

Speech delivered by Mr. Walter Risi at the 1st August celebration held at Manaia

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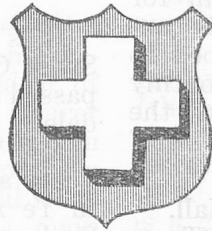
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17th YEAR.

AUGUST, 1952.

AUCKLAND.

1st OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN WELLINGTON

On the occasion of the Swiss National Day, the Consul gave a reception attended by several members of the New Zealand Cabinet, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Justice, the Mayor, the Diplomatic Corps and many other prominent personalities. There were over 80 people present, and sincere and warm congratulations were extended for the welfare and happiness of our homeland.

The Minister of External Affairs sent a message of greeting and goodwill to the Federal Council, who cabled their thanks and warmest wishes for a happy future for New Zealand.

On August 2nd, the Wellington Swiss, numbering about 40, amongst them many new arrivals, gathered at the Consul's home. After the traditional address had been given, supper was served, followed by an hour and a half screening of Swiss films showing skating in Davos, chocolate and watch manufacturing, and Swiss towns. Judging by the loud applause all the pictures were very much appreciated by the audience.

Mr. Max Brulisauer, who had the excellent idea of bringing Mr. Bob Henry along with him, then delighted everyone by playing his 'cello. We are all thankful to our friend Max for his initiative. Music and songs made an enjoyable evening which passed all too quickly, although the yodelling was rather poor. We discovered a remarkable voice among the new arrivals, that of Mr. Hermann Kleditz, who was brilliantly accompanied by Mr. Bob Henry. We thought for a moment that Caruso had returned. Another talented pianist was also revealed in the person of Mr. Heinz Ittensohn.

Speech Delivered by Mr. Walter Risi at the 1st August Celebration held at Manaia.

Dear Compatriots,

The Committee of the Swiss Social Club bids you all a warm welcome to this function of ours tonight. As you can imagine, our hearts are

full of joy to see such a happy gathering where everybody is enjoying themselves.

As you all know, the Swiss Social Club is only in its infancy, and this is its first permanent Committee. Like a child with a new toy, every member is very proud and honoured at being a member of that first Committee. It is indeed a favoured position you entrust us with.

We are well aware that this position of ours not only endows us with privileges, but it is entrusting us with great responsibilities. Responsibilities to foster and encourage the qualities of our fathers, the self-reliance, the spirit of independence, the spirit of August 1st, of the year 1291, in memory of which we are here tonight.

The Swiss Social Club does not in any way clash with the interests of the country of our adoption. Its main objects and aims are to assist persons of Swiss blood to understand the observance of the obligations of New Zealand citizenship and to help to introduce new settlers of Swiss blood into the New Zealand way of life. Its objects are to provide opportunities for Swiss to meet in social, cultural or sporting gatherings, to cultivate true comradeship and goodwill, and the spirit of "One for all and all for one," one of the foundation-stones of good citizenship.

Tonight I wish to thank my fellow Committee members, the musicians, and everybody who helped in any way to make this function such a success. In particular, the ladies who helped so magnificently tonight and on numerous previous occasions. They have always served us with a splendid supper, which takes an enormous amount of work and expense to prepare.

Every time I see those ladies I cannot help thinking that the Swiss national anthem reads a bit wrong when it says "Heil dir Helvetia, hast noch der Sohne ja," it should read "Heil dir Helvetia, hast noch der Tochter ja," but without good daughters there will be no good sons.

And last, but not least, I sincerely apologise to everybody who was not sent an invitation. Please send your addresses in to our Secretary,

Mr. N. Nolly, so that we may have them for the next occasion. As far as membership is concerned, we welcome everyone of Swiss blood to join. Judging by the popularity of our monthly card evenings, there can be no doubt about the future and prosperity of the "Swiss Social Club."

Swiss National Day Celebrated in Manaia Hall.

The following article appeared in the "Taranaki Daily News":—

For a few hours last night, Taranaki's Swiss population gathered in the Manaia Town Hall and men and women imagined themselves back in a silimar building in their native land. They created for a short time a little corner of Switzerland as they celebrated with traditional enthusiasm the 661st anniversary of Switzerland's emergence as an independent nation.

Each year on August 1 Swiss people the world over gather to observe Switzerland's national day and to remember with pride the breaking away of their country in 1291 from the savage monarchy of the Hapsburgs.

Last night over 300 Swiss spoke, ate, drank, danced and dressed at a social gathering organised by the Swiss Social Club of Taranaki as though they were back in Switzerland. Gay red and white colours predominated in the national costumes worn by many of the men and women.

The main part of the celebrations was a dance with music provided by a true Swiss orchestra and interspersed with items traditionally associated with Switzerland. For those who did not wish to dance there was jass, a Swiss game of cards played with an appropriate Swiss pack, a game similar to 500.

In one corner of the hall the pungent kirsch, a drink peculiar to Switzerland, made from fermented cherries, was popular with those who did not wish to dance or play cards.

There were many languages spoken, but Swiss-German, English, French and Italian predominated. Accompanying this mixture of tongues was an equally strong mixture of heavy smoke from the brissago, the Swiss cigar. Rarely seen outside Switzerland, the cigar is about eight inches long, slender and tapering to a point at either end.

Advice given to the unwary by the experts last night was that the brissago should only be smoked by those who were familiar with a pipe. Unpleasant consequences were predicted to those who were not smokers and accepted the offer of the pencil-like cigar.

Included in the sumptuous supper were genuine Swiss sausages specially made for the occasion.

Last night's celebration attracted visitors from many parts of Taranaki, including an 80-year-old Swiss resident of Palmerston North.

OBITUARY

It is with great regret we have to inform the Swiss Colony that our compatriot Joseph Werder passed away last month at his home in Springdale.

Mr. Werder arrived in New Zealand about 50 years ago and started farming in Kaponga, later in Te Aroha and finally acquired a property in Springvale, where he conducted a dairy farm with commendable success.

The deceased was well known in the Waikato district and everyone respected him for his tolerance and friendliness. Mr. Werder always took a keen interest in our Society, of which he was a foundation member. He is survived by his wife, four sons and two daughters, to whom we all extend our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

We are sorry to have to inform our readers that Mr. Paul Schofield (Schaufelberger) passed away at Nelson on June 21st, 1952. The deceased was born in Alsace in 1898. He lived in England for some time and then went to India, where for many years he was a schoolmaster and teacher of languages in Bombay. In 1946 he came to New Zealand with his family. Mr. Schofield is survived by his wife and three children, to whom we extend our very sincere sympathy in their great loss. Mrs. Schofield intends to keep on their guest house at 135 Collingwood Street, Nelson.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Switzerland and E.P.U.

In June of 1952 the balance of the European Payments Union showed a surplus of 22,000,000 francs in Switzerland's favour. This figure compares favourably with the deficit shown in May of 6.8 million francs. In contrast to payments between Switzerland and other member countries, especially Great Britain, Switzerland paid out more in June to France, Western Germany, Italy, and Holland than she received from those countries.

A New Success of the Swissair.

The Swissair has made an agreement with American authorities in Germany whereby aircraft repair stations will be opened in Geneva-Cointrin for the maintenance of Douglas transport planes of the Dakota type. A year ago, the Swissair, among the first of European companies, received an "Aircraft Repair Station Certificate" from American air authorities. This certificate entitles them to repair and maintain American planes. The recent contract is a proof of the trust which is felt in the personnel and the technical equipment of the Swissair.