

Louis Chapuis : 70 years old

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LOUIS CHAPUIS
70 Years Old.

On the 4th of next month, our compatriot, Mr. Louis Chapuis, is celebrating his 70th birthday anniversary, and we are delighted to tender to him, on behalf of our readers and the entire Swiss Colony, "Many Happy Returns of the Day."

We felt tempted, on this occasion, to seek an interview with our friend and to ask him to give us some of his experiences during the long years he has been amongst us, but knowing his aversion to any publicity as far as his own personality is concerned, we dispensed with this procedure. He would, we feel sure, have told us politely but firmly to "mind our own business."

And yet, we cannot let this event pass without at least a few words of appreciation for all he has done for the colony during the last fifty years.

Louis Chapuis came to this country at a very early age, with nothing more than an indomitable will to succeed in whatever he was going to do, and succeed he did.

Soon after his arrival in London he entered the firm of Comoy, Pipe Manufacturers, and through sheer hard work and tenacity he not only succeeded to make this firm known all over the globe, but to occupy the leading position in this concern.

The writer has been fortunate enough to know the "Jubilar" for a good many years, during which he was always struck by the fact that, although he was a leading man in the commercial world, he remained a modest man, devoid of any wish for self glorification.

He knew his responsibility towards his compatriots and in a larger sense also towards our own and this country, and in doing his duty he required no extra acknowledgement.

Although Louis Chapuis spent practically all his life away from his native country, he has remained faithful to the soil from whence he came, he has remained to this day an ardent lover of Switzerland and his canton of Vaud.

In the year 1898, he founded a Swiss Society called "La Fraternelle Suisse" of which he became its first President. This Society, which had a membership of

over three hundred, after five years of lively activity, dissolved when he resigned from its leadership. After this he bestowed his allegiance to the Swiss Mercantile Society, where he, and his brother Carlo, played for many years an important part, and in this Society he will, in the coming year celebrate his Golden Jubilee.

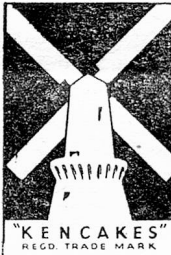
Louis Chapuis entered in 1916 the City Swiss Club, where twenty-two years later, in 1938, he became President, this post he kept for five years, or longer than any of the Presidents since the foundation of the Club in 1856. His term of office were the crowning years of an active life in the Colony.

During the last war, our friend was the Chairman of the Swiss Relief Centre, which, under his able leadership, did such splendid work.

One fact worth mentioning is, that he is holding an almost unique record, the one of having proposed as Chairman of various Societies, both English and Swiss, the toast to five sovereigns of this great country, his first one being to H.M. Queen Victoria, as far back as 1898.

Our country is the richer for this man, who has added new lustre to the good name which our country enjoys in this hospitable land, and on his 70th birthday anniversary we honour him sincerely, for a life full of success and hard work, which we hope will not come to an end for many more years to come.

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