

Swiss conductor in Eire

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in the Ranft that had worked the impossible. — Soon the good news spread all over the country. The bells were rung. In the morning they had thought to be obliged to alarm the country for a war; in the evening the bells rang out the joyous news of peace. Great rejoicing was all over Switzerland. Solothurn, Fribourg, Luzern and Bern sent their special thanks with gifts to the peace-maker in the Ranft.

This life of Nicholas in the Ranft lasted just 20 years. He had a revelation that he would die on his 70th birthday. A week before it, he fell ill and endured a very painful illness with the greatest patience. Fortified with the Rites of the Church he passed away, as foretold on 21st March, 1487. His funeral at Sachseln was a signal recognition of the love and the veneration of his people. Soon after his death people began to visit his grave. Miracles were recorded and the belief in his powerful intercession grew more and more. He was officially beatified 1672. A few years later a church was built at Sachseln and dedicated to him. The centenaries of the years of his birth and death were always solemnly commemorated, especially in the last two centuries. Among official pilgrimages I wish only to mention one in 1940 with 100,000 pilgrims who besought the saint's protection in the war. Happy are we now that the greatest honour the Church bestows upon her children will be accorded to him.

May he thus shine as a shining light all over the world, a personification of eternal Christian values. May he be a signpost to peace showing forth three outstanding maxims: generally in life, *God* first! In politics, *honesty* first! In Religion, *charity* first!

(Rev.) Albert Würms S.M.B.

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SWISS COLONY LIVERPOOL.

On March 25th the Swiss Colony in Liverpool had the great pleasure to have the visit of Mr. E. de Graffenried, Commercial Counsellor of the Swiss Legation in London, who came to attend a meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, where he spoke with very great success on Anglo-Swiss trade relations.

For this occasion, the Swiss Club of Liverpool organised — on the initiative of the President, Mr. Comte — a dinner for the Swiss Colony at the New Bears Paw Restaurant. About fifty compatriots attended this meeting and enjoyed a very nice evening. The president of the Swiss Club, Mr. Comte, expressed a very hearty welcome on behalf of the Swiss Club and the Swiss Colony to Mr. de Graffenried, and then announced that the Swiss Club will resume its activities, curtailed by the war. He invited the countrymen to join in and to help by personal collaboration to revive the activities of the Club. Mr. de Graffenried gave a very interesting speech on Swiss problems with a special view on the actual economic problems. He also pointed out how the Swiss Societies in London are managing the social life of the Swiss Colony, and expressed his very best wishes for the development and the prosperity of the Swiss Club in Liverpool. The Acting Consul, Mr. Schärer, thanked Mr. de Graffenried for his very interesting address expressing the hope of still closer contacts between the colonies in London and Liverpool. He expressed to the President of the Swiss Club, Mr. Comte, and to the members of the Committee, his very best thanks for the organisation of the party and invited the members of the colony to join the club and to help to revive the social life of the colony. He pointed out that the club will have every support of the Consulate for its activity.

The meeting of the Swiss Colony was a very great success. Everybody is expecting now the announcements of the following meetings and it may be hoped that the members of the Swiss Colony will support actively and personally the efforts of the Swiss Club.

(From a special correspondent).

SWISS CONDUCTOR IN EIRE.

Mr. Robert F. Denzler, the eminent Swiss musician, and conductor of the Zurich Opera House, has recently conducted the last Spring Series of the Radio Eirann Symphony concerts in the Capitol Theatre in Dublin. An exceptionally enthusiastic ovation was accorded to him and the Press notices are throughout very flattering.