

News of the colony

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **30 (1967)**

Heft [8]

PDF erstellt am: **23.05.2024**

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chemical industry (+19%) and in the watchmaking industry (+14%), while output in the textile industry decreased (-4%) and that in the clothing industries remained practically stationary.

In agriculture, the gross output was 3864 million francs, which represents an increase of 6.4% compared with 1965.

Finance

On the money and financial market, the tension has increased still further. The official discount rate, which had been 2.5% since the beginning of July 1964, was raised to 3.5% by the Swiss National Bank, from July 6th, 1966.

On the whole, the evolution of the situation allows us to deduce that the growth will continue in 1967 but at a slower pace. It is likely that demand will remain in excess of supply although less so than before: consequently, the trend towards higher prices and costs will continue in various sectors of the economy. The role incumbent on financial policy will take on even greater importance in the fight against inflation.

(Swiss Office for the Development of Trade—O.S.E.C.)

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AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

A record number of members and guests attended our 1st August celebrations at the beautifully decorated Edendale School Hall. We also had the pleasure of welcoming to our party Dr J. P. Weber, our Charge d'Affair from Wellington, and John Villiger, President of the Hamilton Swiss Club, and Mrs Villiger. We hope that they enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed theirs.

The evening started off with a delicious dinner, consisting of wild pork, potatoes and salad, followed by a lovely caramel cream, which had all been prepared by our Swiss chef, Paul Wuethrich. Many thanks to the cook, this meal was a real treat!

By the time dinner was finished most of the latecomers had arrived too. A recording of the speech to all Swiss abroad by the President of the Confederation, Monsieur Bonvin, was then played, followed by the National Anthem. After a couple of short speeches by our President and Dr Weber, the band we had engaged took over, playing a great variety of tunes and getting just about everybody on their feet.

We also had a sing-song, listened to some very good yodelling and to the alphorn. Our own musicians gave the band a break a few times and two of our ladies told us in a song which canton

of Switzerland produces the best husbands. Listening to their song, one got the impression that staying single would be by far the safest and best thing to do!

There was never a dull moment throughout the whole evening and the party kept going until the early hours of Sunday. It was a great pleasure to see how everybody enjoyed themselves and had a good time, which proves once again that the 1st August really is a big day for the Swiss. —H.B.

A Small Note of Appreciation

As one of the members of the Auckland Swiss Club who attended the National Day celebrations I would just like to put my thoughts into words, and say how much I enjoyed the evening.

Due to the untiring efforts of our President and his Committee, our Chef, the ladies in the kitchen, our musicians, and all the other helpers, I say thank you for an unforgettable evening, and I look forward to coming again to future functions of the Club. —“A Member”

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The Hamilton Swiss Club celebrated the “Swiss National Day” with a dance on July 8th. A large crowd including visitors from as far afield as Wellington, Auckland and Taranaki gathered at the gaily decorated “Riverlea” and were welcomed by the President, Mr J. Villiger.

Aided by the music of the Riverlea band the evening continued on a merry note. The spirit of our National Day was fully expressed by items given of jodeln, Talerschwingen, Fahnen-schwingen and Trachtentaenzen, which carried us back “home” for the moment. The accordianists were also enjoyed by everyone. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr P. Erb, our new Vice-Consul from Wellington, who brought us a 1st August message sent to him for the Swiss abroad by the Bundespraesident, Mr R. Bonvin.

Mr & Mrs J. W. Risi were elected honorary Life members after being thanked by the President, Mr J. Villiger, on behalf of the Club for their never tiring devotion and support of the Club during the past eleven years. They were presented with an Ehrenurkunde, printed in Switzerland especially for this occasion.

Mr A. Biland, who was elected to Life membership last year after ten years valuable service as President, was also presented with an Ehrenurkunde in appreciation for his services.

The buffet supper laid out for the happy crowd proved enjoyable to all. All too soon the band played “Auld Lang Syne” and the time had come to make our farewells. But now we look forward to our next happy meeting. Our thanks go forth to all those persons who contributed to the success of a very happy occasion. —M.T.

Auckland Swiss Club Artists Entertain

Members of our Club were treated to a lovely evening's entertainment on Saturday, August 12th, by the guest artists from the Auckland Swiss Club who presented to us the Berner Dialect play "De Daellebach Kari."

The moral of the play that more lasting values than money make life happy and that one should put oneself into the shoes of the other fellow to appreciate his side were brilliantly demonstrated in a most humorous way in typical "Daellabach Kari" fashion.

Cast of the Play: Eugen Huebscher, playing the attorney and executor of Kari's will; Walter Peatti the local Member of Parliament; Hedy Calonder, the house-mistress and chief beneficiary of the will; Ruth Herman, the German housemaid; Kurt Hirzel, the playboy nephew of Kari; Hilda Bischofsberger, the modest niece of Kari; Max Stauffer, the local Pastor; Paul Wuethrich, the neglected illegitimate son. Behind the scenes, Mr & Mrs Piller. Leader of the Play, Kurt Hirzel.

The successes of the Auckland theatrical group and the Hamilton Club's Yodelchorli proves that there is an abundance of talent among our Swiss people who only want practice and encouragement to bring them to the fore.

Our President, Mr John Villiger, ably thanked and congratulated the players. The supper, consisting of "Aufschnitt," was royally supplemented with Swiss speciality pancake "Fastnacht-skuechli" especially made for the occasion by our Vice-President's wife, Mrs J. Staehelin. —W.R.

Congratulations!

It will be of interest to many readers that two of our members, Mr L. Marty and his son Arthur, of Te Awamutu, are owners of New Zealand's top all breeds 2-year-old Jersey producer "Kinvale Omen's Rose." This heifer produced 723 lb fat, 8820 lb milk in 292 days.

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Laugh a little . . .

"I do love Switzerland, I owe it my most wonderful times."

"But you have never been there, have you?"

"No, I haven't, but my wife has!"

A Scotsman travels through Italy. In front of a wine dealer's shop he sees a long queue, and on a display board is printed: 'Degustazione gratuita'. The Scot does not know Italian, and so he goes on his way. The next day one finds him fainted in front of a dictionary!

— Nebelspalter