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The 150th Anniversary of the Canton of St. Gall

It was in 1803 that the canton of St. Gall was created as an independent state within the framework of Switzerland which was not yet, at the time, a federative state. This was not the consequence of a demonstration of the will of the people, but the result of an edict of the Emperor Napoleon, and the existence of the new state, made up of dissimilar parts, for a long time remained quite precarious ; it had begun with 53 florins in its coffers. But St. Gall can be proud of a culture going back more than a thousand years, and already several centuries ago the Commercial Directory of this town (an association of tradesmen which still exists and which plays the role of chamber of commerce) was working to establish and cultivate commercial relations extending all over the world. During a century and a half of peaceful existence side by side, often divergent interests were reconciled, and the canton, by practising a tolerant democracy, found its justification, its civic unity in this diversity and under the sign of federalism.

So, at the end of August this year was celebrated the 150 years of existence of a canton born of an imperial stroke of the pen, but which succeeded, in this form, in finding its balance, its inner justification and deserving to the full its whole and individual place in the bosom of the Swiss federal state.

The official celebration began with a large procession in which more than 700 guests of honour took part, among them being Mr. Etter, president of the Swiss Confederation, members of the Federal Government, the government of St. Gall, representatives of the army, of the various cantonal governments, the constitutive bodies, etc. A ceremony was held in the unique setting formed by the parvis of the baroque cathedral, surrounded by the old buildings of the famous abbey of St. Gall. Later there was a pageant which gave a vivid and colourful picture of the principal pages from the history of St. Gall and symbolised the different parts of the canton and their activities.

It is well known that the town of St. Gall is a great textile centre, first of all for embroidery, but also for fine cottons and handkerchiefs, which helped to provide a living for the skilled workers when, owing to various circumstances, embroidery lost some of its importance. It was therefore only natural that these branches of activity should be represented in this pageant, photo-

graphs of which are shown here. At the same time, the main shops selling textiles in the town had given special prominence in their window displays to the products of the local textile industry.

We are glad to be able to call attention here to the success obtained by the anniversary celebrations of St. Gall, and the part played by the textile industry, particularly as the lovely products of this branch have always figured prominently in the pages of the periodical « Textiles Suisses », and we wish, finally, to congratulate our friends of St. Gall by expressing our wish to see the prosperity of their small canton and its industry thrive for many years to come.

T. S.



Nous reproduisons ici quelques-uns des groupes, originaux et gracieux, qui symbolisaient l'industrie textile de Suisse orientale — broderies, tissus fins de coton et mouchoirs — dans le cortège historique des fêtes du 150^e anniversaire du canton de St-Gall.



We are reproducing here some of the original and lovely groups which represented the textile industry of eastern Switzerland — embroidery, fine cottons and handkerchiefs — in the pageant that took place on the occasion of the 150th anniversary celebration of the canton of St. Gall.



Reproducimos en estas páginas algunos de los graciosos y originales grupos, que en el desfile histórico conmemorativo de los 150 años de existencia del Canton de San-Galo, representaban la industria textil de la Suiza oriental — bordados, telas finas de algodón y pañuelos.

Wir zeigen auf diesen Seiten einige der originellen und eleganten Gruppen, die im historischen Festzug zum 150. Jahrestag des Kantons St. Gallen die ostschweizerische Textilindustrie — Stickerei, Baumwollfeingewebe und Taschentücher — darstellten.

