

"Landsgemeinde" of the Swiss Clubs Bradford, Leeds and Manchester

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"LANDSGEMEINDE" OF THE SWISS CLUBS BRADFORD, LEEDS AND MANCHESTER.

15th June, when three Swiss Clubs, Bradford, Leeds and Manchester, met in Hebden Bridge, will long be remembered as a warm sunlit day with little to do except shake hands with a good many friends, reminisce and bask in the sunshine.

Well over a hundred people met in the Memorial Gardens and photographs taken by amateurs and professionals would call for considerable skill to include the whole assembly.

The route eventually taken followed the course of the River Hebden. The energetic half of the party used "Shanks's Pony", whilst the internal combustion engine assisted the other — perhaps rather lazier — half to climb to higher regions.

All of us eventually reached, after marching up and down along a river in spate, the glade on which stands the Cosy Café, which was to be our headquarters for the next few hours, and where the owners were indeed happy to meet the many demands for refreshments, post-cards and stamps.

The picnic lunch followed the usual pattern for Swiss people. There seemed to be no shortage of food and no lack of hilarity and utter contentment reigned.

We eventually drifted to a little meadow which has become the recognised meeting place for a patriotic address — so ably and so convincingly delivered by our great friend Professor Jean Inebnit. He called upon the members of the various Cantons to join him in the centre, according to the well-known historical dates, starting from 1291. Unfortunately, some remained unrepresented, but we were all so pleased to welcome a lady from the Ticino in traditional costume.

Over 120 people sat down for refreshments in the Civic Hall — the only place available to accommodate such a large assembly. Our Consul, Mr. Max Buechi, thanked Councillors Balmforth J.P. and Jarvis J.P., and their ladies, for their kindness in joining us, and welcomed Dr. and Mrs. M. Luy, who in turn brought us greetings and good wishes from the Swiss Embassy in general and from M. and Mme. Daeniker in particular. Some witty replies from the two J.P.s of local anecdotes and reminiscences were thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and the official part closed with a short address from Professor Inebnit and the writer, and only then the urge to sing the many well-known songs from "Home" broke through, gripping throats tightly, because of age partly, and, let us admit it, because of nostalgia.

It was a happy day, and we hope that everyone reached his or her abode safely.

M.L.

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