

Swiss minister trip to Northern Ireland

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SWISS MINISTER'S TRIP TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

On October 7th, 8th, and 9th, our Minister made a trip to Northern Ireland in order to visit our colony, contact various government officials and obtain information as to the trading possibilities between Switzerland and the six provinces. He met the Governor, Lord Wakehurst, the Minister of Commerce, Lord Glentoran, the Lord Mayor of Belfast and many important personalities in the Government and in Commerce. Although no separate statistics are kept by either country with regard to mutual trading, it was possible to ascertain that many business contacts do exist. Switzerland is not only a valued customer for Irish textiles but also a favoured supplier of textile machinery and of machine tools. The Government of Northern Ireland has since the war introduced far reaching measures to reduce unemployment and is prepared to grant facility and considerable help in order to establish new industries and favour expansion. The ship-building as well as the textile industry need new machines and need new tools; there is a spirit of enterprise all through the country which is very impressive.

Quite apart from business reasons, a visit to the country is well worth-while for its many scenery beauties and the friendly spirit of the people. There are ideal corners for a splendid holiday, be it on the sea-shore or be it inland. Any taste can be satisfied whether you like to wander in the hills or to fish, whether you want to play golf or pursue geological or botanical interests, or whether you just want to laze or look at old castles and churches.

The Swiss Colony is small and rather scattered. There was the most enjoyable reception at Belfast Castle, where we all gathered around our Minister and our Consul from Manchester, in whose particular charge the Swiss Colony of Northern Ireland is. Although our compatriots are happy in their country of adoption, they remain staunch patriots and are proud of their Swiss citizenship. It was the first time since the beginning of the war that a Swiss Minister has visited them and they will long cherish the memory of this gathering.

E.M.

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

89th Annual Banquet and Ball on Friday, November 19th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Advance publicity has been given to the above mentioned function in our last issue of October 29th; in the meantime members of the Club have received particulars in connection with this annual festival.

A circular is enclosed in this issue, in order that non-members of the Club, who are cordially invited, will get the necessary information.

It is hoped that many members of the Swiss Colony will make good use of this opportunity to meet both their English and Swiss friends at the Dorchester Hotel.

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, accompanied by Madame de Torrenté, will be in the Chair, and a number of distinguished English guests will be present.

Tickets (32/6) and any information can be obtained from the members of the committee, or at the offices of the "Swiss Observer", 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2 (Tel. CLerkenwell, 2321).

The list will be closed on Monday, 15th of November, 1954.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the announcement in this issue.

In order to avoid any disappointment, we should be obliged to receive orders, enclosing 6/-, as soon as possible, and not later than Friday, November 26th.

Winter Night Tourist Fares to Switzerland

Commencing 18th December 1954, Swissair are again operating Night Tourist services to Zurich and Geneva with new low fares for the winter season. Tickets valid 23 days.

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