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PROFESSOR JEAN INEBNIT'S VISIT TO MANCHESTER.

Centenary of the Federal Constitution Celebration by the Swiss Club, Manchester.

Over six score and ten crowded into the small ballroom at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on Sunday afternoon, November 7th. Beyond the double window a grey world moved quietly — it was Remembrance Sunday — inside the room decorated with a huge white cross in the red field reigned happiness, anticipation, a chatter in many languages. Many well-known faces were looked for, our beloved guests, Professor, Mrs. and Miss Inebnit, our President Dr. J. A. Schedler, convalescent yet, but happily sufficiently restored to occupy the Chair, and friends from near and far.

At 3.50 p.m. Dr. Schedler rose, welcoming us all, touching upon the significance of 1848. He reminded us of the strange coincidence of "48," the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748), and the outstanding merits of Burgermeister Wettstein, of Basle, after the 30 years of war culminating in the peace of Westphalia 1648.

In introducing Professor Inebnit, he claimed that no compatriot of ours would be better qualified to address us on the meaning of to-day's Centenary, nearly coinciding to the day a hundred years ago with the first Bundesrat, the names of which he recalled. He asked us to realise that 1948 was not an end, perhaps an important date in our life, a milestone for reflection and resolve, but to look forward with equal confidence and courage comparable with the outlook of the men and women of 100 years ago.

Mr. J. J. Huber read a letter from our Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, who expressed his pride "in the work of our forefathers, concluded in our country a hundred years ago by men of goodwill and common sense, feeling deeply that survival could only be achieved by standing together!" His greetings and good wishes pleased all those present.

"Im Namen des Allmächtigen" the customary first words of so many historical documents, quoted

by our Vice-Consul, deeply impressed the company with the solemnity of this Celebration, and clearly demonstrated the under-lying Christian thoughts which govern actions and undertakings of our Homeland. His remarks in Dialect and French were greatly appreciated by the representative of the various cantons.

Professor Jean Inebnit rose and the ensuing address was simply a delight. The fluency of his delivery, the exquisite phraseology, so simple yet so masterful, the deep conviction which spoke out of our guest, endeared him anew to all, young and old.

It would be futile even to attempt to reproduce words and atmosphere to our readers. It must be heard. Professor Inebnit began with 1291 took us in successive and well defined stages to 1848 and aided by a map created the finest lesson in Swiss history we ever had the pleasure to witness.

He gave us many examples of why's and wherefore's, he quoted good reasons for the establishing of the Constitution which we honoured and celebrated to-day, and many were his comparisons of 1848 which only too closely resemble the dangerous times of 1948.

His address took exactly an hour, the stillness in the room, for a November audience in Manchester, was complete and I, and probably all those present, noted with deep regret Professor Inebnit's consulting his watch, believing, quite wrongly, that he ought to reach a conclusion.

Dr. J. A. Schedler, in sincerely thanking our guest, felt and expressed the Meeting's deep gratitude for this brilliant yet effortless address, and rightly thought that little could be added to what we had just heard.

Many patriotic songs were rendered by the full company and Miss Loosli's musical effort was most popular.

A supper attended by nearly a hundred folk gave proof of our great esteem and love for our Country, its authorities, their representatives, our guests, and, we hope, the Manchester Swiss Club.

HELM.

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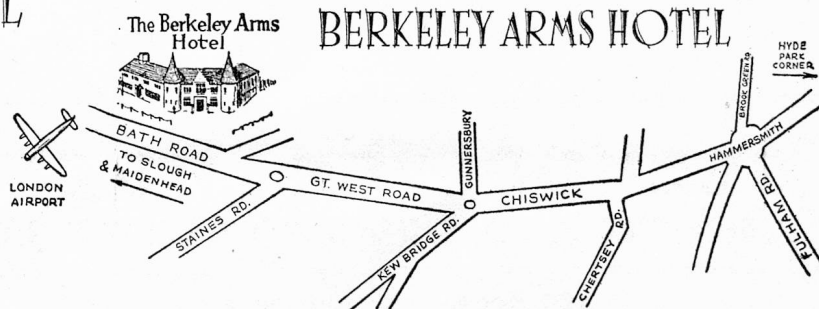


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