

1st of August celebrations

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we will gratefully remember at the anniversary of the Industries Fair, at today's festive day of labour.

Basle commemorates today its jubilee. It coincides with the federal jubilee year: 650 years of Swiss Confederation. As we enter today with fresh energy into the second quarter of a century of Basle's Industries Fair, so we Swiss look back with thanksgiving on the past of the State and with confidence and firm trust into the future of our country and our people, for our faith in victory of good over evil is firm and our will for self-assertion is unshaken. Now and for ever.

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SWISS NEWS SUMMARY.

The Federal Council have decided to raise a loan of Frs. 300'000'000 for the consolidation of floating debts and in payment of two Government loans recently fallen due. The loan is to be divided into two parts: (a) Bonds at 3% interest to be reimbursed after 10 years. (b) Treasury bills at 3% to be reimbursed after 6 years. Both loans were issued at 100%.

The Federal War Food Office announces that in spite of the precarious position of imports and the lack of fodder, rations for June are to remain unchanged, except for butter, which is to be decreased by 50 grammes, thus reducing the ration from 300 grammes to 250 grammes. An extra sugar ration of 3 kg per person is to be allowed, however, for preserving. This extra ration must be kept exclusively for this purpose.

The Department for Public Economy has decided - on the basis of the Federal Decree of October 17th, 1939 concerning the distribution of food - to introduce two meatless days a week, namely on Wednesdays and Fridays.

A further decree has been issued from the Swiss War Food Office, causing all available arable land - meadows and garden plots included - to be planted with potatoes.

At a recent meeting in Berne, members of the Commission for War Economy stated that the extension of the agricultural programme was a success.

The Heads of the Corporations of Swiss Towns have decided to support the measures to be taken against the uncontrolled rise in prices of foodstuffs. A low price level in favour of the poorer classes is to be maintained.

May Day was celebrated by the socialist parties and trade unions all over Switzerland. Zurich and Berne saw the traditional public processions, whereas in Basle a meeting took place in the "Volkshaus". In Geneva the manifestations were limited to group meetings as public demonstrations were not allowed. Everywhere the day passed without incident.

With the beginning of summer-time, the General decided in accordance with a decision of the Federal Council, that blackout should start one hour later as from May 5th, i.e. instead of at 10 p.m. as up to now; it will begin at 11 p.m. and continue until 5 a.m. as hitherto.

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1st. of AUGUST CELEBRATIONS.

No reports are yet available from the various centres where the anniversaries have been celebrated, excepting from Auckland. The respective news will be published in the next issue.

AUCKLAND: A representative gathering of Swiss compatriots celebrated the 650th anniversary of Switzerland's Independence at the Club-rooms of the Overseas League, Queen's Arcade, Auckland, on Friday evening, August 1st.

Fiftyfive members and friends were present, a fine tribute of the community's loyalty towards our homeland, considering the small number of Swiss residing in and around Auckland. A high spirit of goodwill and friendship prevailed and everyone expressed great pleasure at meeting each other under such happy

conditions. Citizens of 16 different Cantons were represented and the patriotic feeling was unanimously expressed by all. Suitable speeches were delivered and the "younger set" contributed to the evening's success with very pleasing songs and piano recitals, all of which have been much appreciated. Various flash-light photos were made, but unfortunately the main-group of the complete gathering was spoiled, whereas all the individual- and "family"- groups turned out quite well.

Further details regarding the celebration can be found in this issue in a letter to the Editor.

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The following letter reached us from Miss Hanely M. Dahinden, Kent Rd. M.D. New Plymouth, but was too late for publication in the July issue:

"Now, just at the last moment I have a small offering to make towards the celebration, a translation of the Swiss Psalm which I enclose. I thought it would be nice to have a New Zealand version as the one published in "Helvetia" is rather American in its wording; probably, also, some of the words may convey a slightly different sense of meaning here in New Zealand than they would in America. You will notice that I have kept most closely to the rhyming style of the original which somehow sounds homely to my old-fashioned ears."

SWISS PSALM.

Comest Thou in the dawning's flow,
of rose-light reflected glow.

I see Thee Almighty and Glorious.
When rose-tipped is the alpine day,
Arise! free Swiss to praise and pray.

(Let the reverent soul expand
(Envisioning God of Fatherland.

Comest Thou in the Evening's red
Reflected in stars overhead.

I see Thee All-loving and Glorious
Beneath the pale moon's kindly beam
There I may safely sleep and dream.

(And our reverent souls do see
(Thy power in our land so free.

Comest Thou in the mist's dark shroud,
Still in shapely mass-ed cloud

I see thy mysterious Infinity
From out the vapour darkened grey
Breaketh the sunshine light of the day.

(And our reverent souls do see
(Thy power in our land so free.

Comest in the storm and wintry night
And still art Thou our guide and light,

I see thy compassionate divinity.
In the night of storm and fear
Let us trust for He is near.

(Let the reverent soul expand
(Envisioning God of Fatherland.

CHORUS,

Let the reverent soul expand,
Let the reverent soul expand
Envisioning God of Fatherland
God of sublime Fatherland..

Bracketed lines to be omitted in song, and chorus substituted.