

1st August celebration in Wellington

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1ST AUGUST CELEBRATION IN WELLINGTON.

We are pleased to be able to report that a most successful evening was held in Wellington again this year to celebrate our National Day.

The now already familiar rooms in the Evening Post building were gaily decorated with the usual flags, lanterns, coats of arms, posters, etc., which created a festive and friendly atmosphere.

About 40 members and friends turned up and Mr. E. Dickenmann opened the evening by welcoming the guests, wishing them an evening which he hoped they would remember as one on which they had had a good time amongst the small Swiss community in Wellington. In a short address he expressed his confidence that our Government and people at home, who had had to fight hard for their existence during the last five years, would fight even harder to gain the place in the postwar world which we consider our rightful place amongst the nations. Through the courtesy of Mr. S. Porter, who put his time and projector at our disposal, we were able to see three Swiss industrial films on the watch industry, the textile industry and on the generating and use of electric power in Switzerland. These three films were very much welcomed and we hope to obtain some scenic films by next year. Mrs. Beck and Miss Browning, who were also our guests last year, entertained us again with their perfect piano and violin playing, which everyone enjoyed very much and we hope they may be with us again next year. Dr. Walter Schmid, the Swiss Consul, and Mrs. Schmid were also present and in his address, before giving us the toast "Switzerland", Dr. Schmid pointed out the difficult economic position which had arisen at home through all the difficulties of transport, blockade and counterblockade, and that the military operations of the belligerents are working up to a climax which we should do well to watch. But he also emphasized that the situation did not look so serious now as it had appeared a year ago, when we celebrated the foundation of our Confederation in the same rooms, because at least the end of the war in Europe was in sight. He also paid tribute to the late Emil Cattin, whose loss only a few weeks ago was deeply felt amongst our small community in Wellington and his presence was certainly missed by everybody on this occasion.

Afterwards, our ladies got busy with the supper, which with the help of Mr. Komminoth, turned out to be the usual "non plus ultra" in this field and soon everybody was busy enjoying all the good things including a glass of beer and the much advertised "Applewine".

Reinforced with this supper, for which our ladies and Mr. Komminoth earned our heartiest thanks, we got busy with dancing and singing to the tune of Ted Steffen's accordion, accompanied by Mr. Muller and Mr. Schlatter on the piano. Even if we had a few somewhat quiet spells during the evening, (nobody can keep going flat-out from 8 p.m. till 4 a.m.!), we certainly made up for it in the early hours of the morning, and the few bachelors who were left to do the cleaning-up did this with a flourish and without feeling a bit tired - and we are told that they made a good job of it.

Finally, we wish here to thank all those who helped to make this celebration of the 653rd Anniversary of Switzerland such a success.

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MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION RECEIVED AND SENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 653RD
ANNIVERSARY OF SWITZERLAND.

Cable sent to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Walter Stampfli:

"ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL DAY THE SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY HAS REQUESTED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU IN THE NAME OF ALL FELLOW
COUNTRYMEN IN NEW ZEALAND PATRIOTIC GREETINGS

SCHMID SWISS CONSUL

(English translation).

Cable received from the Swiss Foreign Office in Berne:

"PLEASE CONVEY TO THE SWISS COMMUNITY IN NEW ZEALAND OUR THANKS FOR THEIR
PATRIOTIC MESSAGE AND OUR BEST WISHES IN THESE DIFFICULT DAYS".

(English translation).