

News of the colony

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At a daily average, 2480 men were working near the entrances of, or inside, the tunnel. The northern workings stood under the direction of Mr. von Stockalper and the southern workings under that of Mr. Bossi, both civil engineers. To start with, the work was carried out in three eight-hour shifts. Owing to the great heat (up to 32.9 deg. C., or 91 deg. Fahr.) and because of the insufficient ventilation, the shifts had to be re-arranged, later on, and reduced to five hours each. Lighting was provided by primitive oil lamps. The workers had to buy the oil themselves—a transaction on which the Building Company even made a profit. Hauling inside the tunnel was carried out by steam engines, near to the entrances, and by pneumatic locomotives, horses or mules, in the inner workings.

(To Be Continued)

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News of the Colony

THE SWISS CLUB OF WELLINGTON held their first picnic of the season on January 26th., near Kaitoki, and the few who braved the fairly bad weather had a very good time.

—L. Hess.

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TARANAKI SWISS CLUB PICNIC

THE annual picnic of the Taranaki Swiss Club was held on Sunday, February 16th., before an attendance of 470 people, at Te Ngutu Park. The day was fine. Visitors were present from the Hamilton Club and also from Palmerston North. The feature of the day was the "Steinstossen," which was won by last year's champion.

John Kuriger 1st., 29 ft. 2½ ins; A. Muller 2nd., 28 ft. 1¼ ins; J. Muller and E. Schicker equal 3rd., 28 ft. 1in.

The next game was the "Kegelbahn," which was hotly contested. The winners being as follows: Men, L. Schuler 1st., B. Steiner 2nd., B. Machler and L. Kistler 3rd and 4th equal. Ladies, Mrs. W. Fluhler 1st., Mrs. J. Schmid 2nd.

Naildriving: A. Hermann 1st., J. Kuriger 2nd. Ladies, Mrs. Burmm and Mrs. F. Gwerder.

Chain stepping: B. Steiner 1st., G. Muller 2nd.

Other sports were fishing which drew a lot of keen fishermen. The Swiss Orchestra played some good dance music, the floor being well patronised until the late hours of the evening. My thanks go to the helpers who made the picnic such a success.

—J.S.

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HAMILTON CLUB

ON our Social on the 16th February, President Arnold Biland informed that the proposed

project to purchase our own clubhouse had to be dropped. He especially stressed the point and deplored the fact that lack of unity amongst a few of our members was the crucial point in the decision and was very regrettable, because of the fact that a substantial amount of the necessary finance was assured. Nevertheless he thanked everybody who initiated and help in the project. More luck next time.

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SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

THE Committee of the Swiss Society of New Zealand held a nine-hour meeting last February 9th., at Walter Risi's, our president, place in Ngaruawahia.

With pleasure we received a report from our Treasurer, Toni Loertscher, on a substantially improved moral for the payment of overdue subscriptions and member fees. Nevertheless, there are still about two dozen members with arrears until back to 1955, and we do hope they realise that the Committee can only do effective work with reasonable support from these last mentioned members. If every member pays his fees in time we really can think of reducing fees.

Our President, Walter Risi, foresees that it will be possible to reduce substantially the subscription fee for the HELVETIA, provided members show their interest and subscribe to our only means of continual general information and contact. The HELVETIA should be welcome in every New Zealand Swiss home, and—**the more that subscribe the cheaper we can supply.** On the other hand, we want to be "able" to provide retired Swiss, who held true fellowship during long years, with fee-free copies.

The Committee decided to offer support to an old Swiss in need of a loan on secured reayment. The loan will be between £60 and £100, and the repayment spread over about 5 years, provided the conditions of the offer are accepted.

The "Wellington Swiss Club," by having its rules endorsed, figures now as a Branch of our Society. We shake hands with our Wellingtonian Swiss, and we wish them all the possible success. Its another step forward for Swiss brotherhood in New Zealand.

And the "Auckland Swiss Club" too, Toni Sidler announces, intends to become a Branch of the Society. There are real difficulties still to be overcome, but goodwill on both sides will surely beat them. We record the wish of the Auckland Swiss with enthusiasm.

The small badge of the Society has run out. Offers from Switezrland have shown a considerable increase in price, forcing us to further inquiries.

INTENDING IMMIGRANT

Swiss Woman, age 39, with 3 children, wishes to contact Swiss farmer re employment and settlement in New Zealand. One daughter aged 17 and two sons 14 and 12 years old. —Please write to Secretary.

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SWISS RECIPES

“Japonais”:

For Cakes: 2 egg whites, a small pinch of cream of Tartar, 8 ozs. castor sugar, 4 ozs. ground almonds. Whisk the egg whites and cream of tartar until very stiff, whisk in 4 ozs. of sugar and ground almonds. Pipe mixture on to greased and floured tray. Flatten slightly and bake in moderate oven for about 25 minutes. Place half of cakes on a board and spread thickly with coffee butter icing, using a knife. Place another cake on each, flat side uppermost and press it on to the icing. Cover all round with butter icing and roll in crushed cake trimmings. Finally pipe a rosette of butter icing in the centre of each cake and decorate with $\frac{1}{2}$ almonds.

“Raclette”:

Take a mild cheese, remove rind, put cheese on a plate and melt under griller. Scrape melted cheese with knife onto a clean hot plate; eat with potatoes, boiled in jackets, or bread together with cucumbers.

—P.S.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN

Question:

If I want to go to Switzerland for a year or so, would I have a chance over there to get a job to help me along financially?

Answer:

If you are a member of the Swiss Society in N.Z. you are as well a member of the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft, a Society of very high repute in Switzerland. This Society runs a special permanent office to serve Swiss abroad and from abroad. (Address: Auslandschweizersekretariat der NHG, Christoffelgasse Bern, Switzerland) and this office could be of great help to you in finding a suitable job.

—fk.

Forward your questions on any subject to the Secretary. If he does not know the answer, he will know where to get it for you. You may write under a nom-de-plume and remain anonymous.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE Hamilton Swiss Club is holding the regular monthly evening every third Sunday in the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton. Next evening: 16th March. All welcome. Fuer Unterhaltung wird gesorgt.

During this evening we will be holding a Bring and Buy to help our funds along. So please bring whatever you can spare: **Vegetables — Fruit — Jam — Potatoes — Cakes — etc.**

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Just a reminder to all our Swiss friends in Auckland.

Don't forget that the Auckland Swiss Club holds its monthly Social at the Epiphany Church Hall, Gundry St., Newton, on the first Tuesday in the month. Come along and spend an enjoyable evening among friends. Everybody is made most welcome.

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News from Switzerland

INDIA PLACES A BIG ORDER WITH SWISS INDUSTRY

THE Indian Railways have given an order to Swiss industry for sixteen rail-cars of a special kind. The machines in question are multiple units, with driving cabin at both ends and power in the central section, capable of carrying 600 to 1000 persons each. The first of these rail-cars is already on its way to India, where it is expected to arrive during the course of the month of March, when it will be put into service on the lines in the suburbs of Calcutta. This rolling material, of most modern construction, is the work of four Swiss railway car manufacturers and of three firms in the electro-technical branch of industry. The total value of this order comes to 15 million Swiss francs (U.S.A. about \$3,500,000).

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THE SWISS FLEET

A Cargo vessel of 14,000 tons, the “Regina,” belonging to a Swiss shipping company, was launched at the beginning of this year from a Belgian ship-building yard. In this connection, we would like to recall the fact that a year ago the Swiss Merchant Navy comprised twenty-three ships, of which five were coasting-vessels, possessing a total tonnage of some 150,000 tons. Since 1940, the tonnage of the Swiss mercantile marine has almost tripled. The oldest ship is the “Saentis,” which was built in 1915, and which possesses a capacity of 4,349 gross tons. About 50 per cent of the crews are of Swiss nationality.

As for the Swiss river fleet on the Rhine, this comprises about 360 ships, of a total tonnage of more than 260,000 tons; there are 242 motor-propelled barges, including some tankers.

CORRESPONDENCE!

Please address to the Secretary:

MR. A. BILAND,

Te Kowhai Road, Te Rapa —:— Hamilton