

News of the colony

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souvenir shops, new stalls at railway terminals, points of interest, art collections, museums, etc.

All these examples adequately demonstrate that the touristic industry is not a narrow branch of the economy limited to hotels and restaurants. It is closely related to such diverse branches as railways, airlines, roads, textiles and watches, spas and rest homes, schools, sport facilities—nearly every aspect of Swiss economy. To quote an American slogan: "Tourism is not one industry, it is all industries."

—Swiss National Tourist Office

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AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

Our first social evening of this year, held on 13th May, was another great success. This was a "Spielabend" and even though the attendance was not as good as we had expected, all the members present had a lot of fun taking part in all the dancing games, or just watching the various competitions.

It was hilarious watching two young, blindfolded men getting dressed in women's clothes (undergarments included)! It certainly gave the ladies present plenty of inspiration as how to be dressed with a difference. Also, the blindfolded couple, feeding each other on whipped cream, deserved all the laughs and applause they received. Neither of the two had a chance to eat much cream—most of it was smeared over their faces or stuck under their chins!

During dancing breaks, Kurt Hirzel told us some of his jokes, of which he seems to have an unlimited supply. After so much activity we were all ready for our supper: "Kalte Platte," followed by coffee, "Nussgipfel" and "Stueckli." Many thanks to all who helped to make this evening a success and also to our two musicians, they certainly keep our parties going! —H.B.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

More than 200 members and guests of the Wellington Swiss Club attended the club's tenth annual ball held in the Display Centre.

Cantonal flags decorated the hall and a large Emmentaler cheese, weighing about 120 lb and made in the shape of a wheel, was a focal point of the decorations. Cocktails were served in the coffee lounge before the ball. The host and hostess were the club president, Mr W. Frick, and Mrs Frick.

Official guests included the Mayor (Sir Francis Kitts) and Lady Kitts, the Swiss Charge d'Affaires (Mr J. P. Weber) and Mrs Weber, the president of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Mr J.

Steiner) and Mrs Steiner, and the Swiss Vice-Consul (Mr H. Schaerer).

The Jodel Group, of the Hamilton Swiss Club, entertained during the evening with a programme of folk songs.

In a short speech the Mayor surprised everybody by his knowledge of Switzerland, its history, its place in the world and its examples as a small nation which, in many fields, is contributing to the world.

Mr J. P. Weber recalled some facts about the early Swiss settlers in Wellington, the activity of the Swiss community in New Zealand, and its close integration with the people of New Zealand.

Members of the organising committee were Mr W. Frick, Mr W. Gaehwiler, Mrs H. Messmer, Mr A. Tresch, Miss G. Muller, Mr A. Staehelin, Mrs A. Rufer, Mr F. Wehrli, Mr H. Ittensohn, Mrs B. Napp, Mr H. Schaerer and Mr E. Homberger.

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

First Term Report! Our year's activities began in February with a very pleasant get-together and coffee evening at the Swiss Chalet. This was followed, in March, by an outing to Arthur's Pass. Twenty-five came along and had a most enjoyable day with a good lunch at Hans Bohny's "Chalet" Restaurant. As it was raining at the Pass we were very glad of the comfort and shelter of the Chalet.

In early April we said "Au Revoir" to Mr and Mrs Kurt Suter, who are making a trip to Switzerland, at a farewell party at their home. Later in April the film "Polizist Waekerle" gave us an excellent night's entertainment. Our thanks to the Swiss Embassy for supplying us with the film.

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FAREWELL

It is never easy to say goodbye and in this case, when we bid farewell to Vice-Consul H. Schaerer, it is doubly hard. To some of us, who have been residing in New Zealand for a long time, Mr Schaerer has become an esteemed friend; newcomers have been greatly helped by his advice, born of a thorough knowledge of this country. They also have been helped over their initial insecurity by his understanding of an immigrant's feelings.

We would ask Vice-Consul Schaerer to accept our warmest wishes, commensurate with our appreciation of his attributes. May he and his family find the years ahead always satisfying in all respects.

May we also take the opportunity of welcoming Vice-Consul Schaerer's successor, Vice-Consul Erb. We hope he will find his stay in New Zealand a pleasant one. —H.B., Hamilton

[We have just received news of the arrival in Wellington of Vice-Consul Paul Erb, accompanied by his wife, one daughter and two sons. May New Zealand be for them a home away from home. —Ed. Com.]