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SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

Visit of Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, Swiss Minister, and Madame de Torrenté to Manchester, April 24th to April 26th, 1949.

This visit was a great event for the Swiss Colony in Manchester and was suitably celebrated by the Colony organising their annual dinner — the first since 1939 — in honour of our distinguished visitors from London. I shall revert to the dinner at the end of this article.

Coming to the official part of the programme organised for the Minister, Monday morning, 25th April, was taken up by visiting important Swiss Chemical Works in the Manchester area (CIBA, Geigy Co., Ltd., and Sandoz) whose products are known the whole world over and for which the Swiss chemical industry is rightly famous. During this time Madame de Torrenté visited the Manchester Corporation's collection of English costumes at the Platt Hall Gallery and also the well-known Rylands Library where many fine specimens of early printing produced in Bâle, Burgdorf, Geneva and Zurich, along with many famous manuscripts and early printed books were seen.

Afternoon, 25th April, Monsieur and Madame de Torrenté called on the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Miss Mary L. Kingsmill Jones, and were afterwards shown over the Manchester Central Library, a model of its kind.

Monsieur de Torrenté subsequently inspected the Swiss Consulate.

In the evening, the Lord Mayor gave a dinner party at the Town Hall, where the Minister and his party had the opportunity of meeting representatives of Manchester's civic, political, industrial and cultural life. The Lord Mayor of Manchester extended a cordial welcome to Monsieur de Torrenté on behalf of the City of Manchester and recalled her happy days recently spent in Switzerland and paid a sincere tribute to Switzerland's many humanitarian activities, several of which have benefited some Manchester families.

Monday morning, 26th April, Monsieur de Torrenté and his party visited the Shirley Institute, the research centre of the British cotton, rayon and silk industry. Later they were the guests of Manchester Chamber of

Commerce at a luncheon arranged by the President of the Chamber, Mr. E. A. Carpenter, O.B.E., J.P., at which occasion the Minister had the opportunity of meeting prominent Manchester business men.

Throughout, the party were accompanied by Mr. J. Huber, our tireless working Consul, on behalf of the Swiss in Manchester.

And now a few words in regard to the annual dinner given after a lapse of ten years, the revival of which after such a lapse of time was in itself an occasion to celebrate, our distinguished visitors made it doubly so. The gathering of seventy-nine people were immediately put at ease, when after the opening address by Dr. J. A. Schedler, our President, Monsieur de Torrenté replied, that although this occasion was the first opportunity he had of coming to Manchester since his appointment as Swiss Minister to the Court of St. James, he did not come from Berne, but from the Valais, the land of high mountains and of vineyards and orchards and where the name of "Fendant" is known to every Swiss, old and young, and wherever they may be.

This opening phrase created the real Swiss democratic atmosphere. Further, we are indeed glad to know that Switzerland is proud of her Countrymen abroad and from Mr. de Torrenté's address it is very gratifying to know of the deep ties existing between Switzerland and England.

At the conclusion of the address Monsieur de Torrenté was given a great ovation. And this set matters going.

An excellent dinner was served at the Midland Hotel and Mr. E. Cottet is to be heartily congratulated for the first-class arrangements and floral decorations.

Manchester Swiss responded with joyous hearts and look forward to the "next time."

R.T.G.

PERSONAL.

The marriage took place, in Oberhofen, of Colonel V. R. Paravicini (son of the former Swiss Minister in London) and Mrs. J. Campbell, only daughter of the late Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, Bt., M.C.

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