

"Sortie des doyens"

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charming touch, there were two girls in Vaudois costumes, who accompanied each speaker to the stage and back — how much more pleasing than the lone walk up! Perhaps that was the key word, consideration and pleasure, regard for guests and participants, out to please everyone: the elderly residents who don't frown on folklore, the young students teeming with enterprise and vitality, a celebration devoid of false patriotism, which left an impression on all those whose privilege it was to attend. *MM*

“SORTIE DES DOYENS”

Happy Summer Outing

The traditional *Journée des Doyens* of the Swiss Church in London took place on Saturday 22nd June, a great day to remember.

We were expected at 11 a.m., but from 10 a.m. people arrived, some with friends, others with daughters or cousins, to take part in the outing organised for the older members by the Rev. A. Nicod and Mr. Godet year after year.

But first of all, who are the *doyens*? They are Swiss, but have been in England so long that most of them feel more British than Swiss. Their ages vary between 60 and 70.

After a picnic lunch in the Church Hall at Endell Street, everyone found a seat in the bus, and at noon exactly, off we went. Unfortunately, it was pouring with rain, but nevertheless, everybody was happy. Having passed Waterloo Bridge, we already started singing, mostly in French, but there were some English and even Italian songs as well.

The group of elderly people was accompanied by a few young members of the Church, who had given up their free Saturday for them.

After a two hours' drive, we reached Sevenoaks in Kent. Just outside the town, we stopped in front of Knole Castle, estate of the Sackville Family, and administered partly by the National Trust. In the middle of an immense park stands erect one of the largest castles in England, the earliest foundations of which date from 1281.

We followed our guide through many sitting and drawing rooms, and bedrooms where this king or that queen had spent a night. Each of these rooms looked more beautiful than the others. We saw the most valuable paintings, treasures and China brought from the most remote countries, presents offered by Napoleon to the Third Duchess of Dorset.

Nowadays, the castle belongs to Lord Sackville-West's family who actually live in part of it. A close relative of the present owner, Mrs. Sackville-West, has written a chronicle about the Castle and its owners through the centuries.

After a very interesting visit, everybody went back to the bus, and off we drove into the country. Half an hour later, we stopped in front of the “Old Barn” where we were offered a delicious tea.

Before going back to London, we had a short Meditation, sang hymns and thanked God for the successful excursion.

It was still raining, but everybody had forgotten about it. The journey took us back to London, and we sang many old songs and tunes everyone remembered. Everybody was happy, thankful for this unforgettable day.

Thank you to all those who have organised and made this outing possible. We are looking forward to next year!

Marie-Thérèse Noir.

BIRTHDAYS

The following readers will be celebrating their birthdays soon: Mr. H. Kriesi on 15th September, when he will be 79. Mr. W. B. Sigerist (La Tour-de-Peilz, Vaud) will be 77 on 23rd and Mr. Charles Chapuis 87 on 24th September. Mr. M. Rothlisberger will be 69 on 25th of the month. To them and any other readers whose birthdays will fall within the next fortnight, we wish many happy returns.

* * *

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. H. Humbel of 23 Dukes Avenue, Edgware on the occasion of their 30th Wedding Anniversary on 24th September 1968.

“SWISS OBSERVER” PUBLICATION DATES

The “Swiss Observer” is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 27th September. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports by Tuesday, 17th September. Short news items only can be accepted later.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 11th October. All contributions for that number should be to hand not later than Tuesday, 1st October.

Please : At the moment of going to press, about 100 subscriptions are outstanding. We should appreciate it if all readers who have not yet paid up would kindly do so immediately. Thank you !

SUCCESSFUL SWISS INDUSTRIALIST IN KENT

We reproduce the following item from the “Kentish Times” (26th July):

New Overall to resist Acid

“After official tests, a new type of acid-resistant industrial overall is now in production at the Rowden-road Beckenham, factory of M. Nixon and Co., whose parent company is Airguard, Ltd., of Fulham.

“The company, part of the Airguard group for some 15 years, manufacture gloves and overalls for major industries, including engineering and food producing factories.

“In addition to the Admiralty, R.A.F. and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, the firm supply the G.P.O., the Ministry of Supply, the Greater London Council and other local authorities.

“The firm, who draw most of their labour from the Beckenham area, are turning out a tremendous number of industrial gloves and overalls to keep pace with steadily increasing home orders. The manufacturing programme and distribution policy is personally led by the dynamic personality of the firm's chairman and managing director, Mr. W. W. Landauer.

“A Swiss national, Mr. Landauer played a large part in the creation of industrial clothing manufacture in this country some 33 years ago.

“Nixon's buy most of their material, which is woven and spun in Lancashire. When the gloves and clothing have been made they are transported direct to head office, from where country-wide delivery by transport and post is undertaken.”