

# Swiss fellowship in Yorkshire

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## SWISS FELLOWSHIP IN YORKSHIRE.

It is encouraging to note how the spirit of solidarity amongst members of the Swiss Colony in the West Riding of Yorkshire is providing increasing opportunities for personal contacts and co-operation. Since our joint Lancashire and Yorkshire outing reported in your columns, several outstanding events have taken place in our Swiss community.

On Saturday, June 25th, M. le Pasteur Claude Reverdin of the Swiss Church in London arrived in Leeds for a long week-end. The next day he preached at the Cavendish Road Presbyterian Church and then attended together with about twenty guests a luncheon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hagenbach. Amongst the guests were our Consul in Manchester, Mr. J. Huber with his family, the President of our Club with his family, and four Swiss volunteers (from Berne, Basle, Aarau and Chur) of the International Voluntary Service for Peace engaged in making a park in one of the working-class districts of Leeds. In the course of the afternoon we were joined by some hundred compatriots who were also the guests of our Secretary, Mr. Arnold Hagenbach and his wife, who had organised a garden-party in their beautiful grounds. Like last year they offered us not only an excellent tea but also that congenial atmosphere in which personal contacts become more natural. In this beautiful setting and brilliant sunshine, M. Reverdin gave us an account of the origin and development of the Swiss Church in London. He also gave a vivid picture of the difficulties which must be faced by the leaders of our Swiss religious communities in London. At the close of this happy afternoon the Consul, who, with his usual sympathetic understanding had in the course of the gathering answered many individual questions and helped to solve more than one personal problem, expressed on our behalf our appreciation of this successful party and brought a message of encouragement to us all.

On Sunday, July 24th, the Bradford Swiss Club made arrangements for the holding of an anticipated celebration of the 1st August, thanks to the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Silvio Lanfranchi. Here again the weather was wonderful and some eighty

guests could enjoy conversation, a delicious tea and sports in the delightful gardens of our hosts. Once again, M. Huber made a special journey from Manchester and conveyed in a sincere and eloquent address the deep significance of the anniversary of the Swiss Confederation. Furthermore, he read us inspiring messages from M. Nobs, President of the Confederation, and from M. de Torrenté, our Swiss Minister in London. The ceremony ended with patriotic songs, the last of which, "Les Armaillis des Colomettes", we sang in special honour of M. Henri Money from Fribourg, who accompanied the Consul from Manchester and to whom we were particularly pleased to express our appreciation of his untiring devotion to the cause of the Swiss in the North.

And finally, on the morning of Saturday, August 6th, a group of about 30 Swiss bakers and confectioners paid a visit to the Bradford Bakery and Huddersfield Restaurant of our compatriot, Mr. Silvio Lanfranchi. The interest of this gathering was not merely professional. Personal contacts were made with members of the Swiss colony, and the President of the West Riding Swiss Club in a short address of welcome stressed the importance of maintaining in all aspects of our activities the reputation for quality and workmanship which is our most valuable heritage.

*J.P.I.*

## SWITZERLAND.

In Europe's mosaic a precious stone  
Is set: a land of beauty, small in size,  
By nature fashioned as a paradise,  
Where mighty mountains rear their sil'ry throne.

Within its borders, slaves were never known;  
Its people, blessed with leaders strong and wise,  
Deem liberty a nation's richest prize  
And have, indeed, secured it as their own.

The bitter struggles that have been their fate  
Have shaped a small and free community  
Which lacks the bond of common tongue or creed,  
Yet thrives, contented, as one happy breed,  
Industrious, peaceful, and in unity,  
A microcosm of the perfect State.

*J.J.F.S.*

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