

News from the colony

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years old Ruetifarm located at Abtwil in the countryside of Appenzell. The town of St. Gall is only 3 miles away and Lake Constance is quite nearby too. One week's full board and lodging costs Fr. 167 for an adult and Fr. 104 for a child.

New Convention Centre in Montreux

A new convention building has just been opened in the centre of Montreux. The most important feature about it is that the partitions, chairs and stage are movable so that the centre can be

adapted for many kinds of functions — including boxing matches. There is room for 2,000 people in the main conference hall and there are two additional smaller rooms that can seat up to 500 each for receptions, exhibitions, etc.

NEWS from the COLONY

25th LANDSGEMEINDE OF THE SWISS OF THE NORTH

As in many years past, also this year, on Sunday, the 17th June 1973, Swiss men, women, children and their many friends flocked together at the Memorial Park in Hebden Bridge — coming from Lancashire, Yorkshire and Liverpool to be welcomed by the Civic Authorities and people of the Town to be entertained to a morning coffee and take part in a short service conducted by the Minister of the Hope Baptist Church.

The Town received us in a most festive mood; streets, buildings, houses and shop windows profously beflagged and decorated in the colours of our home-country, some displays very much admired, the aftermath of a most successful "Swiss Week" organised by the Hebden Bridge—Swiss Organisation. For several evenings the town's citizens and friends were entertained at such popular occasions as Film-Shows with cheese and wine refreshments; a very successful musical evening when people could listen to an excellent performance of the senior and junior brass-bands, songs and operatic tit-bits; finally, a beer-cellar evening, overflowing to the main streets where people could sit comfortably at tables, being served with all kind of drinks by Ladies of the Town, attractively dressed in Swiss Costume, and listen to the local brass-band. On this particular occasion Swiss Wines could be had, very kindly supplied by Dr. H. Bolliger of the Manchester Swiss Club. Some of the events were also supported by compatriots of ours, although from our side we could have hoped for a better turnout. To us it seemed to be in a small Swiss Town or Village enjoying a typical "Volks-Fest".

Walk to the Hardcastle Crag

People gradually started on the walk up-valley to Hardcastle Crag — admiring on the way the lovely, still unspoiled, landscape, and others took advantage of a modest and slightly rough mountain-track to reach by car Hardcastle Crag, now a centre of Scouts activities. We all sat down to a hearty picnic lunch and even the indifferent weather conditions prevailing at that time could not dampen our good spirits. Eventually we were called to the Landsgemeinde properly and we felt most

fortunate that also this year it was conducted by one of its three founders, Prof. Jean Philip Inebnit, the other two being Mr. H. Money, not anymore with us, and Mr. J. Amman, now living in the South of England. Everybody was well aware of the fact that we were celebrating the 25th Anniversary of a function which has grown all these years and become increasingly important to the Swiss of the North of England. It is, of course, only a symbolic and idealistic version of the real thing in Switzerland but, nevertheless, we gathered around the man one could imagine to be our Landamann, being called forward in the order of the entry into the Confederation and this was repeated 22 times. He addressed us with a few well-chosen words, suited to this particular occasion and the ceremony was concluded with the song "La haut sur la montagne".

Later in the afternoon, everybody moved down to the Town and the members of the Liverpool, Manchester and Yorkshire Swiss Clubs and their many friends, met again in the lovely Civic Hall to enjoy an excellent high-tea, well-served by a friendly and efficient staff. For us it was a reason for sincere satisfaction to see how well we were supported by the younger generation — whole families honouring us with their presence.

Tea at the Town Hall

Mr. Ermanno Berner, President of the Yorkshire Swiss Club, was in the chair and welcomed the many guests, in particular Councillor Mrs. Sheila Doyle (the Chairman of Hebden Royd Urban Council) and her husband, Councillor Milton Sunderland (Chairman of Hepton

Rural Council) and Mrs. Sunderland, some prominent members of the Hebden Bridge—Swiss Association, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Waring (District Commissioner of the Halifax and District Scout Council) our Land-Lord at Hardcastle Crag and the Rev Knight and Mrs. Knight (minister of the Hope Baptist Church and his wife). The absence of our Ambassador and other representatives from the Embassy in London was very much regretted, but we were happy to see Mr. Leuenberger, Vice-Consul, who represented our Consul General in Manchester, Mr. Rolf Born, absent in Switzerland. The chairman extended also a warm welcome to Mr. P. M. Beguin, who did not fear a long journey to be with us. He is known by all of us as the able Editor of the Swiss Observer of London, in which columns we are always well-informed of what happens within our Colonies and back in our Homeland.

The Manchester Swiss Club was represented by its President, Mr. Peter Senn, who was accompanied by some of its members and with the presence of some compatriots from Liverpool it proved to us the wider scope of this yearly function.

Model Railway for Refugees

Referring then specially to Prof. J. P. Inebnit, he reminded us all of what we owe to him, his 25 years of devoted and successful service for this good cause and he was most warmly thanked, in the usual way, by everyone present. We know, of course, of his latest initiative when to mark the 50th Congress of the Swiss Abroad, and with the help of Mr. Philip Sayers, Art Master of the Upper Calder Valley Comprehensive School and an enthusiastic group of students, a large Model of Hebden Bridge and its Landsgemeinde was built and exhibited in the Kramgasse in Bern, attracting much interest and admiration. Having served its original purpose, it is



Swiss Week Festivities (Halifax Courier).

now put to a different use, that is the collecting of funds for the relief of refugees all over the world, proceeds to be handed over to the High Commissioner of the United Nations.

Earlier in the day, the first of August badges were presented to the Civic Authorities and they were now wearing them proudly. They were also most pleased to receive sets of photo-prints of the "maquette", a very appropriate presentation for this occasion.

In response to our President's words, Councillor Mrs. Doyle said that the 25 years' association with the Swiss had added to the life, culture and trade of

the Town. The Swiss Week and the Landsgemeinde were each year becoming a more important event for the Town. Despite Local Government re-organisation, she hoped international friendship could be continued.

"Hebden Bridge" said Prof. Inebnit in his closing words "is helping refugees all over the world. The Model makes Hebden Bridge known and we want to see the local area developing and prospering."

It is on these notes that a memorable day – indeed week – came to its close, people gradually leaving for home, many already decided to meet again under similar circumstances next year

E. B.

present in his capacity as University Lecturer. Later the group was received by Senior Baillie Eric Keene and some of the Edinburgh Town Councillors at an informal luncheon.

The afternoon was spent by seeing the Royal Mile. At Huntly House Museum, the Ambassador's interest was caught by an Earl Haig Exhibition. The charming architecture of this mediaeval Scottish Town House and the lovingly collected gadgetry from Edinburgh's past, some rare, some typical and other sophisticated – express in a condensed manner the feeling of this wonderful city. A sight-seeing tour included a view from Calton Hill with its Parthenon-type folly overlooking this "Athens of the North", and St. Andrew's House (the Scottish Office and would-be Scottish Parliament). The Edinburgh Parks Department made a charming gesture of planting a flower Swiss Cross at the Mound. The minor mis-hap of the cross being red added to the charm.

In the evening, both Swiss Clubs of Edinburgh and Dunfermline and a party who came specially from Dundee, gave a Fondue Party in honour of the important guests at Consul Hartmann's Residence. As could be expected, and judged by the noise level, the meeting was animated, interesting and gay. The Ambassador expressed his view, that there is a fine comradeship among the exiles who have a deep admiration for Scotland. There is no shame to be integrated with such fine people as the Scots who have got a lot in common with us.

Swiss of Scotland

THE SWISS AMBASSADOR IN SCOTLAND

Ambassadors, by their profession, are far-travelled men. Ambassador Dr. Albert Weitnauer is no exception. Yet, he confesses that he was visiting Scotland for the first time, when he, in company of Consul General and Mrs. Rolf Born from Manchester, paid his first call to the Swiss Community in the East and the West of Scotland between the 10th and 12th May.

The party had a full programme of social, cultural, intellectual and civic visits, in the company of the honorary Consul in Edinburgh and Mrs. Otto

Hartmann. On Thursday morning, the Ambassador and his Party were received at Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh, which befittingly hoisted the Swiss flag. Edinburgh University kindly then arranged a short discussion, chaired by Professor Youngson of the Economics Department, where points of Politics, the Common Market and the standpoint of Switzerland in a modern world were explored. The many members of the University Staff showed a remarkable knowledge of Swiss affairs and the exchange of views and facts was mutually appreciated. Dr. Hansjoerg Wirz, Vice-Delegate of the ASK, was also

1st August Celebration at Wimbledon Town Hall

incorporating "Fête Suisse"

WEDNESDAY, 1st AUGUST, at 19.30 sharp
(Doors open at 19.00)

Next door to Wimbledon Station

PROGRAMME

The programme, as usual, includes items of a patriotic nature, as well as a Film Show

The main address will be given by

H. E. The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Albert Weitnauer

The colourful "Corale" of the "Unione Ticinese" will provide folklore entertainment

DANCING

REFRESHMENTS

LICENSED BAR

TICKETS at 40p available at the door or in advance at 30p from the Swiss Mercantile College. Children free.

The following day started with a drive through the lovely countryside to Linlithgow with a rather youthful and daring climb to the top of Linlithgow Palace, and after a further cruise to Glasgow, to take up the invitation of Lord Provost Mr. Wm. Gray, his wife and some senior Officials. Mr. Gray, in his drive to present a proper and fair image of his city succeeded so well, that the Ambassador sincerely felt, that Swiss Industrialists would do well to consider establishing branches in the area. Also, a holiday exchange scheme of Swiss and Glaswegian children was discussed which could be a living monument to this official visit by the Ambassador. Although (partly for security reasons) there was no press announcement of the tour at the time, the Ambassador made a long-lasting contribution by planting a whitebeam tree in Kelvingrove Park as a gesture of friendship and in the spirit of "Plant a Tree in '73".

Under the knowledgeable and enthusiastic guidance of Mr. Auld, the Party were shown the art treasures and models of the industrial achievements of this great city at the Glasgow Museum in Kelvinhall, where recently an exhibition of Swiss Graphics was held.

The West of Scotland Swiss Club, which was rejuvenated a few years ago from the Swiss Club Balloch, showed the close contact among our many compatriots. Their involvement in each others problems, hospitality and concern for the welfare of their compatriots is particularly recommendable. The Club welcomed the Ambassador and his party at a reception given at Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Huber, who excelled themselves in the presentation of a splendid buffet. President Fausto Ferrari, a member of the famous Ticinese family in Glasgow, summed up the evening by thanking the Ambassador for taking the time to visit his colony, which runs smoothly and without undue demands on the offices of the Embassy or Consulates, but which does feel part of a greater Federation of the Swiss abroad. Also it gave members a

chance to ask Consul General Born questions concerning nationality and Swiss Old Age Pension.

A special thanks to all those Scottish Officials and the University Staff, and to the members of our Community who so admirably rally either to give a helping hand to a Swiss in need, or so freely show their hospitality as on the occasion of the ambassadorial visit. The Swiss exiles are a great bunch of people, each an ambassador in his own right.

As important business urged Dr. Weitnauer to return, only too soon, he now has a taste of Scotland and will surely be back. Also Mr. and Mrs. Born could hardly bring a departure upon themselves and it took the help of a police escort to beat the traffic in time of their train's departure.

ANNUAL CHURCH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Church Assembly brought together the French and German-speaking Swiss parishes on Sunday, 9th June. For the second time, the meeting was held immediately after Service and consequently over in record time. In previous year these Annual assemblies were held after lunch and were protracted late into the afternoon.

Few questions were raised following the survey of the past year and reading of the minutes of the last Assembly. It was recalled that the two French-speaking ministers, Pastors Alexandre Nicod and Denis Muller, would be leaving by August. A Farewell Service uniting both parishes will be celebrated for the two ministers on 29th July. The question of the Church's new seating was also raised. The go-ahead has now been given for transforming the floor of the church and changing its creaking pews by displaceable seats. The church will also have a new floor. These works will be undertaken with the funds of the former Youth Club held in trust since the war by the Embassy and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. The decision

to spend these monies in this way had been ratified at the last AGM of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Reviewing the life of the German-Swiss parish, Mr. G. Gyssler recorded a discouraging fall in church attendance. While 40 to 50 compatriots attended Sunday services on average in 1962, the figure had dropped by half ten years ago. A record made for the first quarter of this year indicated that average attendance had decreased yet further and hovered around fifteen.

The Church Assembly was followed by a lively "Agape" with many members of both parishes enjoying a large plateful of rice salad prepared by volunteers.

A week later, forty elderly persons from the London area took part in the Annual "Sortie des Doyens" and were driven by coach to Claydon House, near Aylesbury, Nottinghamshire. Despite the long ride, the many octogenarians taking part in the outing enjoyed it tremendously and were blessed by the weather.

NEW MINISTER AT SWISS CHURCH

A new French-speaking minister will take office at the Swiss church at the beginning of August. He is Pastor Michel Languillat, from Paris. The Rev. Languillat, 40, studied theology at Paris, Montpellier and Rome. In the latter city, he studied at the Protestant faculty of the Vaudois churches of northern Italy. With a degree in hand, the Rev. Languillat was minister for over ten years in North Africa, working mainly in Tunisia and Algeria. He remained for several years at Oran. The Swiss Parish heard him deliver a remarkable sermon on Sunday, 17th June, when the Rev. Languillat had come from Toulon to visit London and get acquainted with his future work for three days. The Rev. Languillat, who is unmarried, showed great interest in this work, particularly among the young. His appointment came as a surprise to all as the Parish Council had come to the conclusion that the church required a Swiss minister. But the Consistoire, faced with a very disappointing response from the adverts that had been published in several Protestant journals in Switzerland and France, felt that the Rev. Languillat's application was the only way of keeping the parish going now that the Rev. A.

WELFARE OFFICE

for

SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

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