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SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER.

**The Visit to Manchester of Dr. H. W. Egli,
March 5th, 6th and 7th.**

Fog in Manchester may have created doubt in the mind of our distinguished visitor as to the wisdom of coming North. Early on Friday morning he was confronted with an arduous programme, to learn from first-hand experience of Swiss enterprise in the county of Lancashire, to give an address to members and friends of the Swiss Club, Manchester, to answer their many questions and finally, to visit a war-and flood-damaged part of Salford. Thankfully, no doubt, Dr. Egli left us on Sunday for Merseyside, grateful for an hour's rest, only to contact once more, members of yet another Swiss community equally anxious to receive him.

Visits were paid, accompanied by Mr. J. J. Huber, to the works of The Clayton Aniline Co., Ltd., and The Geigy Co., Ltd., and by way of a change, to Thomas Mason & Sons, Ltd., Spinners and Doublers, owned by Sandoz Products, Ltd., Bradford.

On Saturday morning two silk mills in North Lancashire were inspected, Müller-Staub & Adliswil, Ltd., of Burnley, and Lancashire Silk Mills, Ltd., of Darwen. A special tribute is due to Mr. Schmid, who left Burnley at 5 a.m. by road, in thick fog, to collect the visitors in Manchester. It would not be easy to quote another example of devotion to duty and enterprise.

On Friday evening half a dozen members and their ladies, representing the Swiss Chemical concerns in Manchester, had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Egli in the friendliest atmosphere of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Huber's house. As it was a private affair, chapter and verse will not be given. Suffice it to say that 10 p.m. came round too quickly.

Saturday afternoon brought many members, their ladies, and friends together. After a good and satisfying lunch what could have been more welcome than to sit back and listen, undisturbed, to an excellent speaker whose quiet voice, raised occasionally to drive home an important point, held his audience for over an hour. What pleasure, what rapture to hear a master of the written and spoken word, and how happy a Committee having Dr. Egli as a guest.

The gist of his address was on "Switzerland and the Swiss Abroad" and in the first instance, the achievements of Swiss enterprise and integrity, which he had witnessed in the last two days, formed a basis of what was to follow. Few nations emigrate like the Swiss. A figure approaching half a million was quoted, populating all corners of the earth. This does not represent a weakening of Switzerland; it is caused by a natural saturation of soil and industrial opportunity, and is a link in both material and even more, in spiritual values.

The N.S.H. have, in the past, endeavoured to obtain best possible results in two-way traffic, and it is up to us to assist this section in order to foster and maintain the friendly attitude of Switzerland to its representatives abroad. The Secretariat is holding a watching brief on our behalf and whilst its activities have not, up to recently, been very noticeable at home, they have been successful, and encouraged by the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger, to obtain a hearing of the authorities in Berne, who in turn may be in-

creasingly influenced by the uncertain world position, sub-consciously realising that Swiss abroad have potential functions which are now getting the deserved attention in Switzerland.

An essential condition to a successful Secretariat is that we do ourselves play a more active role in supporting and thus enabling it to influence political circles at home, who are willing, nay anxious, to hear us and to listen to our suggestions. At last year's Convention many interesting points affecting Swiss abroad were aired, and particularly when the size of the delegation from this country is borne in mind. This, Dr. Egli impressed on the meeting, ought to be amended, and each Swiss community in Great Britain should, after due consideration, forward suggestions to London and appoint one or two delegates ready to support the Interlaken meeting in June.

As instruments in cultivating relationship with Switzerland, Dr. Egli appealed for additional subscribers to the Swiss Observer and the Echo, and to provide perhaps lecturers for the foreign-born wives and children, refreshing at the same time, our own memories. To be successful ambassadors for Switzerland, all of us should possess accurate knowledge of the home-country, of its developments and ambitions and of its outstanding functions in Europe.

To the younger element good news is likely to be forthcoming in a reform on Military Tax law.

Certain political rights may also become available at some future date to those present in Switzerland on given occasions. After all, one-tenth, an approximate figure of Swiss living abroad, do not contribute anything towards Swiss political life.

Dual nationality — a subject bristling with difficulties — is given most serious thought. This question is a natural development of war experiences, its progress must not be impeded.

The N.S.H. anxious to develop and maintain the love for Switzerland of British-born boys and girls, has established a camp in Boxhill, Reigate. Largely through the generosity of Mr. Suter they are now able to accommodate boys and girls alternatively. Dr. Lindt, an expert on many subjects, it is reported, excels himself in his talks to the children on such and similar occasions. Camps in Switzerland for adolescents are said to have yielded excellent results.

We were also happy to learn of the Pro Juventute organisation inasmuch as it might affect some of us.

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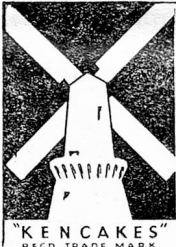
In conclusion Dr. Egli asked for suggestions to strengthen relationships between us, the Anglo-Swiss and the Home Country. After all, there exists basic similarities between these two Nations, and love and true friendship should be formed, rather than an over-allegiance to one country.

After a short discussion leaning largely on domestic and personal wishes to his listeners, our President, Dr. J. A. Schedler, thanked the lecturer for his address. He was seconded by Mr. J. J. Huber, and the audience showed their appreciation in no uncertain manner.

On Sunday morning a sadder task confronted Dr. Egli, the blitzed and flooded parts of Salford. Brave people, literally steeped in adversity, were seen and heard, people who complain, but not bitterly. How pleasant it is to report that one or two of those children are soon going to Switzerland for three months.

The intense desire of Dr. Egli to learn something of the suffering of a small section of the working population is to us all a further proof of a kindly man, a warm heart — a Swiss.

HELM.



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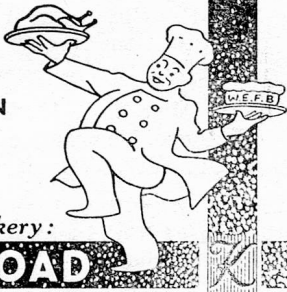
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SWISS CLUB, DUNFERMLINE.

Some 50 compatriots attended our annual gathering on the 19th March, 1948, at the nicely decorated recreation hall of Canmore Works.

In his address, the Vice-President was very pleased to announce the presence of our Honorary Member and at the same time our Consular Agent, Mr. E. Hofstetter.

A very special welcome was also accorded to our Honorary Member, Mr. W. O. Bosshardt, and to the representatives of the Swiss Club, Balloch and other distinguished guests.

Good wishes for a successful evening were conveyed to the party from letters received from Mr. Frick and Mr. Gurtner. We also wish to thank Mr. Frick for his telegram from London, "*My very best wishes to everyone for a pleasant evening.*"

After the opening song "*Rufst Du Mein Vaterland,*" we enjoyed a splendid address by Mr. E. Hofstetter and also by Mr. Berli, the President of the Swiss Club, Balloch. We wish to thank both gentlemen for their kind words and good wishes to the Swiss community in Dunfermline.

The main attraction of the night was a Film Show, under the direction of Mr. W. O. Bosshardt. This included a film of last year's 1st August celebration on the shores of Loch Lomond which refreshed us with so many happy memories.

After the Film Show, we enjoyed some light music by Mrs. Gertrude Meier, until the supper was served.

During the latter part of the evening, there were many attractions in store for the participants. Just before mid-night, we were able to announce the winners of the various games and competitions. Mrs. Schoenenberger then presented the prizes.

So came another annual gathering to an end. We all enjoyed ourselves very much and look forward to the next meeting.

We take this opportunity of thanking all those members who have so willingly contributed to a successful evening.

B.

THE SWISS COLONY IN LIVERPOOL.

On Sunday, March 7th, the Swiss Colony met, at the instigation of the Consulate, in the hall of the Y.W.C.A. in Birkenhead to welcome two distinguished visitors, the Rev. Reverdin, Minister of the "*Eglise Suisse*" in London, and Dr. Egli, President of the London Group of the New Helvetic Society.

After divine service conducted by Pasteur Reverdin, the guests had tea. M. Schärer, Acting Consul, extended a very hearty welcome to Pasteur Reverdin and Dr. Egli, at the same time expressing the wish that the Colony would have the pleasure of seeing them again in Liverpool in the near future.

After tea Dr. Egli addressed the gathering on "*Switzerland and the Swiss Abroad,*" giving very interesting details on the activities of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger, whose principal aim is to strengthen the ties between the Swiss abroad and the home country. His speech, excellently delivered, was very well received. The vote of thanks was proposed by M. Schärer.