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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

"LANDSGEMEINDE" OF THE SWISS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

On Sunday, 20th June, the Swiss of the North of England and their English friends gathered again for the seventeenth Landsgemeinde on the traditional spot of Hardcastle Crags. Participants met in the morning in the Memorial Park at Hebden Bridge, the Manchester Swiss Club acting as host. The Yorkshire Swiss Club was very well represented and led by its indefatigable President Prof. Jean Inebnit. Members and friends reached us from all directions, some coming from places as far away as Hull. It was indeed a most colourful gathering, one of the young ladies wore a beautiful and richly decorated Bernese Costume and one of the gentlemen a "Senn's" outfit. Represented were all walks of life, ages varying from the very young to that of a member, Mr. Jenny who, in spite of his 89 years, did not fear the long walk and took an active part in all our proceedings. What a fine occasion to meet old friends again and make new ones!

We were blessed with blue skies and warm sunshine in spite of the forbidding conditions of the early morning, and this favourable weather contributed to a large extent to the final success of this outdoor function and to the happiness of all concerned. It was a great pleasure for us all to be honoured by the presence of Monsieur Heimo, First Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy in London, who brought us the greetings and good wishes of our Ambassador and Madame de Fischer, and our gathering was further enriched by the welcome attendance of our Consul Monsieur Brunner.

By car or on foot we reached Hardcastle Crags, once known to us as the "Cosy Corner Café", now owned by the Halifax & District Boy Scouts Association whose kindness and co-operation enabled us to return again this year to the usual meeting place. After an enjoyable and well-deserved picnic lunch we started to form the traditional ring around our beloved flag, the white cross in the red field. Professor Inebnit took charge of this most impressive function, starting with the roll-call of the Cantons and reminding us in a most lively way of our home-country, some of its historical political and actual facts. It was, as always, a most happy and moving experience and at the end many of us joined in some popular songs of our country, to the accompaniment of a concertina very ably played by a young compatriot.

Later on we were joined by the Chairman of the Rural District Council of Hepton and Mrs. King, both again our guests at the "High-Tea" in the Civic Hall at Hebden Bridge, where we were able to welcome also the Chairman of the Hebden Royd Urban District Council, Mr. Barker and his daughter Mrs. Day. The high tea was very much enjoyed by every one present, especially the cakes which were supplied by one of our own confectioners, proving again that also in this field the Swiss are still in a leading position, for the benefit and the happiness of so many gourmands.

The President of the Swiss Club Manchester, in a short speech, welcomed our guests, our friends and compatriots, explaining some of the political aspects of our homeland, mainly in relation to the Landsgemeinden still held in some parts of Switzerland. He also reminded the gathering of the many departed friends who in the past

contributed so much to the wellbeing of our Club, and who had shown so much loyalty and interest in our work, to the very end. He mentioned in particular such names as Henry Monney, Elisabeth Bébié, Max Lichtensteiger, Etienne Cottet, Johannes Sohm and others.

He was followed by the two Councillors King and Barker, Chairmen of the local Urban and Rural Districts, who in a truly unmistakable way told us how happy they felt amongst us and how much they wished to contribute to the very hearty and friendly understanding between our two countries and their peoples, who had so much in common. We felt happy and honoured to be thus adopted by this town of Hebden Bridge and District and it is certainly our very earnest wish to keep such a pleasant association active and alive.

Monsieur Heimo, First Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy, delivered us the message from our Ambassador and Madame de Fischer and that we shall have the pleasure and honour to meet them later in the year in the North of England. His words and expressions were warmly applauded.

Monsieur Inebnit, *notre professeur*, then spoke a few concluding and inspiring words, in the way only he is able to do, and gave everyone some thoughts for their way home. We finished the evening with play and songs, to the tunes of a piano most ably and with great *brio* played by a young lady-friend. So came to an end a most interesting and happy day, and as one by one left, we were well determined to meet again, *en force*, next year.

E. BERNER.

PERSONAL

We wish to extend our deep sympathy to Mr. A. E. Banderet, until recently of 60 Gayton Road, Harrow, Middlesex, on the sudden death of his wife.

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It has recently come to the knowledge of the Editor, unfortunately rather belatedly, that another well-known personality in the Swiss Colony in London retired a few months ago: Mr. Willy Renz of 7 The Highway, Sutton, Surrey. He was born in St. Gall on 2nd January 1899. He had his schooling there and graduated at the St. Gall University of Economics. In 1922 he came to Great Britain and studied at the London School of Economics. He entered the services of Hambros Bank Ltd., became Manager of their Foreign Department and later a Director.

In the Swiss Colony, Mr. Renz has taken a very keen and active interest. He joined the Swiss Mercantile Society as early as 1923, became a member of the City Swiss Club and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique whose President he was for a number of years, and on whose Council he is still serving.

We wish Mr. and Mrs. Renz many years of happy retirement.

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We wish to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Diethelm of 41 Warrington Crescent, W.9, who are celebrating their Golden Wedding on 22nd July. We hope they will be granted many more years of good health and happiness.