

# To "Gallus" the poet-laureate of the Swiss Colony on his sixtieth birthday

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be left along the frontiers to harrass the invader. Factories were to be destroyed, the civil population were ordered to stay put so as not to hamper the troop movements. All tunnels were mined ready to be blown sky high at a moment's notice. These preparations and the determination of the population to sacrifice their all for a survival did not fail to come to the notice of the German General Staff, and if the victorious German hordes and their satellites kept off it was due entirely to our army and our people who stood steadfast and true in one of its direst hours."

Dr. Lindt then spoke of the great efforts made in helping the civil population; the old age pension was introduced, unemployment relief was granted, families who were deprived of their bread winners, owing to mobilisation, were supported. Employers and employees alike voluntarily surrendered two per cent of their income for relief work both at home and abroad. The *Don National* was created, and hundreds of million francs were collected, and large quantities of food and clothing were sent to France, Holland, Norway and Belgium and other needy populations.

Mention was made of the Swiss Merchant Navy, which unprotected faced dangers by day and by night in order to carry the food to the one or two ports which were put at our country's disposal.

Dr. Lindt concluded his address by paying a high tribute to the valiant Swiss army, to the civil population, especially the women, and last but not least to our Government which by its farsighted policy, its firm attitude had been successful in warding off the dangers of an invasion, which would have crippled the country for generations to come.

The Swiss Minister then spoke a few words, thanking Dr. Lindt for his able address.

After a short discussion, the Chairman, in conclusion warmly thanked the speaker for his extremely interesting *exposé*, and the Swiss Observer heartily joins him in expressing our appreciation to Dr. Lindt for having given us an opportunity to hear about Switzerland in war time.

TO "GALLUS"  
the Poet-Laureate of the Swiss Colony—  
on his sixtieth birthday.

Where mighty Saentis rears its noble head  
And where St. Gallus dwelt in times gone by,  
In that fair land, so pleasing to the eye,  
Your cradle stood; there were you born and bred.

Throughout your life, like as a golden thread,  
Has run the love of things that beautify  
The human mind, enrich it, lift it high,  
And no less precious than our daily bread.

The Fates debated, sixty years ago,  
As they beheld that infant newly born,  
What gifts they might upon the child bestow  
Wherewith his life to brighten and adorn;  
Should it be riches, fame, prosperity?  
They gave him more: the soul of poetry!

J.J.F.S.

FROM THE LIVERPOOL COLONY.

The Consulate in Liverpool has always been fortunate in being able to count on the interest and friendship of some of the ladies who lost their Swiss nationality on marriage but who retained their attachment to the country of their birth. It was a privilege that the Consulate could direct our young countrywomen to them for advice and sociability. For years now this has been the position with Mrs. Macquarie (Schaffhausen), Mrs. Davidson (Geneva) and Mrs. Cheetham (Basel). We used to talk of having an excursion when the war was over and it came off at last on 13th June to Chester, the ancient Roman fortress of Deva. It is true you do not see much of Roman remains above ground but there is a good deal below if once you begin to dig. Chester is fortunate in having living in the City an eminent student of Roman remains in the person of Professor Robert Newstead, F.R.S., who follows any opening of the ground with diligent care. The reason why there is so much broken and buried material is apparently due to a swift and violent destruction when the power of Rome collapsed in the fourth century. A medieval town arose on the ruins and the wall surrounding it is carefully preserved and is to-day a pleasant circular walk of the inner part of the modern town. Within these walls is the Cathedral, built of red sandstone as red as the Minster of Basel which looked to Victor Hugo so infamous that he thought the colour was applied by human hands. It is, however, the natural colour of what is sometimes termed the German trias, a formation which stretches from Cheshire (though not always seen at the surface) across the Continent to the foot of the Black Forest at Basel and provided the building stone for many Cathedrals and Churches. It is used for building the Anglican Cathedral of Liverpool now approaching completion. The Dee is a noble river and flows at Chester through a gap in a red sandstone ridge evidently due to erosion. Just below the Castle a weir has been constructed, damming back the fresh water coming down from the Welsh Mountains and overflowing the weir. Below this obstacle starts the tidal Dee increasing the height of the waterfall at low tide and diminishing the height as the rising tide breasts the weir and sometimes overflows it. Up go the salmon to their spawning grounds amongst the upland streams of the hills if they are not caught before.

Such in outline was the setting of our excursion which was enjoyed by all. The day was fine, the sun doing a full days work and we could even go for a short river trip in a motor boat.

Chester had its anxious nights in the winter and spring of 1940/1 when the air attacks on Liverpool were at their height, but the City is not seriously damaged.

E.M.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on Friday, 27th July, 1945, and take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their enlarged subscription rates: — E. F. Burger, P. Lambert, V. Kraus, J. Keller, Dr. Arpel, W. W. Landauer, H. Bingguely, Mrs. R. Homberger, J. H. Speich, J. H. Ungricht, A. Perochet, M. Hurlimann, F. Conrad, G. T. Groats, Miss M. Hochstrasser, A. J. Portmann, Mrs. B. Hossack, H. Kirchofer.