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We surveyed the neighbouring Victorian church, which had been redecorated with funds bequeathed by a parishioner. We had a quick look at a fifteenth century house which the Civic Trust hopes to recondition and transform into a local museum.

The time had come for us to drive back to the Bridge. We had a lengthy picnic in the civic hall and were ready to start off again, this time to the Hardcastle Craggs car park, where our 23rd Landsgemeinde was planned to take place. Once we were there we lingered before a few cars had been displaced and Professor Inebnit climbed up grandly on a boulder and began to tell the history of the birth of Switzerland in the traditional way of Yorkshire Landsgemeinde. It was not until he had run through the *Waldstätten* and Lucerne, covering quite a bit of history, that a friend from *Glarus* stood up. Professor Inebnit continued his relentless historical progression, drawing forth friends from Berne, Basle, Ticino, Thurgau and Neuchatel but none, surprisingly, from Zurich. A charming representative from Ticino sang a lovely song from home, aided by Emilio, the caterer of the day.

The ceremony was shorter than in previous years. All the people with sturdy feet then set out for a hike up Hardcastle Craggs, a beautiful valley now under the National Trust. We climbed up to the upper end of a projected reservoir which had set the whole Calder Valley astir and which had been fought tooth and nail by Douglas Houghton, M.P. for the area and Lord Saville, the owner of this stretch of Yorkshire moor. We came back to the car park by another route and enjoyed the beautiful and melancholy sight of the moors.

A generous high tea was followed by an address from Professor Inebnit. He regretted the absence of Consul Rolph Born, who was presently in Basle attending the funeral of Mr. E. P. Banderet. Two of Mr. Born's colleagues from the Consulate had passed by in the course of the afternoon but had not stayed for tea. Manchester was not otherwise represented at this 23rd Landsgemeinde. Professor Inebnit furthermore regretted the absences of Mr. and Mrs. Pfluck, Mr. Berner and Mr. Paul Lerch, who could not attend having to submit to an eye operation. He asked Mrs. Lerch to convey to him our best wishes. Likewise, he asked Mr. Rihs and Miss Lanz to remember the Swiss of the North to the Secretariat in Berne.

Mr. Heniwell, chairman of the rural council, then said a few words and recalled his holidays in Switzerland. Mrs. Walton, daughter of Councillor Hubbard was also invited, in her female quality, to say a few words. Finally, Mr. Waring, the scoutmaster in charge of Hebden Hav, the traditional Yorkshire "Ruetli", replied

favourably to Professor Inebnit's proposal that the boy scouts of Chateau d'Oex and Hebden Bridge should do something in common.

When he had finished the speeches had been going for almost an hour. There was a widespread movement of chairs which was temporarily interrupted by Professor Inebnit's intervention. He brandished a letter just received by Mr. Rudolph Gnaegi, President of the Confederation, thanking Professor Inebnit for having sent him the Hebden Bridge Swiss Week programme and conveying his best wishes to us all. Professor Inebnit furthermore urged us all to benefit from the presence of our friends from the Secretariat.

However, it was time for many to go and the 23rd Landsgemeinde came to a close without any evocation of the theme of the coming Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, as was more or less expected. A fine late-afternoon sun shone on the Calder Valley as the Swiss of the North drove home from a friendly and traditional gathering.

#### NEW PREMISES FOUND FOR THE SWISS CATHOLICS

For the past eight years the Catholic youth club has been enjoying the facilities of the Westminster Ballroom for its weekly events, including a ball every second Sunday attended by up to 300 youths. These premises were privately owned and, all of a sudden, their owner had the incongruous idea of doubling their rent. Despite the healthy profits made at each dance, this was more than what Father Bossard, Chaplain at the Swiss Catholic Mission, was prepared to swallow. He declared that he wasn't renewing the lease.

Fortunately, another opportunity had made itself available at about the same time. The Westminster Cathedral Youth Club at 48 Great Peter Street, which was suffering from a loss of attendance and a correspondingly unsatisfactory financial situation was eager to house Swiss activities. The arrangements were soon made that the Catholic and Protestant German-speaking Swiss youth could use the Youth Club on Sunday evenings. The Swiss retain the priority on these occasions and British members may join in as long as there is available accommodation. During the week priority is given to regular members but the centre is open to the Swiss, again with the proviso of sufficient space.

This, from our churches' point of view was an ideal solution facilitating the contact with the sane elements of the local population of young Swiss people coming over here to learn English. No definite rent has yet been fixed. So far a gentleman's agreement

is to prevail and the Westminster Cathedral Youth Club is to get something between £1,000 and £1,500 a year, depending on the proceeds of fortnightly Swiss dances.

The club has ample space. It has a vast hall suitable for dances, a club room for conferences, a tea room and will be adequate, once it is appropriately decorated, to serve simultaneously for the German-Swiss reformed service and for Mass. A probable solution to the standing problem of premises for the German-Swiss churches has therefore been found. When St. Ann's Church is pulled down the Catholics will only have to cross the road. For the time being St. Ann's is to stay and the borough authorities have not given notice of demolition so far. Mass can now be held there at 6.30 p.m. and the Protestant evening service held at the same time, that is an hour earlier than before in the neighbouring youth club. This club has a new management in which Father Bossard and Pastor Dietler are expected to be elected.

#### ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

The June meeting of the Anglo-Swiss Society enjoyed the presence of Mr. Th. Dudli from the Commercial Section of the Embassy. He came to talk to us of his experiences in Iraq, where he was posted during the most troubled years of this agitated state.

He began with a masterful exposé of the countries history, starting right back with the birth of civilisation. He ended with the successive bloodbaths that accompanied the fall of the Feisal dynasty and the Kassem regime. Mr. Dudli had experienced some of the Baghdad street fighting himself and had gone through some harrowing moments. He ended the spoken part of his exposé with a plea in favour of more understanding of the Arabs in the present Middle East crisis.

He then turned to his projector and showed us a wonderful series of slides with mosques, deserts, Babylonian and Assyrian ruins, pyramids, street scenes, Arab children, views of the Euphrates and many other fascinating and evocative pictures, all of which were accompanied by an educated commentary.

The meeting was followed as usual by a gathering downstairs over a glass of beer. As an aside to the general subject of his talk, Mr. Dudli reminded us of the unsuspected fact that the Arabs had left some traces in Switzerland. For example, the Engadine resort of Pontresina used to be called "Pons Sarrazena" and the names Alaline and Saasalmagel have the Arab "al". Very interesting!