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THE SWISS MINISTER AT MANCHESTER.

The Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame de Torrenté, arrived on Friday, November 13th, in Manchester, where, during their three days visit a very heavy programme was fulfilled.

At 6.30 p.m. on Friday, they were received by the Lord-Mayor and the Lady Mayoress at the Town Hall. An hour later, they dined with the committee members of the Swiss Club, and their Ladies, at the Midland Hotel, at the invitation of the Swiss Consul, Mr. Oscar Schneider.

On Saturday (Nov. 14th) at 9 a.m. a visit was paid to the Swiss Consulate, followed by a visit, at 11 a.m. to the Wythenshawe Estate, an expanse of 5,000 acres of land which is turned into a garden city and so gives Manchester a chance to tackle slum clearance in a most impressive way. The Mayor personally conducted the party.

12.45 p.m. a civic luncheon by the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of Manchester was given in honour of the Minister and Madame de Torrenté at the Town Hall. The distinguished persons who were present included the following:

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor (Alderman A. Moss, J.P., M.A.), The Lady Mayoress (Mrs. A. Moss), The Minister of Education (The Right Honourable Florence Horsbrugh, C.B.E.), The Lord Bishop of Manchester (The Right Reverend W.D.L. Greer, D.D.), The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Salford (Alderman J. Schlosberg, J.P.), The Worshipful The Mayor of Stretford (Councillor K. W. Davison, J.P.), Alderman Miss M. L. Kingsmill Jones, C.B.E., J.P., M.A., Alderman Colonel S. P. Dawson, O.B.E., M.M., T.D., D.L., J.P., Mr. H. E. Pardoe, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of Stewart Thompson and Co., Ltd., Mr. E. Brennan, M.A. (Com.), Chairman Europe Section of the Chamber of Commerce and Director of A. & S. Henry & Co. (Textiles) Ltd., Councillor Mrs. E. Hill, J.P., M.P., Professor C. W. Wardlaw, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.Ed., Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester, Professor R. A. C. Oliver, M.A. B.Ed., Ph.D. Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester.

In his speech the Minister said that Britain should not listen too much to critics from abroad but should be proud of what she had achieved in the post-war world. "In only eight years" he said, "Britain had not only recovered financially but had developed the Well-Fare State an act which commends respect

indeed." He praised the way women of Britain had "borne their share of the burden."

Monsieur de Torrenté described the Wythenshawe Housing Estate, which he visited that morning as "the true flower of local government", and said that Manchester could well be proud of it. The conception and execution of such plans made a man's life worth while and honoured a city.

The Minister of Education, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, thanked the Minister for his tribute to the women, and the Lord-Mayor of Manchester, Alderman A. Moss, said that Britain was particularly indebted to Switzerland for looking after its interests in Persia since the British Ambassador left and for helping in the very difficult situation in Korea.

At 3 o'clock the Lord-Mayor showed the Minister around the newly built Free Trade Hall (destroyed during the war) and the Dress Museum where in numerous show-cases fashions for men and women since the early 17th century are displayed.

In the evening, Monsieur and Madame de Torrenté attended the Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Club, Manchester.

On Sunday, the Minister had an invitation to visit Manchester's water supply installation at Thirlmere in the Lake District from where 44 million gallons of drinking water a day are piped to Manchester. (Manchester's total need is 77 million gallons for each 24 hours.) Facing Thirlmere is also Dale Head Hall, which is the Lord-Mayor's official summer residence and where the Minister's party was entertained for tea by the engineers of the water works.

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