

Switzerland and the english-speaking nations

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In Palm Road, Kaponga, I met the family of C. Schuler and was introduced to a jolly musician, Mr. Kaelin, who gave me a free of charge concert on his mouth organ and a home-made bass. Naturally, we had to play a card game in the evening, as it is customary among all the real Swiss.

The following day I began on my way homewards, but found enough time to say Hello and Good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Nolly, in Stratford, who will depart for their holidays to Switzerland shortly.

I also met Miss Busser in Marire Hospital, Stratford.

My next stop homewards was in Te Awamutu, where I met Mr. and Mrs. Komminoth. Mr. Komminoth is the manager of the Regent Lounge Tea Room. A very nice place to have a cup of delicious coffee.

Holidays will come and go, but the memories of this grand tour of Taranaki will remain with me for a long time to come.

I would like to meet you all one of these days, but for this I will need more than one week. I think the only way to get to know and understand each other is to meet personally.

If anyone has any special and interesting news to be printed in our "Helvetia" please write and let me know. We are all interested in News from Switzerland, and news from our new home, New Zealand, can be interesting, too.

Yours sincerely,

E. GILGEN,
Hon. Secretary.

SWITZERLAND AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONS

There appears to be but little resemblance and no apparent connection between Switzerland, that little mountainous country hemmed in on all sides by the Continent of Europe, and the vast British Commonwealth, or the United States of America.

Nevertheless, comparisons can be drawn, and many connections do exist between Switzerland on the one hand, and Britain and the United States on the other. Firstly, like the English-speaking races, the Swiss have an intense love of liberty which for them implies both national and personal freedom, namely, the independence of their country and liberty of thought, and an imperative need of self-government. The history and institutions of Switzerland testify to this freedom-loving spirit.

As we have seen, Switzerland's regime is democratic, like that of the English-speaking nations, and it is based on the sovereignty of the people, representative government and universal suffrage. By its very essence, this regime excludes personal power or leadership, and the Government rules by consent of the nation. Switzer-

land constitutes, then, a Federation of republics, a miniature commonwealth, administered according to the principles of co-operation, mutual aid and the equality of all men before the law. This country might well be termed the "United Cantons" for the motto of the Confederation is: "One for all, all for one." Features such as these are also characteristic of the two great English-speaking nations and yet other affinities are to be found at the basis of the relations which have thriven for generations between the three countries.

There has always been much intercourse on religious matters between the Swiss Protestants, and the English. In Reformation times, the school of Calvin greatly influenced religious thought in England and Scotland. Many letters from eminent English Reformation thinkers to the Zwingli School in Zurich are still extant; especially interesting are those of Lady Jane Grey to Henry Bulliger, one of the leading preachers of Zurich, to whom the poor girl left a personal memento. John Knox and Cartwright lived for a time in Geneva, together with numerous other English refugees, and took back to their native land a new theology and new political ideas. From these sprang the Nonconformist Church of Scotland and the English Puritan school of thought, whose influence is felt, down the centuries, in the republican constitution of the United States and the movement which led to the War of Independence.

(To be continued.)

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