur who gave two charming piano solos, and not the least to the ladies who with much patience and ingenuity cut out a Swiss map which adorned each place, and everybody who joined in our Swiss songs and helped to create that feeling of "Einheitlichkeit" we say *Thank You*.

L.M.

SCHWEIZERBUND (Swiss Club)

74, CHARLOTTE STREET, W.I.

REBUILDING.

The rebuilding of the Club premises has started and from the beginning of September the Club will be closed until further notice.

It will be reopened with a "swing" like the Swiss Evening in the Dorchester, every member will receive due notice as soon as possible.

We shall take this opportunity to reorganise the membership and are glad to say that, since our 1st of August Festivals a number of Swiss and their English friends have applied for membership.

We deserve this support since we have shown in the Dorchester Hotel that the "Swiss spirit" is not dead yet.

Make sure that you have a seat at the reopening of the "Bündnerstube," apply for membership now, no subscriptions are payable until the end of this year but the entrance fee of 20/- for each new member will be a brick for the rebuilding.

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