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LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RALLY.

The third annual rally of the Swiss Clubs of Manchester, Leeds and Bradford took place on Sunday, June 17th again at Hebden Bridge the most convenient half-way meeting point.

The first contingent to arrive were the Mancunians, a small but enthusiastic band about 15 strong, who had made an unusually early departure from their homes in order to be transported by British Railways to Hebden Bridge station.

In the adjacent Park, bright with oriental poppies, Peonies and other gay flowers, we awaited the arrival of those who had travelled by road from far and near. Gradually our number increased to about 60 and eventually we set off on the prescribed route to Hardcastle Crags, which after the initial rather stiff climb through the outskirts of the town, led by an easy track peted with bluebells, with the river Hebden glistening with bluebells, with the river Hebden glistening in the vale below. A few short, sharp showers failed to dampen the spirit of the wanderers and soon their gaiety and optimism were rewarded by brilliant sunshine, tempered withal by a light breeze.

We were again welcomed by mine host of the Cosy Corner Café, where we were served with "the cup that cheers but does not inebriate", to accompany the pic-nic provisions we had each brought with us and after this welcome refreshment we ascended the heights to gain the full benefit of the gentle Zephyr and to view the extensive panorama of the Yorkshire hills, described by one of the numbers as resembling the Jura.

After a restful half-hour on the threshold of the Yorkshire Moors, we descended again to the precincts of the Café, where a natural setting almost resembling a court-yard made an admirable site for a "Landsgemeinde".

First a census taken showed that all but three of our Swiss Cantons were represented, and that amongst us we had guests from France, Italy and Spain as well as our Indian-born guest of honour Mr. Blum, the Swiss Pastor from London. Also with us were eight young Swiss confectioners who are in this country on

a special commission to help in the firm of Hagenbach with the catering for the Festival of Britain.

Mr. Jean Inebnit, who will shortly be attending the "Journées des Suisses à l'Etranger" at Basle, then discoursed with his usual eloquence on the propositions, which our delegates will put forth. The motions were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The Party then sauntered down to the riverside, where the more youthful members played games and the very young ones revelled in the fun of jumping back and forth across the stepping-stones, until it was time to make a leisurely return to Hebden Bridge, where tea was provided at the White Horse Inn. Here we found more friends had arrived to join us, increasing our number to about one hundred.

After an excellent high tea, we heard some inspiring and witty speeches by Mr. Blum, Mr. Huber the Swiss Consul, the President of the Manchester Club, Mr. Berner, and the President of the Leeds Club, Mr. Inebnit. The proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of "Rufst Du mein Vaterland".

So thanks to the untiring efforts of the chief Organisers, Mr. Monney and Mr. Inebnit, another happy and memorable occasion has been added to the life history of the Swiss Colony in the North of England.

Setty Losli.

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