

# Manchester Swiss Club

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## MANCHESTER SWISS CLUB.

Meeting for the annual (1st August) outing, a small, but extremely happy party, left Piccadilly for Bolsover via Chesterfield, on Sunday morning, August 7th. Swiss costumes were much in evidence, displayed beautifully by our younger members.

The weather was somewhat cold, but later in the day became quite hot.

We travelled through the lovely countryside, on to Taddington Woods, where a picnic lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all, including the little white dog, which with his master travelled with us throughout the day.

In the peaceful setting of the woods, Longfellow's lovely poem "The Poet's Tale" seemed apt:

"It was the season, when through all the land  
The merle and mavis build, and building sing  
Those lovely lyrics, written by his hand,  
Whom Saxon Caedmon calls the Blythe-heart

King:

When on the boughs the purple buds expand,  
The banners of the vanguard of the Spring,  
And rivulets, rejoicing, rush and leap,  
And wave their fluttering signals from the steep."

After lunch, on we went, past Ashford, arriving to schedule at Chesterfield, famous for its leaning tower — actually a trick of the eye. A short run, and we were at Bolsover. We were taken in three different parties, through the castle. Bolsover Castle has a unique history, and we could almost see Cromwell marching along with his men, across the lanes, to besiege it, which we were told by the Villagers, he did. A hole in one of the walls, caused by cannon-fire, is evidence.

High tea was served at the Angel Hotel, where many of our Nottingham friends joined us, making in all about 97. After a most welcome repast, the official part of the ceremony commenced.

A message from the N.S.H. was read by Mrs. Themans, followed by a message from M. M. Petitpierre (President della Confederazione) read by Mdl. Colette Desbaillet. The Pact of 1291 was read by Mr. E. Kubler.

Then came our President's speech, and in it, Mr. Monney mentioned that two girls would be leaving England, the following week viz:— Vaeni Gecaf, and Elizabeth Stresf. One of these charming girls replied.

Mr. Monney said: '

"Dear Compatriots and Friends,

It is very gratifying to see such a large attendance to-day. I am particularly pleased to welcome compatriots from this side of the Pennine, notably from Nottingham, Mansfield, Sheffield and as far east as Newark. Among our Nottingham friends I am glad to see Mrs. Alyse Simpson whose last two novels have been widely and favourably reviewed in the National press. One of these "I threw a Rose into the Sea" describes life in Eastern Switzerland, mostly in Canton Appenzell, but also on the shores of Lake Constance and in the Grisons. As with her previous novel "Rest Dust of Africa" Mrs. Simpson writes about her own life and experience. I have just read "I threw a Rose into the Sea" the descriptions are fascinating: the life of

novices in a convent, for instance, is described with a richness of details that is most instructive. I am pleased to tell you that Mrs. Simpson has presented us with an autographed copy of this book and we thank her very sincerely.

I am also glad that many of our Swiss Young Ladies have managed to get the day off from duty to be with us to-day. We like to have you with us — in fact the day would be spoilt if you were not here. Many of you are celebrating our National Day away from home for the first time. As you can see that the Swiss living abroad feel just as keenly as our compatriots at home about our Country and are just as proud of our Swiss heritage. Last Monday all over Switzerland the bells of our churches were ringing, bonfires were lit on our mountains, bands were playing and everybody was making merry. This gathering to-day is our modest way of asserting that we also belong to the Swiss Community. A moment ago you heard the text of the Pact of 1291: By the Grace of God, it said, men of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwald take the solemn engagement to help one another, to defend their possessions against any attacker, to accept the judgment of their duly appointed magistrate but not to recognise a judge that is not one of their own community, and so on. To-day, after 664 years, there is not a word in the Pact of 1291 that need be scrapped. Our present constitution — dating from 1848 — is of course more elaborate and complicated, but the spirit of 1291 remains.

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And now just a warning :

For us Swiss abroad it is essential that we should avoid any conduct that might damage our reputation. I am pleased that generally speaking this is the case. There has happened, however, some isolated cases of bad or shall I say misguided behaviour. This leaves a stain on our reputation. Whilst good and normal behaviour is mostly passed unrecorded, bad behaviour — even if only very rare, is generally remembered. On the other hand there have been often cases that have done us good. Take for instance Mrs. Alyse Simpson: the fact that her name has been mentioned as a Swiss writer and very good notices were given to her books, has enhanced the Swiss reputation. Another case — our Honorary member Mr. Inebnit: In the *Yorkshire Post* — one of the leading national newspapers — on 29th June — an article was published entitled "Jean P. Inebnit, Apostle of Good Will." Apostle of Good Will, what a lovely tribute to a compatriot. Then nearer to us still — take our Consul, Mr. Oscar Schneider. The Lord Mayor of Manchester two years ago made some very appreciative comments about him when speaking at our banquet in the presence of our Minister Mr. H. de Torrenté. This also enhances our reputation. Apart from doing his work as Consul in an exemplary manner, as is recognised by the Lord Mayor's eulogy, Mr. Schneider has been a very good friend of our club — always helpful and collaborative when asked for some service, never self-assertive as he might well have been in his position, and always most tactful.

We appreciate the fact that he was with us not only at our principal functions but also at our minor activities, for instance our monthly rambles.

Now all this leads me really to an announcement that is both painful and pleasant. Painful because we shall have to part with a good friend — pleasant because we rejoice at the recognition of work well done and at a well deserved promotion. I refer to the announcement made last Friday that the Federal Council has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Oscar Schneider as Consul General in Chicago. We congratulate him and wish him God speed. His successor in Manchester will be Mr. Max Büchi, coming — as was the case with Mr. Schneider — from Manilla in the Philippines."

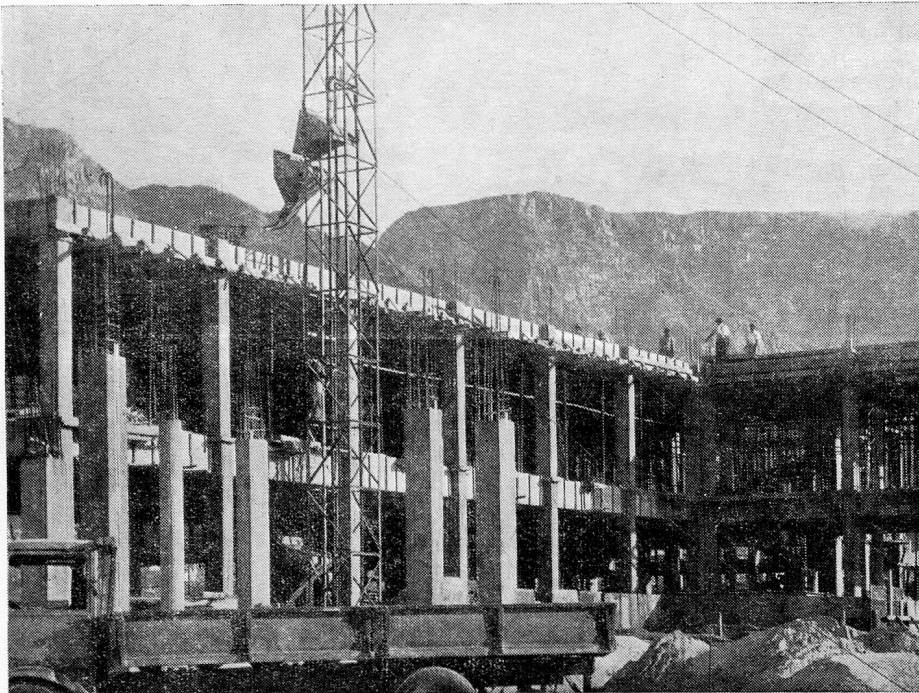
The Father of the Club, Mr. Wanner, thanked Mr. Monney, and three cheers were given by all, for one who does so very much to ensure the smooth running of the Manchester Swiss Club.

Thus with vivid memories of the past, and happiness in the present, another August Day came to its end. Again in the words of Longfellow :

"They perished, the blithe days of boyhood  
perished,  
 And all the gladness, all the peace I knew!  
 Now have I but their memory, fondly cherished :—  
 God! may I never, never, lose that too!"

L.S.

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