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A young man, Jose Barroso, President of the Mexican Red Cross, was surprisingly elected to succeed him. The Countess of Limerick, Great Britain, a shrewd woman with a rich experience in the service of the Red Cross, was chosen to preside the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. She replaces Ambassador Andre Francois-Poncet, France, who had directed the Commission since 1949. Francois-Poncet, President of the French Red Cross, will in the future be one of the seven Vice Presidents of the League.

News of the Colony

Auckland Swiss Club

"FATHER CHRISTMAS" ON FRANK REICHMUTH'S FARM, 12th DECEMBER, 1965

We were surprised by a heavy shower just before noon, so that we had to put our charcoal stove in a dry place under cover, and the lunch came a little bit delayed. But nevertheless, everybody had a big appetite and appreciated very much the hot sausages and, of course, the delicious dessert and coffee afterwards.

Also "Jass" was played inside the house and outside there was a long queue before the "Kegelbahn." At once we couldn't hear a single sound from the children — that was the moment when Father Christmas entered the house in his beautiful red suit and a long white beard with a big sack in his hands! After the distribution of the "Chlaussaeck," the kids as well as the adults enjoyed the ice-creams, of which our Santa Clause seemed to have a real big stock.

The day went only too quickly and we have to wait another year until we see all these happy children again. —M.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

A good attendance of members and nearly 100 children patronised our Christmas evening at the Pinelodge.

Christmas carols and children acting the Christmas Story was very much enjoyed. The highlight for the children was of course Father Christmas with his presents and the candle-lit Christmas tree.

Many thanks to the Committee and all those who helped to make it a success.

Christchurch Swiss Club

The Christchurch Swiss Club has had a very enjoyable and interesting lot of meetings during 1965. There was the annual "Biremostete" at Mr Suter's farm in Akaroa in February, then

the outing to Kaituna Valley bird sanctuary in March. Mr Kælin gave us a review of his stamp collection in May. In June Mr and Mrs Slack showed slides from their recent trip home which proved very interesting.

In July we saw "Uli der Knecht" and in August there was of course the "Bundesfeier" with a talk by the president, lots of singing and impromptu items, children's games, Ræbeliechtli competition and a lovely Suurchrut, Schueblig und Hærdœpfelstock dinner, with fruit salad and ice cream and coffee to follow—a really enjoyable meeting it was.

The train excursion to Arthur's Pass in September brought some disappointments. There was no snow for the sledges which we had hopefully taken along, and the train ride was perhaps not quite up to Swiss standards either. Never mind, we had a nice walk and a good fondue up there.

September brought the Annual General Meeting with some films and a nice afternoon coffee. In October Mr Hans Keller gave us an illustrated talk on "Protective forests in Canterbury and Switzerland," which was followed up in November by a field day in the Forestry Nursery and Research Station in Rangiora. These two meetings were very much appreciated.

Sunday, 5th December, saw our traditional picnic on Woodend Beach. A friendly Samichlaus brought a nice bag full of presents for the children, and they all got a treat of ice cream and a "Læbchueche." There was a "Chegelbahntournament" for everybody and, of course, lovely paddles in the sea for the weather was most kind to us.

For the next year we have already many good suggestions for meetings lined up, but we will inform you about these later.

—(Mrs) U. Metzger.

A SPECIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION for the young Swiss living abroad, called the Weltschweizer, is published by the N.H.G. Of particular interest to our young people it is available free of charge for youngsters between the age of 15 and 25 years. If interested please contact our Embassy.

===== **Forthcoming Events** =====

Auckland Swiss Club

The Auckland Swiss Club's Annual Picnic ("Wiesenfest") will be held on Frank Reichmuth's Farm on Saturday, February 5th.

Hamilton Swiss Club

Our Annual Picnic will be held on 20th February at Mr and Mrs Risi's residence in Ngaruawahia.