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"LES VAUDOIS DE LONDRES"

Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Independence of the canton of Vaud.

1948 is a year of Anniversaries for our country, and it is only right that these should not exclusively be celebrated at home, but also amongst our compatriots scattered far and wide in foreign lands.

The "Vaudois" in London have started the ball rolling. On Saturday, January 24th, they met "*en famille*" at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their independence.

Before I give a *compte rendu* of this very successful and most enjoyable evening, I should like to make a few "personal" remarks.

Some time ago my good old friend, L. Chapuis, a Vaudois *par excellence* asked me to accept an invitation, to attend this anniversary festival, not as editor of this paper, but simply as a "Bernois." I remonstrated, saying that, not being a Vaudois, it would look more like "gate crashing," but when M. Renou, as President of this festival, joined him in assuring me that my attendance would be greatly appreciated, due to my "charming personality" (!) I succumbed and headlong fell into a "trap."

We Bernese have the reputation of being slow, and I have on many occasions questioned the accuracy of this saying, explaining that even if we lack a certain vivacity, we occasionally deliberately "go slow" so that our brethren, hailing from other cantons, are able to keep pace with us.

Looking back on this evening I have completely changed my opinion, and I unreservedly agree with my friends, that we Bernese are very, very slow.

As the evening progressed it slowly but surely dawned on me, that I had been asked to attend this celebration, as the only representative of "*ces Messieurs de Berne*" to hear and to digest a few home truths.

I had been quite aware that we "Bernois" in times gone bye, not always treated our *confrères* of the canton of Vaud as we should have done, but it was just a little "malin" that, after 150 years I should have been singled out to pay for the misdeeds of my ancestors.

Alone and forlorn I had to face this onslaught, and when I, in my utter distress, appealed to my old friend Jobin from the Jura bernois, for help, he too deserted me, calling himself a "Pakistan Bernois." (Non-fasting).

When, I recalled that our national motto is "Un pour tous, tous pour un" I began to feel the mockery of it all and looking at the *rosette*, worn by all the participants, in the colours of the canton of Vaud with the initials L. P. I began to wonder whether "Liberté et Patrie" did not mean, in my case, "Laisser Passer."

The only redeeming feature was, when the President, alluded to me personally in his address as "liebe Bärnermutz," and thus convinced me that I was still an acceptable member of the federal community, and when I perceived the sympathetic smiles of the charming "vaudoises" at my table, new hope entered into my torn heart, and for the rest of the evening I felt "as happy as a sand boy." Having thus unburdened my heart I will endeavour to give a short *resumé* of the proceedings.

Previous to the official part, an excellent dinner was served consisting of the following menu:

La Sole Lemanique

Le Poussin d'Echallens
Les Pommes Vaudoises
Les Tomates de la Broye
Les Haricots Verts de Morges
La Salade de Grandson

La Pêche des Diablerets
La Bombe Helvétique

Le Café Grand'Mère

and the Management of the Dorchester Hotel is to be congratulated on this fine "non-austerity" bill of fare.

Monsieur A. Renou, who took the Chair at this "Confrérie Vaudoise", proposed the following toasts which were enthusiastically responded to:

Sa Majesté le Roi

Le Président de la Confédération
La Suisse

La Patrie Vaudoise

The toast "Les Dames" was given by M. R. Dupraz in his usual efficient manner.

Following the toast "La Patrie Vaudoise" the Hymne Vaudois "*Vaudois, un nouveau jour se lève*" was sung with great enthusiasm, finishing with these prophetic words:

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“ Que dans ces lieux,
Règne à jamais
L'Amour des Lois
La Liberté, La Paix.”

All eyes now turned to the top table, where Monsieur Renou from his “Fautueil Présidentiel” began to address the happy gathering in his mother tongue.

After extending a hearty welcome to his “concitoyens” and to the invited guests, he explained the reason of this celebration in the following words: “Pourquoi avons-nous créé cette Confrérie? Tout simplement, parce que l'occasion s'étant présentée.

Nous ne formons pas une nouvelle Société, (*applause*), bien contraire nous ouvrons tout grand nos rangs et nos cœurs à ceux qui pensent comme nous, qu'en cette Année 1948, à cette heure où le monde est menacé d'anéantissement par les puissances atomiques, IL FAUT REAGIR. Il faut le faire avec courage avec ce bon sens aussi dont se réclament les paysans vaudois, et reconnaître *qu'une chose importe* par dessus tout:

Retrouver les raisons profondes de vivre, Renouveler notre Foi, notre Espérance.

Having expressed his pleasure at seeing amongst the company so many members of the younger generation, some of whom had served in the last war in H.M. Forces, he continued by saying:

“Mes chers compatriotes, en ce jour d'anniversaire et de joie, sachons nous souvenir et apprécier l'immense privilège qu'est notre d'être *libres*, une Liberté que nous avons été bien près de perdre!”

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SHAPED CARROTS, 2/6 - in kilo tins.

NO POINTS

which extends to us Swiss its generous hospitality, the speaker said:

Y a-t-il dans l'histoire page plus réconfortante que cette victoire d'un peuple qui n'avait pour lui que sa Foi et ses traditions, source de Courage et de Volonté, Raison d'espérer. (*Long applause.*)

Concluding his excellent address, M. Renou said:

“Je crois à l'unité dans la diversité, je crois au Fédéralisme, je crois donc que nous serons d'autant plus unis, nous Romands si nous nous groupons non pas en une Société romande qui risquerait de créer une division dans la Colonie, ce que nous voulons éviter, mais en formant tout gentiment et sans faire de bruit ce qu'on pourrait nommer LE PAYS ROMAND.

Amis romands, dans les grandes familles chaque enfant a son anniversaire, et quand ce jour vient tout le monde est heureux. On entoure celui qu'on fête, ceux qui sont loin viennent passer la journée au Foyer . . . et la maman est tant contente.

Qu'il en soit de même dans notre famille romande que nous voulons belle, que nous voulons digne, car nous l'aimons et la respectons donc.”

This patriotic address by the President was acknowledged by long and sincere applause and the company sang with much feeling that lovely vaudois melody “C'est si simple d'aimer.”

The speech from the Chair, was followed by a most interesting historical *compte-rendue* of the immediate events which led to the declaration of independence, by Professor Giddey (Vaudois) of the University of Florence, and a short address by M. R. de Cintra, in which he as a Genevois, very wittingly answered the *railleries* of the Chairman.

The official part of the evening thus came to a close and a very enjoyable dance and entertainment followed, until midnight.

As will be seen in another part of this paper, the Neuchâtelois too will presently celebrate an anniversary, I do not know whether one of “Ces Messieurs de Berne” will be asked to attend, but if so, I would warmly recommend, whoever it is, to consult without delay one of our history books to make sure that he is “safe” in attending, it may prevent him from experiencing a temporary embarrassment.

In terminating my short account of this memorable evening, I wish to thank my good friends of the canton of Vaud, in spite of everything, for a very fine evening. I bear them no grudge, and if they had some good reasons to complain of the treatment by the “Bernois” of old, I have a very good alibi, because I was not there when the “dirty deed was done.”

Un chaleureux merci à vous tous, chers Vaudois!

ST.