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SWISS CLUBS, BRADFORD, LEEDS AND MANCHESTER.

On Sunday June 21st, was held for the fifth year in succession the "LANDSGEMEINDE" of the Swiss of the North of England or rather, as was pointed out by Prof. Inebnit, of the Swiss from Lancashire and Yorkshire.

This event is growing in popularity and importance, so much so that this year not only the local press but also one of the great newspapers of this land have thought it worth while to send reporters and photographers.

An illustrated report appeared in the Yorkshire Observer Budget of June 26th, and a long article in the Hebden Bridge Times and Gazette of the same date, whilst the Halifax Daily Courier published a report on June 27th. An abridged report, reproduced below, appeared in the "Yorkshire Post" on June 22nd :—

"Thousands of visitors to Hardcastle Crags, near Hebden Bridge, must at one time or another have remarked how like Switzerland is this lovely wooded vale, with its stream winding through steep fir-clad slopes.

But yesterday Hardcastle Crags was Switzerland to a party of 150 Swiss people from many parts of the North, who, for the fifth year, gathered there to



renew old friendships, make new ones and talk of home.

Professor J. P. Inebnit, who is senior lecturer in French History at Leeds University, said : "We call it Grütli because it is so much like the spot near Lucerne where the first Swiss confederation was formed in 1291."

In the party were Mr. Oscar Schneider, Swiss Consul for the North of England and Scotland and the Rev. Claude Reverdin, Swiss Pastor in London.

Professor Inebnit is justly proud of the success of this annual reunion, which has inspired the Swiss communities in France, Italy, Austria, Western Germany and Belgium to have similar gatherings."

The conduct of the meeting at Hardcastle Crags was entrusted to Prof. J. P. Inebnit — in fact I cannot imagine anybody else to do it so well. One of the participants was 81 year old Mr. J. Wirth, who walked the steep and slippery path to the top of the crags with more ease than many of the younger participants. He received a great and well deserved ovation.

We were fortunate this year in having a very great number of young Swiss — both men and women — and this of course resulted in more and better singing than in former years. The roll-call, canton by canton, was again a great success. Only sixteen cantons were represented, although the attendance was larger than ever before. Several cantons chose to sing one of their popular melodies, notably Fribourg, Thurgau, Vaud, etc. This was a pleasant innovation.

At the White Horse Inn in Hebden Bridge, where a very well earned High Tea was served, the chair was taken by Mr. Ermano Berner the Vice-President of the Manchester club. In his address Mr. Berner welcomed our guest of honour Pastor Claude Reverdin and expressed regrets that Mr. A. Stauffer Editor of the "Swiss Observer" had been prevented from joining us by doctor's orders. Referring to the name given to this reunion at Hardcastle Crags he explained the meaning in Switzerland of a "Landsgemeinde". He alluded to some of our guests of former years, mentioning particularly Prof. Laett, Mademoiselle Alice Briod and Dr. Ernst Mörgeli. To conclude his address he read the following words of the late Guiseppe Motta :

"Il n'est pas exagéré de prétendre que l'activité des suisses au delà de nos frontières est un titre de légitime orgueil pour notre patrie. Notre émigration n'a jamais été une émigration de masse, elle a

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toujours été une émigration de qualité. Partout où elle s'est portée, elle a laissé des traces profondes de sa présence: Ecoles, Sociétés de bienfaisance, Ouvrages techniques, Grandes Maisons industrielles et commerciales, Hommes et Femmes qui ont conquis des hautes situations dans les affaires, dans l'enseignement, dans les œuvres de charité et de philanthropie, dans les professions libérales; ce langage des choses est infiniment plus éloquent que le langage des mots".



The next speaker was Pastor Claude Reverdin whose theme was that true liberty is only found in our association with God, that is in the Christian way of life. He was followed by our Consul Mr. Oscar

Schneider who referred particularly to the Sixth Centenary of Berne and the 150th anniversary celebrated by six Swiss cantons this year. And last but by no means least our eloquent leader at Hardcastle Crags, Prof. Jean P. Inebnit, who ended his speech by giving us a pre-view of the address he intends to make at the "Journée des Suisses de l'Etranger" at Coire. Look out for the reports of this address, it will surely prove as great a sensation as his oration at Lausanne two years ago.

H.M.

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