

News of the colony

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Meeting of the Advance Headings

The two advance headings, or alignment bores, met—very much delayed—on the 29th February, 1880, at 11.15 a.m. Before engineers and workers passed the opening from one heading-face to the other, a picture of Mr. Louis Favre was handed across; he was granted this highly merited precedence, though no longer being among the living. He would have been pleased to know, had he been alive, that the deviation from the alignment was no more than 33cm. (13 ins.) horizontally and 3 cm. (2 ins.) vertically. The surveying engineers could indeed be proud of their achievements.

For the contractors, Messrs Favre and Coy., the tunnelling enterprise ended with a complete financial failure. Mr. Louise Favre had lost both his life and his fortune. It was only in the form of a special favour that the Gotthard Railway Company granted a life pension to his daughter, Mme, Marie Augustine Naoum Hava. The total construction cost of the Gotthard Tunnel attained, after the final accountancy, the sum of 66,660,000 francs, as against an estimate of 51,754,250 francs.

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NOTICE FROM THE CONSULATE

WITH a decision of June 13th., 1957, the Federal Parliament have decided to give special help to:

- (a) Swiss citizens who have suffered severe war damages during the years 1939-1945 and who since then have been unable to rebuild their existence (means of livelihood).
- (b) Swiss citizens who under analogue conditions lost the provider and who, as a result of their loss, could not build the existence which they could have expected under normal circumstances.
- (c) Swiss citizens who under analogue conditions suffered physical harm or whose health has been permanently affected.

Applications must be addressed **before June 30th., 1958**, to the competent authorities in Switzerland and any Swiss citizen in New Zealand who wishes to lodge such an Application should get in touch with the Consulate of Switzerland, G.P.O. Box 386, Wellington **without delay**.

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

DEPARTING from the almost traditional monthly social evening, the Auckland Swiss Club embarked on something a trifle more venturesome—a "barbecue" held at Blockhouse Bay. Fortunately the weather man proved to be most kind and provided us with a calm starry night.

By eight-thirty or thereabouts things were well under way, and people either sat and talked, listened to music provided by able musicians Charlie Rickenbach, Alf Meier and Max Bachmann, or were just content to gaze at the wonderful scene before them—that of a silvery path created by the reflection of the moon on the waters of the Manukau Harbour.

At supper time, unknown to anybody, Mr. Bachmann had prepared for those lucky people present. "What do you think? Umh! Bratwurst of course." and what was not eaten on the spot was packed in paper and taken home.

Unfortunately as one well knows, when one is thoroughly enjoying oneself, time is apt to pass unnoticed very quickly.

To bring to a conclusion a most pleasant evening a number of old Swiss songs were sung, Max Bachmann accompanying on the accordion.

On this happy note most people left homeward bound, content in the knowledge that once again they had spent a memorable few hours with the Auckland Swiss Club. —D. PEYER.

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WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Picnic at "Games Farm" Near Paekakariki

IN splendid weather a group of 13 children and adults started off our picnic week-end on Saturday, February 15th. In no time our little camp of 6 tents was built up at Games Farm and everybody competed in cooking meals over the fire. A special appreciation must be given to Mrs. Wyss who came all the way from York Bay on the bicycle. Later everyone gathered around a fire and old Swiss songs accompanied by accordion echoed up the valley and a glittering clear sky enclosed the happy scene.

On Sunday morning more cars arrived in intervals and by lunch-time the party had grown to about 60 members. It was a very hot day and small groups here and there rested in the shade under the trees. Others refreshed themselves in the pool nearby and plenty of Ice Cream cooled and refreshed everybody.

Later in the afternoon some ball games were organised and a Maori Haka was produced by a group of young people, decorated with fern leaves, when returning from a walk in the bush.

Mr. Aubaret attended our picnic for the first time, as he was absent last year. Mr. Aubaret, with family, seemed to enjoy all the activities and helped enthusiastically with ball games, etc.

Our picnic was very successful and we hope to get more support to make our future picnics even more interesting. —R.M.

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NEW MEMBERS

WE are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Betschart, Ruawaro, No. 2 R.D. Huntly; Mr. and Mrs. A. Inderbitzin, Ruawaro, No. 2 R.D. Huntly.

NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST

IN our last issue (March) you received a new Membership List. If your address is not in order or if you are not included, although you should be —or vice versa—please inform the Secretary.

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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 2 years old.—Please write to Secretary.

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PERSONAL

IT may interest his many friends among the Swiss Community that the Public Service Commission has appointed Mr. L. Butler, R.N.Z.P.N., formerly of Seacliff and recently returned from a holiday in Switzerland, a charge attendant at the new Cherry Farm Psychiatric Hospital, Waikouaiti (Otago).

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Miss Doris Peyer, our well-known Secretary of the Auckland Swiss Club, is shortly leaving for an extensive tour on the Continent. We wish her all the best for her travels and hope she won't have forgotten her English by the time we can welcome her back. —A.B.

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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: 20th April. All welcome. Fuer Unterhaltung wird gesorgt.

On this evening the Annual General Meeting will be held. Please be early!

Wellington Swiss Club

OUR next meeting will be held on April 19th, at 8 p.m., at the Community Hall, Brooklyn. Further details will be given in our later invitation. Please keep this date free and come along to spend an enjoyable evening. Everybody is most welcome.

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SWISS RECIPES

Apple or Rhubarb Tart:

ROLL out 6ozs. of butterpastry on 10in. by 12in. form, paint over with one eggwhite to prevent pastry getting wet. Peel 4 to 5 apples, cut up fine and distribute over evenly. Then take 4 eggs, 1½ cup of sugar, ¼ cup of cream, 1 tablespoon cornflour, mix altogether and pour over the apples. Put in oven immediately at about 420 to 440, then turn oven low, top and bottom. Watch after ten minutes and when lightly brown, turn top off, then leave it in the oven for about 20 minutes longer until it is nicely set. If you have Rhubarb instead of Apples take slightly more sugar. —M.R.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN

Question:

I wish to spend a few months in Switzerland, but do not want to impose on my relations, nor do I wish to spend huge sums in hotel bills. I am passed the teen-age stage and youth-hostels are out of the question. What can I do?

Answer:

There is a place in Switzerland and which provides the ideal holidays in the country at any time of the year for Swiss Nationals. The guests pay a nominal fee for board and lodging, besides a small amount of help in running this Home, according to their wishes and abilities. For further information write to: Secretary "Home" for Swiss Nationals Living Abroad, Duerrenaesche (Kt. Aargau). —A.B.

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News from Switzerland

FOREIGN WORKERS IN SWITZERLAND

AUGUST is the month in which the number of foreign workers employed in Switzerland attains its maximum figure. This year this figure amounted to more than 377,000 persons, two-thirds of whom were men and one-third women. The largest quota of foreign manpower comes to Switzerland from Italy, namely about two-thirds of the total. The remainder is supplied chiefly by Germany, then Austria and France. Most of the foreign workers are employed in the building trade, then in the metallurgical and machine industry, and, finally, in the hotel industry.