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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

THE 1st OF AUGUST IN MANCHESTER

A nearly cloudless sky on a wonderful summer evening tempted over 200 people to come out into the rolling countryside of Cheshire where, at the Cottons Hotel in Knutsford, the Manchester Swiss Club celebrated its traditional 1st of August. It was pleasing to see that not only the "regulars", including four former Presidents, were there, but also a large number of young people, not to speak of the many children who were milling about.

Soon after eight o'clock, the Secretary of the Club, Mr. B. Simon, invited those present to sit down at the tables for food and drink. Thanks to the immaculate organisation of Mr. J. Dürig, there was no rush for the buffet and no complaint of somebody going short of potato salad, and within only a few minutes everybody was equipped with the traditional *Schübli* sticking out at least a couple of inches on either side of the plate, and with a glass of cooling *Féchy*.

When the meal was terminated, the President, Dr. K. Jaggi, rose to welcome those present. He said that he was particularly pleased that, once again, such a large participation from the Yorkshire Swiss Club had undertaken the long journey across the Pennines, in order to celebrate together with the members of the Manchester Club. He emphasised that there was no day like the National Day of Switzerland which could demonstrate better the sense of belonging and of unity — to come together not just for food and drink, but for being part of the Swiss Community. He thanked all those who had contributed materially to the success of the evening, by supplying the *Schübli*, the strawberry tarts and the wine.

The President was followed by the Consul Monsieur G. Brunner, who first read the special message from the President of the Confederation, Monsieur R. Bonvin, to the Swiss abroad and the telegram which the Club had received from the Swiss Ambassador. He then pointed out that a very important period had begun for the Swiss abroad, in as much as the acceptance of the new Article for the Swiss abroad in the Constitution last October now brought the time when thought had to be given to its implementation. In this connection, he mentioned the *Auslandschweizertag* in Lugano as a milestone, encouraging people to take part, and the questionnaire of the "Echo" and of the Manchester Club, which had been sent out in preparation for the Meetings in August.

It was particularly welcomed that both the President and the Consul spoke in the national language of Switzerland. This part of the proceedings having been completed, everybody went outside into the lovely summer evening, when the stars began to twinkle in the darkening sky. A big bonfire greeted the crowd and the first rockets zoomed into the night, building up into a splendid fireworks display arranged with pyrotechnic skill by Dr. H. R. Bolliger.

When the last rocket had burst in the sky, many Swiss songs were sung around the fire until finally the flames began slowly to die down, and the cool night air drove the participants back into the Hotel. There, drinks and *Ländler* music were waiting and many a *Schieber* or Polka were danced until long after midnight, the last ones started on their way home. Thus, the very successful National Day celebrations had come to an end for another year.

K.

SWISS EMBASSY LONDON

All services of the Swiss Embassy in London (77-81 Gloucester Place and 1 Montagu Place, London W.1) are open to the public during the following hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Closed all day Saturday.

BIRTHDAYS

We send best wishes to our readers whose birthdays fall within the next fortnight, in particular to Messrs. G. Godet (76) on 28th and Siro Alberti (77) on 30th August, A. Schmid formerly of the Glendower Hotel (81) on 2nd and C. Fairweather (77) on 7th September. Many happy returns of the day!

RETIREMENT

It is announced that Mr. M. Gédet retired from the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation on 30th June last after nearly half a century of service.

Mr. Gédet joined the Bank in Neuchâtel in July 1920, after having served his apprenticeship with the *Crédit Foncier Neuchâtelois*, coming to London in February, 1927. He was promoted to *Fondé de Pouvoirs* in January 1938 and to Sub-Manager in January 1951.

Mr. Gédet, who in the past travelled extensively for the Bank, remains an active member of the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society and no doubt will not lose touch with his special friends in the "*Réunion des Neuchâtelois*" to commemorate their 1st of March anniversary.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.

P.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for adding donations to their subscriptions and/or for taking out gift subscriptions:

Mrs. K. Carden, Mrs. E. Cottet, Mrs. S. Eisenegger, Mrs. M. M. England, Mrs. J. M. Jalland, Mrs. M. Jurgens, Miss E. A. Meier, Miss J. Steiger, Monsieur Denis Grandjean and Messrs. G. Ashley, J. D. Boedecker (Istanbul), P. Bucher, M. Buchmann, F. Heller, J. E. Jenny, H. Knoll, L. Lourson, A. Maeder, W. Schedler, H. Schmid, F. E. Stuber, R. Symes, P. H. Wiesendanger, A. Wirz.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLISHING DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 8th September. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 29th August. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 22nd September. Contributions for that issue should be to hand not later than Tuesday, 12th September.