

A departure

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A DEPARTURE.

"Here today, gone tomorrow", this saying certainly applies to the Diplomatic Service all over the world.

We, who have been residing in this country for a great many years, have seen many Swiss Diplomats coming and going. Many of them had endeared themselves to the colony, and their departures were accompanied with genuine regret.

Today we are bidding farewell to Monsieur P. Clottu, Social Counsellor at the Swiss Legation. During his five years *séjour* in London, he has always taken a great interest in the life of the Colony, and was often seen at various functions arranged by the different Swiss Societies. Many will, no doubt, remember him for his most interesting lectures about the Swiss Old Age and Survivors Insurance given at some of the Swiss Mercantile Society meetings, and for the interest he has shown in the work of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Monsieur Clottu has been transferred to the Foreign Office in Berne, and we are glad to state, that he will probably, owing to his new task, keep in close touch with the Swiss abroad. We know, that our interests will be in good hands.

* * *

Monsieur Clottu, who was born in 1897 hails from the canton Neuchâtel. He studied political science at the Universities of Neuchâtel, Berne and Geneva. He is a *licencié ès sciences politiques* of the first named University.

In 1920, he became a member of the International Labour Office in Geneva, and after twenty years of collaboration with this Office, and a short time at the Central Agency for Prisoners of War at the International Red Cross Committee, entered the Swiss Civil Service as one of the heads of the division in charge of the Allowances scheme for soldiers and their families.

This was followed with the appointment in 1945, as deputy chief of the division of the "Office fédéral de l'industrie, des arts et métiers et du travail" dealing with the protection of workers.

Whilst at the Foreign Office, Monsieur Clottu attended several international conferences as a member of Swiss delegations. In 1947, he was attached to the Swiss Legation in London in the capacity of Social Counsellor, which post he has held with great distinction up to this day.

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We regret losing this able diplomat, who has made many friends in this country, and we wish him, and Madame Clottu the best of success in the Federal capital.

ST.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

The Alpenrosen Club invited this year for the first time to an open air celebration of the birthday of our country.

A beautiful evening saw about 200 people gathered in the grounds of St. Mary's Church, Blackheath. The Swiss Catholic Choir under the direction of Rev. Father Lanfranchi opened the ceremony with some beautifully produced songs of our homeland. Accordion music then invited for a dance. Before lighting the bonfire everybody assembled under the flags of the different cantons according to the origin and many new acquaintances were made. Then we all moved into the centre of the ground round the bonfire which flames threw bizarr shadows on the slightly moving Swiss flag. This was also the time for the fireworks being let off. As the noise diminished group after group joined in songs of our beloved country. Once more the accordions invited to dance. And with our National Anthem the fête came to an end at 11 o'clock.

We thank Rev. Father Lanfranchi and his helpers very much for the organising and hope to have in future years similar celebrations.

F.S.

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