

National festival in Manchester

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NATIONAL FESTIVAL IN MANCHESTER.

Due to adverse circumstances the celebration of the 1st of August Festival had to be postponed until Saturday the 11th. As it was the delay proved fortunate, because it enabled our Minister in London, Dr. Paul Ruegger, to fulfil his promise to meet the Swiss Colony in Manchester; as a further mark of his interest in his compatriots of the North he had asked his new deputy, Counsellor of Legation Dr. Escher to accompany him. The whole Colony is grateful to them both for having given it so much of their time and leisure, particularly in view of the difficult travelling conditions. On the other hand they have had shown to them the live spirit of collaboration among the several colonies of the neighbouring counties when their representatives were introduced to them; the Manchester group was gratified to receive Mr. Faivre of Liverpool and Mr. Staüber of Sheffield.

A further benefit of the postponement was that the gathering could be held under almost peaceful conditions, the effect of which was clearly shown in the bright faces of the participants and in a practical way in their generosity towards the National Fund for Nursing Mothers; it may be said that the sale of emblems and postcards produced close on £25.

As it is customary on such occasions the official proceedings were preceded by a luncheon at the Midland Hotel, in view of the special day there was a very good attendance to greet our London guests.

The celebration opened with the Swiss-made film "Marie-Louise" in the studio of Messrs. Warner Brothers, close by; the theatre was filled to capacity and the film had an enthusiastic and well deserved reception.

After this the Colony and their friends, over 100 strong, returned to the Midland Hotel and gathered in a nicely decorated ballroom for tea.

Mr. Kübler, the President of the Manchester Club, rose to introduce our guests, but he left it to Dr. Ruegger to address the gathering on the meaning and the importance of the Celebrations.

Whilst it is unfortunately not practicable to report his speech at length it is worth noting a few points of great importance to all our people. Dr. Ruegger spoke of the remarkable foresight of our federal authorities that enabled them to provide in a restricted manner for all the needs of the country. He pointed out the truly Helvetic spirit of unity that prevailed between all classes all through the danger period and contributed so much to the safety of the country. Although he raised the hopes of his listeners in better times he did not fail to warn them that patience was necessary.

He concluded his address with a bombshell by referring to the imminent loss to the Club of its President, Mr. Kübler, who is leaving, in fact at the time of writing has left, for an extended business mission to the West Indies.

Dr. Ruegger's address, delivered alternately in English, Dialect and French, was warmly applauded; after the President had, in a few well chosen words thanked the Minister and his collaborator for their visit, an old member of the Club, Hon. member Mr. Steiner expressed in French the deep appreciation of all participants for the Minister's welcome presence. As Mr. Steiner, like so many compatriots, is very much interested in the internal conditions in Switzerland and

in the prospects for an early visit to the Home Country he begged Dr. Ruegger for further enlightenment.

The Minister readily responded by adding further comments and assuring the Colony that, although the present travelling conditions were not favourable, every effort was being made by the Authorities to help their Nationals; in fact great improvements were achieved continuously and he had real hopes that air travel would be started in the near future.

Mr. Tenger, who, as a past secretary of the Club, had been in close collaboration for many years with the President, spoke of the untiring services rendered by Mr. Kübler not only to the Club but to the whole Colony and offered him his and the gathering's best wishes for a happy journey and a safe return.

After a most enjoyable celebration the parting seemed hard and a great many of the participants bent on prolonging it in a more intimate manner joined the guests at dinner.

L.G.

SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE

1st August Celebrations.

As usual our small colony came together to celebrate our National Day. This year it had a very special significance. It was the first gathering again of our club since peace returned to war-torn Europe and it has not only been an occasion to celebrate the 1st of August, but a day too for contemplation and thankfulness.

Our President, Mr. F. Gualeni, opened the proceedings of the evening with an address appropriate to the occasion and on its conclusion proposed the toasts on Switzerland and Scotland.

This year we were privileged to see a film show. The three Swiss films: "Switzerland off the beaten track", "In the Swiss Alps" and "Snow and Ice" were kindly lent to us by the London office of the S.F.R. We all very much enjoyed to see these lovely pictures of our beautiful Switzerland and, without doubt, everyone's heart beat a little faster in anticipation of a holiday in our native land.

On the conclusion of the film performance a tasty supper was put before us and with community singing, chatting and Swiss Music the remainder of the evening passed very quickly.

K.

UNIONE TICINESE.

This year's "Festa Nazionale" was celebrated by a Dance at the Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, W.C.1, and we are happy to announce that it was a great success.

The attendance was very good and the whole evening was marked with an informal air of friendliness and enjoyment. The music was gay and infectious, the dances many and varied, there were raffle and "spot" prizes for the fortunate, and last but not least, there were most entertaining Swiss yodels from Mr. F. von Bergen's illimitable repertoire, accompanied at the piano by Mr. E. P. Dick.

Altogether a very successful and enjoyable evening, and we say thank you to Mr. von Bergen and Mr. Dick and to all those supporters of the Society who came along and contributed to the fun.

R.A.