

The Rutli Club

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SWISS CLUBS LEEDS, BRADFORD AND MANCHESTER.

On Sunday, 19th June, a party of sixty-four from the three clubs, representing nineteen Swiss cantons, short only of Uri, Unterwald & Valais, met at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, for a joint walk to Hardecastle Crag. The pleasure of the day was greatly enhanced by the presence of Dr. E. Moergeli, of the "Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger" Berne, who was the guest of the Manchester Club during the week-end. Dr. Moergeli's address on "Switzerland and the Swiss abroad" was listened to with enthusiasm and was greatly appreciated.

As the local newspaper have reported the event, I am giving below a reprint from the Hebden Bridge Times of June 24th, as follows:—

SWISS VISITORS AT HARDCASTLE CRAGS YODEL AND SING "ILKLA MOOR".

"Local people who have visited Switzerland have spoken in eloquent praise of the magnificent scenery, but last week-end the position was reversed when a party of Swiss visitors came to the local district and expressed their delight with the beauty of the wooded slopes of Hardecastle Crag. One member of the party referred to the scene as being reminiscent of a scene in the Jura mountains of Switzerland.

The visitors were members of the Leeds, Manchester and Bradford Swiss Clubs, and numbered 64 in all.

Mr. H. Monney, organiser of the event, writes: "The meeting of the Clubs was arranged in the charming little park adjoining the main street at Hebden Bridge." The party walked up to Cosy Corner under a covered sky, and halted there for a picnic lunch. Afterwards the visitors burst into song and the strains of popular Swiss melodies, together with a spell of real Swiss yodelling echoed through the woods and attracted the attention of many local visitors to the popular beauty spot. Members of the Leeds Club caused great amusement with their version of "Ilkla Moor baht 'at."

As the sun found its way through the dispersing clouds the party climbed to the top of the Crag and admired the wonderful scenery of the Crag Valley. After returning by the riverside and spending an hour's recreation, they made their way back to the Victoria Hall, Hebden Bridge, where they were served with a "copious tea." Afterwards speeches were made by the chairman, Prof. Jean Inebnit, of Leeds University; the Vice-Consul for Switzerland, Mr. J. J. Huber; and finally what is described as an "elaborate" address to the Swiss of the three clubs by a guest from Switzerland, Dr. E. Moergeli.

Mr. Monney writes: "Singing, of course, ends the proceedings for the day, and all will remember this day. A desire to come again to this lovely valley is manifested, and quite likely this event will now be a regular yearly occurrence."

Before finally breaking up the party sang "Auld Lang Syne" in English fashion."

This event, the first joint-walk and function of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Clubs, will be remembered as an historic date in the life of our clubs, and will no doubt be the precursor of many similar activities.

H. M.

DANCE OF THE RUTLI CLUB.

The Rutli Club held another of their very successful dances on 10th June at Victoria Hall. There was a good attendance and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. The dancers were mostly young and it was noticeable that not many of the older members of the Colony were present. The Victoria Hall has an excellent dance floor and John Gaida's band was in good form. Despite the heat, the dancers were generally very energetic and there were few who had to sit out a dance for lack of a partner. As usual, the waltz was most popular and always caused a rush on to the floor.

There was the usual Tombola and a number of lucky dancers went home with their prizes, after Madame Bolla, who had won two prizes, generously gave them back to be drawn again.

The Rutli Club is fulfilling a great need for the young Swiss in this country by arranging these dances, as there are not a large number of social functions of a similar kind where they are able to meet other young Swiss at a reasonable cost to themselves. The low price is due to the fact that the Rutli Club do not wish to make a great profit, but rather desire to provide an opportunity for social intercourse in pleasant surroundings.

In view of the fact that the Fête Suisse was held on the previous day it was unfortunate that none of the performers were able to attend this dance, particularly as the hall was originally booked for this purpose. Their arrangements were apparently altered subsequently, but it was then impossible to book Victoria Hall for another date at such a late stage. However, the dancers did not allow this disappointment to spoil their enjoyment, although no doubt many of them would have welcomed the opportunity to meet their compatriots.

All too soon another enjoyable Rutli Club dance came to an end and it was time to say goodbye to friends, old and new. A vote of thanks is due to Madame Bolla and her willing helpers for organising these popular dances, although their labour must surely have received its reward at the sound of laughing voices and the sight of smiling faces.

R.S.S.

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