

Famous \$10.000.000 art collection again displayed at Basle Art Museum

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I conclude this short address with the hope that you all enjoy seeing each other again in these rooms."

Although wind, rain and cold swept the Auckland streets on the 3rd of August, a bright and cheery evening awaited the large number of compatriots and friends, who travelled from far North and South to our social gathering. Although space does not permit us to mention each of the talented and versatile artists, who were so enthusiastically received by the audience, we wish to extend our thanks for the generous way they helped with the programme.

Trusting that next year conditions will allow us to hold another such happy reunion, I'll close with the good wishes of the Committee who hope to see you all next year.

B. E. Halmeyer,
Hon. Secretary.

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FAMOUS \$10,000,000 ART COLLECTION
AGAIN DISPLAYED AT BASLE ART MUSEUM.

One of Europe's most famous art collections is again on public view in the Art Museum in Basle, Switzerland, after more than six years of concealment in mountain air-raid shelters. Recently, the last masterpiece of the more than 1,000-picture collection was transferred from huge cellars chiseled in rocky Alpine walls, back to the graceful halls of the Museum of St. Alban-Graben.

The collection, which has an estimated value of over \$10,000,000 is Switzerland's finest. On the first floor are works by the old masters, centering around Hans Holbein, the younger, who worked in Basle from 1515-1532. Dutch and Flemish masters are also prominently featured, as well as such titans as Leonardo da Vinci and El Greco. Modern master-works are grouped on the second floor, with some exceptionally fine paintings by Arnold Böcklin. Here, too, a room is devoted to some notable creations by Ferdinand Hodler, best known modern Swiss painter who was, until his death in 1918, an enormously vital factor in the Expressionist movement.

The Art Museum, completed in 1936 by Rudolf Christ and Paul Bonatz, is itself an excellent example of modern architectural trends in Switzerland. Its walls of limestone and Ticinese granite, two arcaded courtyards and graceful collannades combine ultra-modern movement with traditional Swiss forms.

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ASPECTS OF SWISS DEMOCRACY.

We think our compatriots will be interested in a series of articles on Aspects of Swiss Democracy by the Swiss historian, Walo von Greyerz, which have just come to hand. In this number we give you the first article dealing with Features of the Swiss Character; the other articles will appear in later issues.

The author proceeds from a dictum of the Swiss historian, Karl Dändliker, who, in his History of Switzerland, wrote in 1883: "What distinguishes our confederation among the nations and peoples of Europe, what makes its worth and its importance, what makes it great and wealthy, and justifies its existence, is to be sought for in its political spirit".

To this the author in his preface adds: "It is a peculiar trait that we Swiss are not so much aware of this fact as might be expected. By word and picture we direct attention especially to the country's outward beauties, to her manners and customs; we pride ourselves on the quality of our industrial workmanship; on our sports achievements and, perhaps, on our works of art and mental culture. Nevertheless we are inclined to overlook the most remarkable and the most original achievement, which is contained in the political structure. There, in the democratic communalities which have