

Yorkshire Swiss Club

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their opinions and suggestions by early August, as she would have to present a report for the Commission meeting at Einsiedeln. (Please write to Mrs. Mariann Meier, 53 Priory Road, London NW6 3NE, by 10th August.) Should you wish to have a copy of the draft, please write to Eidgenoessische Drucksachen-und Materialzentrale, 3000 Berne.

There is no doubt that it will take a long time until a new Constitution is accepted. It is true that the present one is loaded with ballast, and the mixed-up relationship between Confederation and Cantons needs clarification. The Constitution would fare badly in a beauty contest, but it does reflect the true political reality of Switzerland. Above all, it contains a strong substance of liberty. The present draft is linguistically beautiful, but some liberty rights and security valves against unlimited State interference are weakened if not pulled down.

It is remarkable that the experiment is entirely voluntary and not due to need or conflict. And the effort is an unique political deed to put our house in order in unity and peace, and the chance should not be missed.

The Federal Council will have to consider the answers from all the bodies involved in the consultative procedure (the Commission of the Swiss Abroad is just one of them). A final draft will then be submitted to the two Chambers, and they can accept, alter or reject it. Should the latter be the case, it can become subject of a popular Initiative, and then

the electorate will have to decide. Let us finish with something Federal Councillor Wahlen said at Zofingen:

"It would be wonderful if the occupation with the renewal of the Constitution could become a united effort to search for higher values. Whether the strength for the great deed of a total revision of our Federal

Constitution will arise from such an effort already in the next few years, cannot be predicted today. But it is certain that the vast amount of work will not have been in vain, and it will turn out for the good of our homeland." See Gottfried Keller's Letter from Switzerland.
M.M.

Yorkshire Swiss Club

At the recent A.G.M., held at the Central Library in Bradford, the Officers of the Club were re-elected for a further year.

President: Mr. O. Schreiberke; Joint Secretaries: Mrs. Ruth Leathley, Mrs. Edith Lerch; Treasurer: Mr. Karl Kâgi.

During the past year we concentrated more on social activities and with this we have been able to attract some of the younger generation. Highlights of the season were our two Fondue parties, the second given for our paid up members by the Consul-General, Mr. Jaques, and Mrs. Jaques ably assisted by his staff from the Manchester Consulate. Another success was the by

now traditional Swiss Supper at the beginning of February.

Looking forward to next season it was decided to continue on the same lines. However, there will be an important change in the venues. We have lost our meeting place at the University Staff Club in Leeds. We have taken the opportunity to meet from now on alternate dates in Leeds and Bradford. It will make it easier for the members living in the west of Yorkshire to come.

In conclusion we may say it was a quite satisfactory year in the life of the club and as stated before we are very grateful for the continued interest and support our Consul-General and Mrs. Jaques have given us.
Q.C.S.

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