

The king and our people

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formed the Swiss Federation 650 years ago, to live up to the standard of the cross, embodied in our national flag, to ask the patron Saint of Switzerland, "blessed Nicolaus von Flue" to offer with us fervent prayers to God that our homeland be spared the horrors of war, strife and hunger and that Switzerland be allowed to carry on her traditional role in international life as a peaceful, free and independent country, enabling her to do noble work of relieving suffering and charity for all afflicted people and nations.

The singing of the hymn "Grosser Gott wir loben Dich" concluded the service which will remain long in the memory of those who attended. The surplus of the collection has been given to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

The Rev. Father Longstaff of the Westminster Cathedral acted as Organist and Messrs. C. Berte and Boos as M.C.'s and Wardens.

THE SWISS COLONY IN LIVERPOOL.

We were able to arrange a modest celebration for the first of August at Prestatyn and the details were worked out by Mrs. Macquarie and Mrs. Davidson. The younger element of our Colony is chiefly girls, the men are advancing towards the age usually associated with grandfathers with all the responsibilities associated with that phase of life. They came by car, on bikes, by train, and in the end we had quite a respectable gathering. In these days of rationing it was considered wiser to bring along picnic baskets and soon the decision had to be made shall we go to the hills at the back of the town or on the sandhills fronting the shore. On this glorious summer day the sea seemed more inviting and the picnic was held on the sandhills of the Ffrith, a pleasure beach developed by the Prestatyn Urban District Council. We sat round in a wide circle and first sang a few patriotic songs. Some visitors looked round in astonishment, but being apparently English and hearing the National Anthem in an unfamiliar tongue they must have thought we were Welsh. At any rate they did not seem to mind. Then we had our picnic tea and great was the delight when Mrs. Macquarie unpacked a huge cake from our friend Troxler (Swiss Café, Liverpool) with our national colours as top decoration.

As the work among our girls by Mrs. Macquarie and Mrs. Davidson is getting known to wider circles, we find that some of our Swiss ladies disguised under English names on account of marriage come forward and join in. Who would think that Mrs. Cheetham of Meliden is really a lady from Bale? She has a mother, Mrs. Steffen, living with her, but she could not risk coming since she is 82 and at that age you must take no risks. The girls decided to go up to Meliden after bathing to bring her a Ständli which was done. Needless to say Mrs. Steffen was deeply moved. It was a memorable occasion for her.

A letter was sent to the Swiss Minister in London assuring him of our firm attachment to our homeland and to the authorities guiding our course in these dangerous times. We just had to do it, the "Heil dir Helvetia" spirit of the occasion demanded an outlet.

E. MONTAG.

SWISS COLONY IN DUBLIN.

The Swiss Chargé d'Affaires and Madame Benziger entertained about forty of our compatriots at the Swiss Legation, Clyde Road. Monsieur Benziger delivered a short patriotic address stressing the importance of tradition recollecting that a nation remains young as long as its traditions are refreshed by new creative elements.

THE KING AND OUR PEOPLE.

H. M. The King sent the following telegram to the President of the Swiss Confederation:—

I desire to convey to you my warm congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 650th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation, and my best wishes for the continued peace and prosperity of the Swiss people in the future. The Swiss Confederation, founded by the free choice of its members, whose independence has been so valiantly defended by the Swiss people throughout the centuries, has long been a vital part of European civilization. The ideals of freedom and harmony between different races so successfully embodied in the Swiss Confederation are fully shared by the peoples of the British Commonwealth, and I am confident that this community of ideals has contributed powerfully to the ties of sympathy so long existing between the Swiss and British peoples.

GEORGE R.I.

to which the following reply was received:—

In the name of the Federal Council I warmly thank your Majesty for the very friendly message by which, on the occasion of the 650th anniversary of the Confederation, you were good enough to give us a new pledge of the sentiments of understanding and sympathy which animate the peoples of the British Commonwealth towards Switzerland. I assure your Majesty that Switzerland is the more gratified in that she cherishes like sentiments for Great Britain, and I beg you to accept the cordial good wishes which we feel for your personal happiness and that of your peoples.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

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and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

| | | |
|-----------------|------|---------------|
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