

News of the colony

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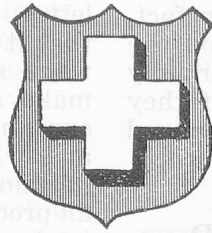
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17th YEAR.

JUNE, 1952

AUCKLAND.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Swiss Social Club

Whereas the Swiss colonies abroad in nearly every country enjoy all kinds of social clubs, our compatriots in New Zealand in this respect are not being spoilt. They have no clubs where they can meet and have a nice time among themselves, talk of their old folks at home, exchange childhood memories, make a "jass" or read Swiss magazines, etc.

The question of having Clubs such as one finds in Cairo, Istanbul, or in some of the American States, does not come into consideration. The number of Swiss in New Zealand would not permit it, and neither would their finances. In order to build such luxurious clubs our colony should have a few millionaire members and unless we are wrongly informed, this is not the case. But wealth is not all; there is something more important, and that is the spirit. We have just discovered that those who doubt its existence are utterly wrong, for we have the great pleasure of announcing that a patriotic spirit does exist, as is evidenced by the birth of a Swiss Club in the region of Stratford, which has just been registered under the name of "Taranaki Swiss Social Club," and we wish to congratulate the founders very heartily for their initiative. Here are their names:—

President: W. Risi, Ohangi.

Vice-President: John Steiner, Mahoe.

Secretary: L. Nolli, Stratford.

Executive members: J. Kaiser, Kaponga; Fr. Imhof, Whakamara; H. Helbling, Riverlea; J. Schupfer, Lowgarth; Fr. Gwerder, Te Roti; Miss I. Bernold, Stratford; W. Fluhler, Hawera; Ch. Chamberlain, Kaponga; P. Zimmerman, Mere Mere; D. Luond, Awatuna; H. Schicker, Mangateki.

At present there are 61 members and it is expected that this number will reach the 100 mark by August 1st. Let us hope that this club will develop rapidly and become so prosperous that its members will eventually be able to buy their

own "Swiss House" with a little Swiss flag flying on its roof.

Let us also hope that this fine example will be followed in cities such as Wellington and Auckland in due course, when the number of Swiss have increased.

Shooting Club

Speaking of the above club, we learn that the recently formed Shooting Club, thanks to Mr. Franz Suter's efforts, held a competition on May 11th. Here are the best results:—

J. Kaiser, Snr.	....	....	....	100.1
J. A. Kaiser, Jnr.	....	....	....	96.4
L. Chamberlain	....	....	....	95.2
F. Napflin	....	....	....	94.4
E. Fuglistaller	....	....	....	94.2
F. Kurman	....	....	....	94.2

All of these got a "Kranzabzeichen." The following shooters got an "Ehrenmeldung":

F. Gwerder, K. Nolly, F. Suter, P. Fluhler.

Our heartiest congratulations.

Swiss Stand at Wellington Show and Industrial Fair

Those of our compatriots who visited the Wellington Show and Industrial Fair, which was held in May, must have felt proud to see how attractive the Swiss stand was. Very favourable comments were passed about its artistic decoration. The ski instructor, Mr. Gottini, who was looking after the stand, was wearing on this occasion a remarkably well embroidered Swiss peasant blouse made by his grandparents. In fact, it was so appealing that a lady wanted to buy it from him, together with the old-time pipe he was smoking. Our friend Mr. Peter Jutzi exhibited his Swiss motor-cyce "Triumph," of which he is so rightly proud and of which he could have sold hundreds if only he had been able to import them. It was amusing to notice a "speed cop" contemplating this motor-cycle with envious eyes. As for the ladies, they stood in ecstasy in front of the textile materials and the tiny wrist watches, as well as the latest "Elna" sewing ma-

chine, which also captured the gaze of many of the male visitors, especially during a demonstration of sock darning and fabric mending; in fact, one gentleman took off his top coat right on the spot to have a cigarette burn mended and proudly handed it to onlookers afterwards to see if they could find where the hole had been, and this proved quite a difficult task.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

An Invention of the Swiss Watchmaking Industry: the Pendulum with Automatic Winding by Light

In the experimental workshops of Messrs. Patek Philippe, of Geneva, light has been used, for the past year, as the source of energy for automatic winding of a pendulum clock. This prototype was publicly shown, for the first time, at the Swiss Industries Fair at Basle.

A photo-electric cell is used in this apparatus, the current of which is led to a tiny motor. The main difficulty lay in the construction of a sufficiently small machine and then to adapt it so as to enable this extremely weak driving power to assist in winding up a clock spring. Both these problems have been solved with noteworthy success.

As soon as the winding operation has been completed, for which exposure in the sun for a period of two hours is sufficient, the motor switches off automatically, and the clock can keep going for four days without renewed exposure to the sun. This new invention proves, once again, that the Swiss watch industry is successfully endeavouring to retain its lead also in technical matters.

Increase of the National Income

The net national income in Switzerland in 1951 amounted to 19.5 milliard fcs. This figure is made up as follows: Income from work 11.7 milliard fcs. (last year this figure stood at 10.8 md. fcs.), income from business 4 md. fcs. (last year it was 3.8 md.); income from capital, 3.8 md. fcs. (last year 3.5 md.). Thus it will be seen that income from work registers the greatest increase. This is due, apart from the generally favourable employment position above all also to wage increases which have taken place in the past year.

An Interesting Example

The workers' union of Brown Boveri & Co. Ltd. in Baden, which has a membership of some 2000, has addressed an open letter to the Federal Government and the State authorities in which attention is drawn to the fact that during recent wage negotiations, the union's representatives have voluntarily dropped their claim for full compensation of higher living costs, in order to pre-

vent the firm, which mainly produces for export, from having to increase its prices. The open letter says, among other things: "We believe that it should be possible to stop the rising price-wage spiral if all Swiss would be prepared to make a similar sacrifice. . . . We expect that our authorities too will recognise this viewpoint and will do everything in their power to halt inflationary tendencies. . . . We hope that all producers in industry, agriculture and domestic trade will co-operate by reducing their margins of profit."

Yodlers' Festival

Thousand of yodlers, clad in gay native costumes, will take part in a rustic pageant, when the 9th Swiss national yodler's festival convenes at St. Gall on July 11th to 13th.

The programme for the three-day festival includes processions of yodlers and costume groups on Saturday and Sunday, July 12th and 13th. The pageant will depict local folk customs in the various parts of Switzerland throughout the year.

The festival is expected to attract some ten thousand spectators. Visitors from abroad will be able to combine their enjoyment of costume pageants, yodeling, Alpine horn blowing and flag throwing with a visit to St. Gall's permanent attraction, its abbey, one of the most famous in Europe with its rich collection of early manuscripts and printed books.

Spring Session of Federal Chambers

The Federal Chambers have concluded their spring session. The summer session will start on June 3rd, 1952.

In the Council of States the most important business dealt with was the debate on the draft bill of a revised law on Civic Rights. The most important of the innovations put forward concerns the question of the maintenance of her civic rights by a Swiss woman who marries a foreigner.

The Lower House of the Swiss Parliament (National Council) rejected by 80 votes to 31 a private Bill to reintroduce capital punishment.

The Government opposed the Bill on the grounds there was not sufficient evidence to prove capital punishment was a deterrent to crime.

In 1874 Switzerland abolished the death penalty, but a crime wave followed and in 1879 individual cantons were allowed to reintroduce it. Parliament abolished it again in 1937.

Winning of Major Road Events by Ferdinand Kubler

Ferdinand Kubler, who last year caused a sensation by winning two major road events on successive days, repeated the feat recently when, after winning the Tour of Lake Lemman, in Switzerland, he followed up by a breakaway win in the Tour of Tessin, at Lugano, the next day.