

The first of August in Prestatyn

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THE FIRST OF AUGUST IN PRESTATYN.

Our friends in Liverpool decided on an outing to the Seaside and proposed to come to Prestatyn, a proposal welcomed by the Consulate. But for the seaside you want fine sunny weather and this had been scarce this summer so far. However the weather forecast mentioned high pressure to the West of the British Isles, probably an anti-cyclone, which if it extended eastward would provide protection against a break in of cold air from the Arctic and assure good conditions. This happened and one of the warmest days of the summer resulted. You could take all your meals out-of-doors. Mrs. Macquarie, Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Erb came by car, the younger generation had to risk the journey by rail, and the crowds along the Welsh Coast being enormous, this was not a very comfortable way of travelling. However, they arrived, and we adjourned to the sand-hills overlooking the sea. The guide knows the coast so well that he found a spot where the crowd could be watched disporting itself without being inconvenienced by it and the rising tide splashing up against the shore and the bright picture of the bathers, presented a scene of great animation. At tea-time we went to the Consul's bungalow where Mrs. Faivre, the wife of the Chancellor of the Consulate received the guests. It was a sumptuous tea. Mrs. Cheetham had provided a cake of her own making and Mr. Troxler of the Swiss Café, Bold Street, Liverpool, who was expected in person, but could not come, had sent a large cake decorated with the Swiss Cross, and other good things. The Swiss Minister, Dr. Ruegger, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Staff of the Legation had sent us a message of greetings which cheered us all and we in our turn sent him a letter which was signed by those present. We feel grateful to the Minister for his kind thoughts for us amidst all his other pressing preoccupations. Uppermost in our thoughts was a feeling of thankfulness that the War is over and that our country was not involved in it and is now in a position to help the tortured peoples of Europe. Our gratitude is profound for the staunch and skilful steering of the ship of state by our authorities during six hazardous years. We sang a few Swiss songs, but mainly we just enjoyed each others company and the time to depart came all too soon. The function remains a cheering memory for us all. We know the

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Members are informed that the next Monthly Meeting will take place

Tuesday, the 18th September, 1945

at 6 p.m., Dinner at 6.30 p.m. at the **Dorchester Hotel, London, W.1.**

Commander Herbert Agar of the Foreign Office Service of the U.S.A. will give us a talk on "FOREIGN RELATIONS TO-DAY."

Will those members wishing to attend send in their cards to the Manager, Dorchester Hotel, London, W.1, not later than the 15th Sept., 1945.

THE COMMITTEE.

hazards of the road we have behind us — the future is one of hope. The shape of things to come is faintly outlined, so faint and nebulous, however, as to be hardly discernible. We shall require good guides to find our way and a united and determined people to get through with credit.

E.M.

RUTLI LADIES CLUB — 1st of August Dance.

It took the writer (and I hear many others too) — quite some time to find Seymour Hall where the Rütli Ladies Club had arranged a Dance in celebration of August 1st our national festival. But what a pleasant surprise to find a spacious, well appointed hall, holding easily over 1,000 people and ideally suited for this occasion.

The hall was neatly decorated with the National and Cantonal flags, and amongst the 600 or more people present many ladies, young and middle aged were in Cantonal Costumes and even some of the men sported Swiss jackets and caps.

An excellent band played old and modern dances, but the top scorers were, as always at such functions, the fast Swiss "Landlers" and waltzes.

During the evening the Swiss Choral Society, strongly represented, rendered Swiss songs and Mr. Von Bergen accompanied on the piano by Mr. Dick rendered a few "Yodlers" to the delight of all.

Members of the Swiss Accordion Clubs too gave lively tunes and helped to create Swiss atmosphere.

The Swiss Minister, Mr. Paul Ruegger, on arrival shortly after 10 o'clock received a great welcome and he was made to feel at home and joined in the good spirit of the party.

The patriotic display of the evening consisted of a group of Swiss girls, dressed in Cantonal colours and each carrying a Cantonal flag, marching to the strains of the band into, and through the hall headed by the 3 "Urkantons" Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, the other cantons following in their rotation in joining the Swiss Federation, concluding with the "Helvetia" gently swinging the National Banner which was spotted from the gallery.

Great cheers greeted the entry and departure of the flag bearers.

For the material side, the Caterers really excelled themselves. There were sufficient and excellent refreshments for the thirsty and hungry Swiss and their friends, drinks and food could be had in great variety at a reasonable cost, and the service was good and pleasant, a contrast to what one usually gets to-day.

A truly patriotic, friendly Swiss spirit prevailed the whole evening, and at 11 o'clock the official close came too early for all.

The Committee of the Rütli Ladies Club deserves great credit and thanks for having arranged this function for the Colony, all worked hard but none so hard as the President, Madame Bolla who had to be here, there and everywhere — to her the thanks of all are due.

Let us hope that next year all Swiss Societies will combine for a similar 1st of August evening, quite independent of the great patriotic rally usually held on the Sunday previous to the 1st of August.

J.B.