

Swiss Club

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THE SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

National Day Celebration.

The Manchester Swiss Club's 1st August Celebration had, due to circumstances, to be postponed till Saturday, August 10th.

For this day our President, Dr. Jack Schedler, and his wife offered us the hospitality of their house and garden. In spite of the prevailing holidays, in spite of the most atrocious weather that could be imagined, a good many members, their families and closer friends followed this very kind invitation to do honour to our National Day, and to once more meet in an extremely friendly atmosphere which so frequently prevails at these informal parties.

Our hosts had gone to great trouble in putting three or four rooms at the entire disposal of the people present, but the high-light of their efforts culminated in the decorating of some out-buildings, which had been turned with fairy lights, attractive posters of Switzerland, coats of arms of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, brought to prominence by cunningly hidden light effects, into a "Festhütte." Heads and antlers of the Chamois added to the homeliness of this room at the far end of which was draped our much beloved Swiss flag. Benches and tables of great solidity ran along the walls, and later in the day some of our dyehard "Jass" players sat down to an enjoyable game, the proceeds of which being contributed to General Guisan's Fund.

The 1st August emblems were sold by Miss Ursula Schedler, and her very much younger brother, the three-year-old Master Bobby, trailed the collection boxes around.

The tea-party which developed in the house, whilst rain fell without in torrents, was a magnificent success. Not only had everybody present assisted in supplying the communal table, but Mrs. J. A. Schedler had produced some delicious Swiss specialities, and all and sundry enjoyed the ware so lavishly displayed, so liberally offered and so heartily consumed.

In the meantime, a "firkin" wisely hidden behind the draperies, had been opened and sampled, in the first place to the knowing males only; later, as the ladies joined us and admittedly in some cases giving way to slight pressure, female support was forthcoming, and the "Festhütte" not necessarily as a result of the above enterprise, became a happy throng.

About this time Mr. J. J. Huber addressed a few words to the meeting, reminding us of the glorious day past now many hundreds of years ago, of the good fortune which Switzerland experienced again in the last years, and in thanking Providence for this preservation and for the wise men who have skilfully guided the Swiss State through so difficult a time. Our hosts were warmly cheered, and in reply Dr. Jack Schedler expressed his and his family's joy at the cordial support which all of us had given to so unique an assembly.

By 6 o'clock the sun appeared and our good friend Mr. E. R. Cottet, who must also be specially mentioned for his very considerable assistance, took photographs of young and old, and when the parting came we all felt really proud of something accomplished and an afternoon well spent amongst good friends and acquaintances.

HELM.

SWISS CLUB, DUNFERMLINE.

1st August Celebrations.

The 655th birthday of our homeland was celebrated on the evening of the 1st August in the nicely decorated hall of Messrs. Winterthur Silks Ltd.

After extending a hearty welcome to all present, Mr. Gurtner proposed to start the celebrations with the "Gruetli" song. Many of the best singers were not present this year since they decided to spend our national day at home after seven long weary years. Those who were less fortunate, nevertheless, raised their voices all the more, and proved that they had come with a good spirit and a light heart to the gathering.

Our President thanked all of us for the fine spirit shown in the opening song and started to give a short talk on Swiss history. He recalled many famous names, such as William Tell, Arnold Winkelried, Pestalozzi, etc., who have all done so much for our dear old Switzerland. At the end of his talk he proposed a toast to our fatherland as well as to Scotland where we enjoyed so much freedom during the war years.

In outlining the evening's programme, Mr. Gurtner informed us that after supper, there would be a shooting competition with a prize each for ladies and gentlemen.

Everyone present was eager to achieve the highest points and all took advantage of a second chance.

At midnight, the Vice-President had the pleasure in announcing the best results: First Lady, Miss Shirley; First Gentleman, Mr. Burgisser.

We all enjoyed the evening very much and consider it appropriate to extend a vote of thanks to the members who have helped so much to make this gathering a 1st August celebration with the right Swiss spirit.

A.B.

SWISS COLONY DUBLIN.

1st August Celebrations.

The Swiss National Day was celebrated in Dublin, when about 70 members of the Swiss Colony gathered at the Swiss Legation for a reception held by the Chargé d'Affaires, Monsieur W. de Bourg.

Addressing the visitors, he spoke of the significance of the day, the 655th anniversary of the founding of the Swiss Confederation. He hoped that some day it might be possible to celebrate that day of achieved unity and independence on a much larger scale.

Expressing the hope that the world would soon realise that improvement would only be possible when countries came together and warfare had ceased, he said that only then would there be peace and goodwill.

Monsieur de Bourg expressed his gratitude to the Government and the people of Eire for their generous hospitality to the Colony. In return he hoped the colony would continue its efforts to maintain their patriotic spirit and help to contribute further to the good relations existing between Ireland and Switzerland.