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CITY SWISS CLUB CENTENARY OUTING

Centenaries are of a rare occurrence in the Swiss Colony of Great Britain; up till now only two Societies share this distinction, the "Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres" which celebrated on January 15th, 1954, their 250th anniversary, and the Swiss Club Manchester, which completed 100 years on Saturday, November 11th, 1950, they will shortly be joined by a third — the City Swiss Club.

Preparations for the Centenary Banquet in November next at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, are already well in hand, and judging from advanced information received, promises to be a brilliant affair.

To kindle already now a festive "Stimmung" for this important mile-stone in the history of the Club, the committee had arranged on Saturday, May 19th, a "Centenary Outing" to Windsor, followed by a steamer trip to Marlow. For the occasion, the Club had offered to defray part of the costs from its funds; unfortunately this generosity was not sufficiently appreciated by the members, as only about a hundred participants found it convenient to attend, which is to be regretted, especially as this outing turned out to be a most enjoyable affair. It may be that perhaps the day being the Saturday before Whitsun was one reason for the small attendance, and yet one would have thought, that in view of the fact that the Club has now fully entered into the festive year, the members would have shown more interest.

* * *

Early on Saturday morning coaches and private cars conveyed the members and their friends to Windsor. After an *Aphéritif* served at the well-known Castle Hotel, the company which included the Swiss Minister, and Madame Daeniker, as well as several members of the Legation, sat down to an excellent

luncheon served in the large Banqueting Hall, which was for the occasion decorated with scarlet and white flowers, even the chairs being painted red.

During the luncheon a charming young lady (Miss Marjorie Jarvis) gave a piano interlude, and when coffee was served, the President, Mr. Ch. Gysin, gave the only Toast, the one "To the Prosperity of the City Swiss Club". This Toast was appropriately drunk with such famous vintages as Yvorne, Fendant, Neuchâtel and Dôle de Sion.

Shortly after 2 o'clock the party boarded the steamer which was to take them to Marlow. Although the sun was much in evidence there was a cool breeze, which, however hardly interfered with the comfort of the passengers.

Three sharp blasts, and we were off. Whilst one part of the company occupied the stern of the boat, which was covered, the younger and more hardy generation took possession of the upper deck which one of my friends jocularly described as the "tourist class". Here, surrounded by a number of boys and girls, Miss Jarvis, who had supplied the "Tafelmusik" at the Hotel, played the accordeon, and the youngsters lustily sang English, French and Swiss songs. It was a real "field day" for them, their gay laughter and merriment was a joy to witness.

Slowly, we passed Windsor race course towards Clewer, with the imposing buildings of the Clewer Sisterhood. Then came the Boveney lock which was navigated without much delay. On passing the monkey island, the youngsters tried hard to spot any monkeys, but none could be seen. The next stop occurred at Bray lock, which apart from our steamer was packed with punts, skiffs and motor boats. All along, the river was alive with boats of all description, and here and there, in spite of the keen wind, bathers circled round the steamer. Then Taplow was passed



with its railway bridge which is said to have the widest brick arches in the world, and thence to Maidenhead with its many river and country clubs, and the famous Skindle's Hotel.

On the banks the lovely houses surrounded by exquisite gardens were much admired. Again, we came to a lock, this time the famous Boulter's lock which presented an animated scene.

The invigorating air meanwhile called for some refreshments, and a sumptuous tea consisting of cold meats and hot "Schüblig" was served in the dining room of the boat, which could hardly accommodate all the passengers, so that quite a few had to be served on the upper deck.

Those who required a stronger stimulant could indulge in drinking beer *ad lib* (and at the cost of the Club), and I noticed that after this "lubrication" some joined the jolly young singers.

Shortly before reaching Cookham, everyone assembled on the upper deck to get a view of one of the most picturesque reaches of the Thames, again we went through a lock, the Cookham lock, which is unsurpassed for quiet loveliness. Further along we passed Bourne End, and nearing our journey's end could view Marlow, with its lofty church spire and the Complete Angler Hotel with its spacious grounds. The company then disembarked, some boarding again the coaches to take them to London, whilst others returned by coach to Windsor to collect their cars.

So ended an outing which was a most enjoyable and happy one, thanks are due to the committee of the City Swiss Club for having arranged this outing, and especially to Mr. R. J. Keller, Vice-President of the Club, and Mr. O. Ernst from the Swiss National Tourist Office. Their very efficient organisation enabled everything to pass off without the slightest hitch. This "Centenary Outing" certainly augures well for the coming "Centenary Banquet".

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, June 29th, 1956.


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