

Annual dinner of the Association of British Membres of the Swiss Alpine Club

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"GRUETLI" CELEBRATION, SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER.

We have received the following complementary notes to M. Suter's well-written report about the "Grüti-feier" in Manchester, which appeared in last week's number of this paper.

The Swiss Minister and Mme. Paravicini made a point of being present at this year's "Grüti-feier." The Minister left on Saturday morning by train and Mme. Paravicini joined him in the afternoon, after having flown in a private aeroplane from Heston to Barton.

M. Cuagni, the Head-Manager of the Midland Hotel, one of our countrymen from Neuchâtel, had prepared them a beautiful suite of rooms, decorated with flowers.

At 1 o'clock the Minister attended a lunch offered him by the Directors of the Clayton Analine Company at the Midland Hotel; this was a very pleasant affair. He was welcomed by Consul Schedler with a cordial, informal address which nevertheless furnished him with some interesting information about the affairs of the important and prosperous Anglo-Swiss concern and about the position of that particular industry in general.

M. Paravicini hastened to express his appreciation of this, and dwelt more especially upon the development of the chemical industry in connection with the economic conditions in his own city of Bâle.

After lunch, the Minister was taken to Clayton by Consul Schedler, and so given a welcome opportunity of inspecting the works; he said afterwards that the visit had left him with a remarkable impression of the works' extension and organisation.

In his speech at the Banquet of the Swiss Club, that same evening, the Minister began by saying that it was eight years since he had been privileged to spend an evening in Manchester, and twice that length of time since Mme. Paravicini had been the Club's guest. He said how much he regretted being unable to see more of the Swiss Colony in Manchester, especially as it outnumbered any other Swiss Colony, except London, on British soil.

He went on to say, that there had been many changes all over the world since the Minister's last visit to Manchester, but after three years of grave anxiety things in Switzerland had been taking a turn for the better, whilst in Great Britain the improvement was of yet longer standing; but, at least from a *politician's* point of view, the changes in the world as a whole were unfortunately for the worse.

The Minister expressed the hope that the recent move of the Gold-Block countries would assist improvements inside the different countries; Switzerland seemed already to have taken steps to follow Great Britain's example in this direction. In his opinion, though at the moment the political situation gave cause for some anxiety, although not for real alarm, the mutual adjustment of intercourse between States would soon follow on internal improvements.

The Minister ended his speech by saying that, in Manchester at least, one should remain faithful to the hope that Anglo-Swiss relations would again be as they were in pre-war days, when such lasting business friendships were formed and such remarkable results obtained, to the benefit both of that city and of the industrial centres in Switzerland.

On the Sunday, the Minister and Mme. Paravicini attended the service at the Swiss Church, taken by Pasteur Hahn. They afterwards lunched "dans l'intimité" at the very pleasant house of Dr. and Mme. Schedler, with its many recollections of Switzerland and its fine Schwyzer dining-room, a copy of an old room, the inlaid wood panelling for which was made by a cabinet-maker at Schwyz. The Schedler family's armorial panels of old glass, and the old Swiss pewter and Zurich fayence rendered the atmosphere still more complete.

The Minister and Mme. Paravicini left Manchester for London that afternoon, by the 4 o'clock express.

ANNUAL DINNER. of the ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS of the SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

On Wednesday, November 25th,
at the Hotel Great Central.

The Annual Dinner of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club was held at the Hotel Great Central, on Wednesday, November 25th. The President (Mr. A. M. Andrews) was in the Chair, and nearly 90 people were present.

To the great disappointment of everyone His Excellency, The Swiss Minister, found himself at the last moment unable to attend, but we were very pleased to be able to welcome in his place Monsieur Charles de Jenner (the Counsellor to the

Swiss Legation), who made a most excellent speech. The other guests of the Association were The Right Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., the two Vice-Presidents of the Alpine Club (Mr. Sidney Spencer and Mr. J. E. C. Eaton), the President of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club (Professor R. S. T. Chorley), Monsieur R. de Cintra (a former President of the City Swiss Club) and Colonel Sir Henry Fairfax-Lucey, Bart.

The Toast List was as follows: "The King;" "The Swiss Confederation," proposed by Wing Commander E. B. Beauman, and replied to by M. de Jenner; "The Alpine Club and Kindred Societies," proposed by Mr. V. O. Cohen, and replied to by Mr. J. E. C. Eaton; "The Guests," proposed by the President, and replied to by The Right Hon. L. S. Amery; "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. W. M. Roberts, and replied to by the President. Mr. Roberts reminded those present that Mr. Andrews was due to retire at the end of this year, and congratulated him on a most successful term of office; Mr. Andrews, after thanking Mr. Roberts for his remarks, proposed the health of the President-Elect (Mr. C. T. Lehmann), and Mr. Lehmann replied.

M.N.C.

AN APPEAL.

The SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, L'ÉGLISE SUISSE and the SCHWEIZER-KIRCHE in London appeal once again to their countrymen for their kind contributions, in cash or kind, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to their compatriots in need. Wearing apparel, underclothing and footwear are much appreciated, and such gifts will be gratefully received.

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