

Anniversary of Swiss Unity marked by Dance at Kaponga

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ANNIVERSARY OF SWISS UNITY
MARKED
BY DANCE AT KAPONGA.

The Swiss community of South Taranaki celebrated the 656th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation at a dance held in the Kaponga Town Hall.

An exceptionally large gathering of Swiss people and their friends came from as far afield as New Plymouth and Patea. Music for dancing was played by an orchestra of three instruments, and a Swiss accordian band consisting of Messrs. L. Schuler (piano), A. Meier, A. Engelberger, L. Fischlei and V. Martelletti (accordians) and R. Wright (mandolin). The Swiss Consul for New Zealand, Mr. Ernst Theiler, who was present was presented with a buttonhole by Master Maurice Steiner.

In welcoming the consul to the district Mr. E. L. Abbott, Chairman of the Kaponga Town Board, paid a tribute to the good citizenship of the Swiss community. Mr. J. L. Chamberlain and Father J. Butler spoke on behalf of the Swiss community.

LONG PERIOD OF PEACE.

Mr. Theiler quoted the document signed in 1291, whereby the Swiss communities agreed to unite for the good government and defence of their country. This document was, he said, comparable to the Magna Carta of England and the American Declaration of Independence. Although Switzerland had to go to war in the fifteenth century to uphold its independence, the document had been the foundation for Swiss unity and freedom for 656 years. Mr. Theiler referred to the admiration of the Swiss people for the British who had stood alone against the Nazi tyranny. During the war, Switzerland's army of 500,000 men had been equipped with a rifle and 60 rounds of ammunition each when not on frontier duty.

Mr. Theiler stressed the importance to a nation of wise laws, which must be enforced if freedom and happiness were to continue.

A Monte Carlo waltz was won by Miss G. Holdener and Mr. E. Schuler, and Mr. & Mrs. W. Risi sang a yodelling duet. Mr. J. Steiner was secretary and Messrs. Charles Chamberlain and Martin Steiner were masters of ceremony.

SWISS CAPITAL AID FOR EUROPE SEEN.

Expressing complete approval of the reply of the Swiss Government accepting the Franco-British invitation to join in implementing the Marshall Plan, competent Swiss finance quarters said July 12th that if the stipulations made in the Confederation's reply were respected, substantial capital would become available in Switzerland for the acceleration of European recovery, George H. Morison writes from Zurich in a dispatch to the New York Times.

Immediately after the recent hostilities ceased, they pointed out Switzerland took the initiative in offering financial help to the countries devastated by war. By June, 1946, credits aggregating 800,000,000 Swiss francs had been arranged with Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Norway and Poland.

Noticeable inflationary signs then showed that the safety limits to help for Europe along these lines had been reached. In the numerous trade and payments agreements concluded since then Switzerland has gone far in rendering financial aid to Europe as was consistent with her own economic stability. Observers here say this record proves that the aims of Swiss policy always have been identical with those of the Marshall plan.

SWISS FUNDS CALLED AMPLE.

Because of the abnormally large accumulation of gold and dollars in Switzerland caused by the dislocation of international trade and because of the gradual

(Continued on Page 8).