

Forthcoming events

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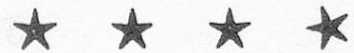
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Hamilton Swiss Club

Our Annual Picnic, in combination with the Society's Shooting Competition, will be held on Sunday, 10th March, at Mr and Mrs Risi's residence in Ngaruawahia. Shooting, kegeln, dance floor, games for children, Swiss music, bratwuerste, Swiss cakes, ice cream, etc., etc.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND



THOMAS HOLENSTEIN, 1896-1962

The death has been reported of the former Federal Councillor Dr Thomas Holenstein. He passed away in Locarno on 31st October after a short but severe illness.

Thomas Holenstein was born on 7th February, 1896, in St. Gall, the son of a lawyer and National Councillor. He studied Law at the universities of Basle, Geneva, Rome and Berne, and qualified in the capital in 1920. He entered the firm of his father and from an early age he played an active part in the political life of St. Gall. He was elected National Councillor in 1937 and soon became a prominent parliamentarian. He was also a lecturer on Commercial Law at the University of Commerce in St. Gall and a colonel in the Swiss General Staff.

When Federal Councillor Escher died, in 1954, the Federal Assembly elected Dr Holenstein as his successor. He was a member of the Federal Council for five years and President of the Confederation in 1958. For reasons of health he had to resign in 1959, to the great regret of the Swiss people.

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His body was taken to Berne under escort of a detachment of Ticinese Cantonal Police. The funeral service took place at the basilica of the Trinity Church in Berne on 5th November. All but one of the Federal Councillors and a great number of prominent personalities from all spheres of life were present.

On the following day a memorial service took place at the St. Gall Cathedral, followed by the funeral at the "Feldli" Cemetery.

THE ARTS AND CRAFTS IN SWITZERLAND

According to the Register of Trades and Professions published by the Federal Office of Arts and Crafts, Industry and Labour, there are at present 239 recognised trades in Switzerland that can be learnt by apprentices, by 73 of which the master diploma can also be obtained.