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THE NATIONAL DAY IN MANCHESTER.

The Swiss colony in Manchester and Liverpool celebrated the National Day precociously on 27th July by combining it with a Sunday picnic. A bus and several cars took the more-than-fifty participants from Manchester to Liverpool. While the bus sped along the East Lancashire Road, young and old joined in the sing-song which was quickly under way. From Pier Head in Liverpool the Ferry conveyed the party across the Mersey to New Brighton, while the coach and private cars went through the famous Mersey Tunnel.

The necessary appetite was not missing when all sat down to the picnic lunch in the sand-dunes between New Brighton and Wallasey — in not one rucksack was the "Bindenfleisch" missing.

Unfortunately, a cold wind was blowing along the coast, and the sun had hardly the courage to glimpse from time to time through the heavy grey clouds, so that only a few enthusiasts had the courage or inclination to go for a swim. Therefore, during the afternoon, alternative entertainment had to be sought by those who were not satisfied with a quiet chat in a wind-protected corner — most of the young ones found it in the Amusement Park of New Brighton.

Towards the evening, the coach took the party to Arrowe Park, where, in the Red Room Restaurant, tea was served. In the "official part" of the celebration, the President of the Swiss Club, Mr. M. Lichtensteiger, referred in his address to the days when, two hundred years ago, the Swiss national spirit was declining and had to be brought to life again by the men of the Helvetische Gesellschaft. He reminded the Swiss of this spirit, which Albrecht von Haller had expressed in simple but meaningful words, and of their duty towards Switzerland. He also paid tribute to the Swiss Consul, Mr. M. Buchi, who had just completed his thirtieth year in the Consular service. Then Mr. Buchi read the abbreviated text of the Bundesbrief, and also the message to all Swiss abroad from the President of the Confederation, Dr. Th. Hohlenstein. A few songs concluded the day, and, in pouring rain, the party set out on the way back to Manchester and Liverpool.

Dr. H.B.K.

25th ANNIVERSARY AND OPEN DAY CELEBRATION.

At the Britannia Iron & Steel Works in Bedford,
Saturday, 19th July, 1958.

Dr. Schneebeli, Mr. Bucher, chairman and managing director respectively of the Britannia Iron & Steel Works, and their co-directors invited a large company of friends to visit their factory.

Before opening the factory gates, the directors gave a small luncheon party at the Bridge Hotel, at which the Mayor of Bedford, Alderman Jones, the High Sheriff, Mr. Allen, the Swiss Ambassador, Viscount Boyle, the Deputy Mayor, the Town Clerk of Bedford, as well as Dr. Amsler, Mr. Türlér, Mr. Zehnder, Mr. Moosmann and Mr. Ritter — the last five from the Georg Fischer Works in Schaffhausen — and Mr. Bircher from the Embassy, and their ladies, assisted.


Our compatriot Mr. Bucher welcomed the guests. For us Swiss it was especially gratifying to learn from His Worship the Mayor of Bedford what excellent relations existed between this subsidiary of the Georg Fischer Works of Schaffhausen and the Town of Bedford and in what high regard Mr. and Mrs. Bucher were held in the whole neighbourhood.


The tour through the works in the afternoon was exceedingly interesting. Token crews were at work to illustrate the various processes needed in casting and finishing not only the famous GF-fittings, but also an incredibly varied and often extremely complicated array of customers' requirements. The visitors followed with interest the many testing installations to insure that only high quality goods would leave the factory; they watched with interest the precision and accuracy of the various automatic machines which had been developed by it in Bedford or in Schaffhausen.

The factory canteen most generously provided a tea and cooling drinks to about five thousand visitors from near and far.

The day did honour not only to Mr. Bucher and his team of organisers; it not only helped us to understand the high repute and growing turnover of the Britannia Iron & Steel Works, but it showed once more what harmony Swiss management can achieve when working with British authorities and British workmen.

E.M.B.



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