

John Born †

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JOHN BORN †

Another stalwart among the London Swiss has been suddenly and most unexpectedly torn from our midst in the person of Mr. John Born, who succumbed to a fatal heart attack on Sept. 22nd. He first saw the light of day on Dec. 19th 1890 at Herzogenbuchsee, where he grew up in the circle of 7 brothers and sisters and where he received his primary and secondary schooling. As a young man he finished his education in the French-speaking part of Switzerland and then entered his apprenticeship with the firm of Moser & Fiechter, Herzogenbuchsee. On a successful completion of same he found a situation in Milan and later served with several firms in Switzerland, where he was able to make good use of his knowledge of the textile trade, as well as of his languages.

It was in 1915 that John Born first arrived in London, but a year later he was called up for Military Service in Switzerland, where he served his country at the frontier for the next 8 months. However, in 1917 the lure of London called him back and the following year he married an English lady, Miss Edith Inkpin. Their happiness was overshadowed at an early date by the sad loss of a little boy two days after birth, after which the union remained childless, though very happy.

Some 20 years ago John Born established himself as a Manufacturers' Agent on his own account, representing both Swiss and British textile firms; he also became a member of the Manufacturers' Agents' Association of Great Britain & Ireland. He was greatly liked and highly esteemed by both Manufacturers and

customers and did a very good trade, which enabled him to acquire in 1939 a nice bungalow with a considerable acreage of ground at Smallfield near Horley in Surrey. There he worked very hard, early and late, and took a great pride in his land and his orchard. Besides all this hard work at home, he went to the City daily to attend to his Agency business. This great exertion, following the untold troubles and worries we all experienced during the war years, probably undermined his health, without any outward sign and without his taking any special notice.

John Born, although for many years a faithful member of the "Schweizerbund" and the S.M.S., did not mix freely with members of the Colony. His double occupation and his distant residence did not allow him to spend much time in London socially, but he was greatly liked among his friends for his many sterling qualities, his sincerity and his good humour.

Although John Born resided here for 40 years and loved the life and work in this country, he never forgot his native land, to which he remained deeply attached. He visited Switzerland whenever he could and did so for the last time in August of this year. Scarcely did he and his dear ones realise that it was his last farewell.

The cremation took place on Sept. 27th at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium near Crawley, where his nearest relations and friends were forgathered, even two of his old school friends. Among the chief mourners were two of his sisters from Herzogenbuchsee, who took his ashes back with them for interment in the family grave. May the Eternal Peace be his.

W.D.

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