

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1952)

Heft: 1192

Rubrik: News of the colony

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NEWS OF THE COLONY.



LOUIS CHAPUIS — 75 YEARS OLD.

When some five years ago I mentioned (unknown to him) the 70th birthday anniversary of Mr. Louis Chapuis, in this paper, I expressed the wish and hope that he might be spared to us for many more years to come.

This wish, I am more than happy to say, has become true, and on the 4th of November, 1952, he will celebrate his 75th birthday, and on behalf of our readers, and the entire Colony, we tender him "Many happy returns of the day".

On reaching a further mile stone in a life so rich in achievements, it behoves us to look back and to mention some of the events and some of the services he has, for many years, rendered to the Colony.

It has been the privilege of the writer to have enjoyed his friendship for well over 30 years, a friendship, I am glad to say, which has never been troubled, and with the passing years has become even more close.

To write about a personal friend, who is happily still amongst us, is a delicate task; one feels to a certain degree reluctant to expose one's innermost feelings in public, especially when the person in question is known to be of a modest disposition, and opposed to the glare of the limelight.

If I should be asked what endeared Louis Chapuis to all who came in touch with him, I would say, that it is his simplicity, his straight forwardness, his tact and *savoir faire*; there is no pettishness about our friend, one always knows where one stands with him. He is faithful in friendship and helpful in adversity, all in all a lovable man.

Although he has practically spent all his life away from his native land, he has remained faithful to his country, which he loves so dearly and so consistently. He is never happier than when he is visiting his native canton of Vaud to which he is so very deeply attached.

Louis Chapuis was born at Lausanne in 1877, and he came to London together with his brother Carlo, both being orphans, at the age of 14, and can thus look back on 61 years of residence in this country.

On having completed his schooling in London he entered the employment of his uncle, Henri Comoy, as a junior clerk. The firm of Comoy already at that time enjoyed the reputation of being a pioneer of the Briar Pipe industry in England.

By sheer hard work, honesty and an indomitable will to succeed he soon gained the confidence of his principals, and before long was promoted to a responsible position. He became in time Manager, and successively Managing-Director and Chairman of the Board (which position he still occupies today) of this important and world famous concern.

Although his professional work required his full attention, he found time to take an active part in the life of the Swiss Colony in London.

At the age of twenty-one, he founded in 1898, a Swiss Society called "La Fraternelle Suisse" of which he became its first President. This Society, which had at one time a membership of over three hundred, after five years of lively activity, was wound up when he resigned from its leadership.

After this he joined successively the Swiss Mercantile Society and the "Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres" of which Societies he has been by now a member for over 50 years and many are the services which he has rendered to these institutions.

In 1916, Louis Chapuis entered the City Swiss Club, and twenty-two years later (1938) he became President; this post he occupied for five years, longer than any of the Presidents since the foundation of the Club in 1856.

During the last war, our friend was the Chairman of the Swiss Relief Centre, which under his able leadership did such splendid work.

One fact worth mentioning is, that he is holding an almost unique record, the one of having proposed as Chairman of various Societies, both English and Swiss, the toast to six sovereigns of this great country, his first one being to H.M. Queen Victoria as far back as 1898.

The above mentioned activities are incomplete as Louis Chapuis also played a conspicuous part in connection with his own Trade Associations where he took a leading part. During the last 50 years he has travelled widely in many countries.

* * *

May I, on this his 75th birthday, express my most ardent wish, that a kind Providence will allow him to be with us for many more years to come, enjoying good health and the companionship of his dear wife and children to whom he is so affectionately devoted, and thank you, dear Louis, for the long years of friendship which you have so generously bestowed on yours

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, November 14th, 1952.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and most helpful donations over and above their subscription: H. Monney, Swiss Club Manchester, Ch. Strubin, E. A. Doelly, G. Senn, O. Schneider, W. Allenspach, J. Keller, J. H. Speich.