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HIE ISCH D'SCHWYZ.

(This is Switzerland calling).

7th September, 1941: The reception of this monthly broadcast was, I venture to say, better than it has ever been, strong and clear from the beginning to the end. The first 15 minutes were as usual devoted to popular music; then followed the monthly account of events in Switzerland. Fortunately, things had been calm for the whole of the month of August. The cable message of His Majesty King George VI, which he had sent to the President of the Swiss Confederation on the occasion of the 650th Anniversary of the Swiss Confederation, the text of which we have published in the issue of last month, was enthusiastically received by the Swiss people, we were assured. "Now," the announcer said, "after the inspiring celebrations on the 1st. and 2nd. of August we have come back again to earth, grappling with the realistic and threatening problems of our economic situation." Rationing now includes the consumption of cheese. The cheese ration per month has been fixed at 400 g. to 800 g. according to the fat contents. Quite startling in a country ranging in the first ranks as a producer of this dairy product. To prevent false conclusions, the announcer, however, said that rationing had not become necessary on account of more extensive exports, but because of the decline of the acreage for the dairy industry, which is due to the extension of the production of cereals, potatoes and vegetables. Further the live-stock in Switzerland had to be reduced considerably, owing to the difficulties of importing fodder, on which the Swiss dairy industry always depended. The cultivation of cereals, potatoes and vegetables must further be extended and the Swiss Federal Council has appealed for help to everybody who is physically able to assist the farmers in their work. Mobilised soldiers are generously given furlough to help the Swiss farmers, although the announcer stressed the fact that it was the consensus of opinion in Switzerland, that the war would yet last for a considerable time. The country was not out of danger yet, and therefore demobilisation or an inappropriate extension of military furloughs was out of the question. The rationing of fuel for the coming winter will be the same as last year. In order to cut down the consumption of fuel restaurants are not allowed to open before 9 a.m. and must close down at 11 p.m. Moving picture theatres must be closed one day a week. The temperature allowed in drawing rooms has been fixed at 18° Celsius, in bedrooms at 10° Celsius. It was interesting to hear that although fuel was severely rationed last winter, the medical profession in Switzerland has come to the conclusion, that there were less colds apparent among their patients.

In the diplomatic field negotiations have been concluded to allow 1000 French prisoners of war to be interned in Switzerland at the health resort of Leysin (pulmonary station). Negotiations for prisoners of other countries are still pending and it is known from recent news in the press, that it is intended to offer sick and invalid British prisoners of war in Germany the same recreation facilities in Switzerland. From the International Red Cross at Geneva we heard that up to the month of August 3 millions of messages have passed through their hands for the destination of prisoners of war.

In the beginning of the month of September the city of Berne was in the limelight in Switzerland. Thousands of children had gathered one day to celebrate the 750th Anniversary of the foundation of the Capital of Switzerland. Further a new railway bridge over the river Aare, after a construction period of 4 years, has been inaugurated on the 6th of September. A few months ago the strength of the bridge, which is a masterpiece of bridge building, was tested by stationing simultaneously 20 of the heaviest Swiss locomotives on the bridge.

The English reporter explained the reasons, which led to the rationing of cheese, and he ended his address with the hope that after the war a liberal interchange of the riches of the world may bring about prosperity again.

Among the musical items the "Concerto Grosso" by Rivaldi, which was played by the Scala Orchestra from Milan during Lucerne's musical week was especially appreciated. Notwithstanding the precarious times the City of Lucerne had organised, as in previous years, this international rendezvous of musical art. - So to speak under the heading of "Believe it or not" we were told, that on account of the petrol restrictions, the City of Basel had turned one of her tram cars into a vehicle for newly weds, devoted to the sole purpose of manoeuvring wedding couples about town, from wedding headquarters to the church, the civil registrar etc.. This tram-car, of course, can accommodate whole wedding parties and take them anywhere in Basel or surroundings for the wedding celebrations, as long as there are rails. So Basel from now on stands for the slogan: "Where there are rails, there is hope," and is openly taking the part of the womenfolks, whereas the men are left minus a good excuse. It is therefore not surprising that apprehension was expressed, that this philanthropic venture of the City of Basel may be used by vitriolic Basler Beppis as a target for future carnival jokes.

The next Sunday broadcast from Switzerland will take place on the 5th of October. In the meantime we shall listen in to the daily broadcasts on wavelength 48.66 from about 4.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. In recent days I have often been unable to get Switzerland, as previously, on this wavelength in the morning (8.45 a.m. to 9.15 a.m.)

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WAIKATO 1st. OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS.

The 650th Anniversary of our Country's Independence was the memorable occasion of a happy gathering of Compatriots of the Waikato district, at the residence of our old and respected friend John Steiner, Eastport Rd., Waihou. After welcoming about 50 guests a happy evening was spent with the time honoured card game, "Jass", with singing and dancing. The "Ruetlischwur" the oath of allegiance to the newborn Independence of Switzerland, sworn on the 1st. of August, 1291, was solemnly repeated by Messrs. Gysler, Fischlin and Vonholzen, representing their respective Cantons, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden. Two daughters of the host and some others were attired in their national dresses. The supper will doubtless be remembered by all present: Swiss sausages, Sauerkraut, Krapfen, Birrenyagge, besides other dishes and sweets. Is it a wonder some guests did not like to leave the table? The Parish priest of Waihou addressed the guests, blessing our dear old country and hoping that it may remain immune from the ravages of the war. A telegram from our respected Consul, Dr. W. Schmid, was read, wishing the gathering every enjoyment and the best of luck. After breaking up the happy party at 3.30 in the morning, some had very little time to spare to reach their homes for milking time.

At the home of Mr. Joseph Werder, Waitoa, a small number of Swiss gathered for a Jass evening and a cup of black and "well fortified" black coffee, - a set of Swiss too old for dancing, but all enjoyed themselves thoroughly, as could be expected in Joe Werder's hospitable home.

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EXTRACTS FROM A SPEECH DELIVERED BY OUR EMBASSADOR IN LONDON.

At a Luncheon arranged by the London City Swiss Club, on June 7th last, our Minister Monsieur Thurnheer delivered a very interesting speech regarding a recent trip he made to Switzerland. Condensed extracts are as follows:

"The trip high above the sea and in or above the clouds was very pleasant. Still, we were all glad when we saw after seven hours flying the lovely Portuguese coast dotted with small white glimmering villages surrounded by vineyards. Portugal makes from the very start already at the airfield, the impression of a well-run country; it is now a very important gate, opening on one side to Europe, on the other to the Atlantic Ocean. You feel its international atmosphere immediately upon arriving when one sees Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, German, English, French and American