

Bettag - Jeûne fédéral at the Swiss Church

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CORRESPONDENCE.

College Historical Society,
Dublin.

September 4th, 1945.

THE EDITOR,
SWISS OBSERVER,
DEAR SIR,

I am only too glad to renew my subscription to your really excellent paper, to which I was introduced by your learned and kindly Chargé d'Affaires here, Dr. Benziger. During the war period it was a joy and a matter of great interest to many of my fellow citizens to read how another neutral was carrying on — more efficiently and, perhaps one must admit, not less honourably than our country. In war or peace the example of a small but long established democracy ought to be of vital interest to a small but very newly established democracy like ourselves. We have much in common — size, population, lack of raw materials, and determination to maintain our independence; we have also much to learn from you: tolerance, efficiency, and the carrying of democratic and cooperative practices into every quarter and corner of our lives. That is why "Swiss Observer" finds quite a lot of readers here between my finishing it and filing it, and why some of the news items therefore have been gladly welcomed in "Irish People" and other Labour and democratic journals here which feel a duty to try and enlighten our public as to the attitude and activities of other small democratic peoples.

Wishing your paper many more years of prosperity,
Yours sincerely,

J. DE COURCY-IRELAND.

SWISS CATHOLICS BETTAG SERVICE.

The attendance at St. Peters Church on Sunday, September 16th, for the Bettag Service was not up to the usual numbers, but the service consisting of High Mass with full choral service, and with the mixed choir, was as impressive as ever.

In his short address, the Chaplain, Fr. Lanfranchi, referred to his recent visit to Switzerland, his pilgrimage on behalf of the London Catholics to Einsiedeln and brought back greetings and blessings from the Bishop of Chur, his superior Dr. Christian Caminada. The Bishop in his letter expressed pleasure at the co-operation of the Swiss Catholics in London for patriotic and spiritual welfare of the colony, and expressed the hope that now the war is over the organisation will still more further the moral and charitable wellbeing of all the Swiss in the metropolis.

His message ended: "God be with you; to you Swiss abroad success and blessing; best greetings and apostolic blessings to the entire colony and its Chaplain."

Concluding his sermon Fr. Lanfranchi read extracts from the "Bettag" message of the government of the canton of Grison to the people, a clarion call to the people to revert to christian morals and principles true to the traditions of the Swiss ideals and past history.

Fr. Lanfranchi also announced that the usual Christmas Service, children's party and social would be held on Sunday, December 23rd, and asked for gifts, presents, etc., to make the evening a success.

May I also ask our compatriots who have not yet sent their contributions for 1945 to do so without delay.

J. J. B.

BETTAG — JEUNE FEDERAL
AT THE SWISS CHURCH.

The celebrations of the Eidg. Dank- Buss- und Bettag (Jeune Fédéral), which took place on Sunday, the 16th September at Endell Street (in French) and at Kingsway (in German), showed a record attendance.

Both the Rev. M. Pradervand and Rev. P. Rad showed from the scriptures, as the only reliable guide to our faith, that the message of deliverance for the world is Jesus Christ, and that in Him there is no condemnation, but salvation (John 3.17). To-day we confess our shortcomings to God and ask Him for mercy. As a nation, we have reason to thank Him for the protection and preservation of our country. It is perhaps not sufficiently known here that many in the homeland have given themselves to prayer during the war, and we can take it as a gift from God that our country was preserved, and able to give shelter to thousands who otherwise would have perished.

Rev. Pradervand, who has visited Switzerland recently, brought hearty greetings from the Federation of Protestant Churches there. They take the greatest interest in the welfare of all the Swiss in the colony here and Rev. Pradervand's visit has strengthened the link of friendship and mutual understanding which we have enjoyed for so many years.

LIVERPOOL CONSULATE.
A Meeting at Birkenhead.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidson had the happy inspiration to invite us all to tea at their house on Bidston Ridge, facing west, overlooking the Dee basin and the Welsh Hills beyond. The Prestatyn contingent was also included in the invitation and attended. No sooner in Liverpool we were told by a friend how active Mrs. Davidson was, and a good organiser under present-day conditions was wanted for the goodly number who came to tea. The function passed off admirably and we admired both house and garden. Mr. Davidson is a noted climber who knows the Alps well. As a Banker he had to go safe to avoid risks as much as possible and leave the risk to the other fellow. But as a climber, he had to live dangerously and take the risk himself. However, in his wife he had a lady willing to face risks herself, who would not have had bad dreams the night before the adventure was to start. In all the details of the charming garden we noted the result of the hand who cared. Time passed all too quickly when the time of departure arrived.

The Consul addressed to our kind hosts a few words of sincere thanks for their hospitality and for their friendship to us all in inviting us to their home.

The conversation was largely about the possibility of getting home soon, perhaps a little "Heimweh."

E.M.

O. BARTHOLDI,

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