

News from Switzerland

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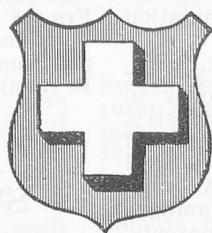
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16th YEAR.

AUGUST, 1951.

AUCKLAND.

1st OF AUGUST

Our Consul and Mrs. H. Blanchard gave a Reception at their home for the members of the New Zealand Government and the Diplomats. At 8 o'clock the Swiss Colony of Wellington was also received.

There were about 40 people to enjoy good Neuchatel wine of the 1947 vintage. Social games were played and everybody was in a happy mood.

At the same time the Swiss of the Taranaki District had gathered in Kaponga, and danced all night. There were about 200 of them and as many New Zealand friends. The Consulate was represented by the Chancellor, who conveyed the good wishes of the Federal Council. The celebration was a real success, thanks to Mr. Walter Risi and his Committee, who organised the function. The Rev. Father Green had very kind words for the Swiss farmers of his congregation, assuring that they were fine, hard-working people, and a real asset to the country. It was a great satisfaction to hear such flattering comments from a clergyman who knows his Swiss friends better than anybody else. The Rev. Father Butler also added some very complimentary remarks about the Swiss in Taranaki, where he has lived for over 40 years.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

The Prime Minister of Newfoundland has drafted a law to permit a Swiss company to exploit a large forest covering a territory of about 1500 km² near Lake Melville. The Swiss company will erect two small towns for their employees. It is contemplated to employ about 1500 men in this new industry.

The 63rd Gymnastic Festival, which took place in Lausanne, on July 14th attracted more than 100,000 spectators. There were 35,000 gymnasts taking part. The special trains organised by the Swiss Federal Railways ran every eight minutes; they resembled more the Metropolitan Railway of London than the ordinary trains. In the presence of the President of the Confederation, the mass exercises comprised 25,000 men.

The new Cantonal Hospital in Zurich has been inaugurated. It has cost Sfr.95 million and consists of 1500 beds. The technical installations are most modern. The ventilation of the building is assured by 79 machines. Over each bed there are four plugs. The kitchen can provide up to 3400 meals at every serving. The meals are brought on small electric trains. The hospital has also a clinic, and research laboratories for the university.

The Government of Newfoundland has recently concluded an agreement with a Swiss firm for the construction of a factory for making machines; it will cost 5,000,000 dollars and will occupy 500 workers, of whom there will be 100 technicians.

During the war many Swiss abroad returned to their own country, and the Swiss colonies have, therefore, diminished. This is especially the case in European countries and in Africa. However, the colonies are developing again, particularly in the South Africa Union, and in North and West Africa. In Asia large Swiss industrial and commercial firms are keeping Swiss staff. There are still many Swiss showing interest in immigration to Australia and New Zealand. The quota for the U.S.A. of 1700 per annum is being filled each year. Many farmers are establishing themselves in Canada. In South America, the Swiss, by choice, are going to Venezuela, Peru, Chile and Brazil. At the end of 1949 there were 205,000 Swiss living abroad; in 1940, there were 270,000, and in 1930, 340,000. These figures do not include the double nationals. A great number of Swiss living abroad are assimilated and lost for Switzerland; but, on the other hand, many Swiss, even of the second or third generation, have still kept the Swiss spirit in spite of the fact that they have adapted themselves to the way of living of their country of residence. They act as unofficial representatives of their homeland and are a very important cog in the economical machinery.

SWISS FARMING

(Continued.)

Labour in Agriculture.

Members of his own family form, principally, the farmer's labour. The skill and proficiency of the farmer's family are, to a large extent, responsible for the success of the farm. In the family farms, the wife of the farmer works both in the house and yard. In addition to attending to the poultry and pigs and the vegetable land she assists also in the work on the fields and meadows, and gives a helping hand in harvesting. In a general way, milking is the man's business in Switzerland. On the other hand, a large share in the vineyard work is handled by women. In many cases the women are overworked. In recent times, the trend has been to ease the work of the womenfolk by convenient installations, machines and implements.

The success of the small-sized and medium-sized holdings is largely based on the co-operation of the sons and daughters. Family and farm form a unit, and