

News of the colony

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A new element has been the creation of a third force movement, favourable to the statute of autonomy, which is presided by the mayor of Tramelan. Its efficiency as a political body has still to be tested.

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

As things now stand, it is true to say that the situation has worsened, in the Jura during recent years. It is not that the Rassemblement has massively gained new adepts but rather that its position has not changed, and even hardened, although political circumstances have definitely improved since the days when the present Separatist movement was first hived off. A softening on Berne's side has not been met by a corresponding attitude in Separatist circles and this has probably induced a hardening of the Union of Jurassian Patriots, faithful to Berne. The chasm between the two tendencies is therefore inevitably widening. However, we should not overdramatise: taking the Ulster comparison, we find that this strife-torn province has to be scaled down thirteen times, both in surface and population, to attain the dimensions of the six French-speaking districts of the Jura. This shows at least that there cannot, fortunately, be any common measure between the crisis in the Jura and Northern Ireland. There has been nothing in the Jura that even foreshadowed the generalised window smashing and arson that every town in Ulster has experienced recently. It must be pointed out that in Ulster, the evil (basically, inter-denominational resentment) is very deeply ingrained, whereas enmity in the Jura is relatively recent, Cromwell having been dead a long time when the Jura was awarded to Berne. Furthermore, pure-stock Jurassians have really had less to complain about than Catholics in Northern Ireland. Still, let the situation stagnate for another hundred years, and we shall positively be having a Northern Irish situation. Nobody believes the Rassemblement wants this, although it has by no means proved it by its behaviour up to now. (P.M.B.)

News of the Colony

Auckland Swiss Club

PICNIC AT THE SWISS FARM

It was one of those hot summer days, which we all got to know so well this year, that sent us off from Auckland on Saturday afternoon. What bliss to find a nice cool breeze up on our farm. From the doors of the little tent-town, excited children's faces greeted us. Putting up camp, a nice hot cup of tea, and it was

time to get stuck into cooking spaghettis for 34 people. Did we bring enough? Yes, we made it, with plenty of home-made tomato sauce and grated cheese. Anyhow, there were loads of chicken, roast and even duck. Now off to bed with the brood as long as there was still daylight. We must all have rejuvenated several years during the night. Was it the wine, or the songs, or just the company?

Morning light, however, showed no signs of the sun. It couldn't be, could it? Sure enough, it wasn't long before the rain followed. But let's dish out that preserving pan full of delicious Bircher-müesli and worry later. Thank you, Vreni, it was a memorable breakfast. Then, tidy up the hut, just in case. With the milk and the sausages came the comforting news, that it didn't look too bad in Auckland. So, get organised! Quite a few people were able to take advantage of the road, which had been greatly improved by grader the day before. And "Grüezi wohl, Frau Stirnimaa" it sounded over the loudspeaker for the umpteenth time. It's supposed to be tops on the Popchart in Switzerland. Once the people arrived, it wasn't long before most were involved in some activities. A mystery hunt was organised, with a prize for every returned item. It must have been partly because of the lovely art prizes, that so many competitors took part in the Kegeln, Swiss wrestling, stone-throwing and air-rifle shooting. The items given by our Alphorn-blowers, Hans Hess and Kurt Hirzel, as well as the yodelling by our choir and solos by Doris Binder and Ernst Giger, were equally appreciated by the Swiss and Kiwi friends alike.

For a little while the hut looked deserted as a large crowd gathered to watch the wrestling. The roars and cheers that rose indicated some surprising changes of luck. The winner proved that it didn't necessarily need weight and strength for this competition. Needless to say, the helpers manning the barbecue, drink-stall and kitchen were kept on their toes. It must have been past four o'clock when we got around to drawing the raffle, a gorgeous, juicy ham. Weren't we lucky that it went to one of our friends. But that party is another story. Simone was delighted to be rewarded with a bottle of Fanta by the winner! Later on the prizes were distributed, their owners being as follows.—

1st in wrestling: R. Schütz took home a Hawaiian carving.

1st in stone-throwing: Ernst Giger received a modern painting.

1st in Kegeln: A. Binder, who got a wooden sculpture.

In the air-rifle shooting three men equalled the same points and each received a Salami.

With this happy note the day drew to a close. Would you believe that after everything was tidied up, a group sat down and started to play cards? Well, so I was told! And the ones who spent the night up there were all unanimous — the experience must be repeated. To all the helpers, many thanks. —M.E.W.

Hamilton Swiss Club

WEDDING: AMMANN — FAIRBROTHER

The marriage took place recently in St. Aidan's Anglican Church, Claudelands, of Miss Diane Eleanor Fairbrother, only daughter of Dr and Mrs G. E. Fairbrother of Hamilton, and Mr Thomas Konrad Ammann, only son of Mr and Mrs E. Ammann of Taupiri. The Rev. Canon B. H. Pierard officiated.

Mrs W. M. J. Pullar was the matron of honour, and Miss Michelle Hawes and Miss Nichola Staheli, the nieces of the bridegroom, were the flowergirls. The best man was Mr M. Lichtwark.

After the wedding ceremony a reception took place at the Riverlea where, prior to the official luncheon, the Bride and Groom mingled informally with the guests.

Dr M. R. Fitchett proposed the official toast to the Bride and Groom. In a very humorous way he compared the Bride with a new car of a special design, inferring the moral that the more careful it was looked after the better it will perform. The Groom in his reply thanked Dr Fitchett for his advise and said that he would endeavour not to spoil the design.

The couple intend to farm on the family farm at Taupiri.

—W.R.

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TURANGI TOWN CENTRE

ANNUAL PICNIC

Thanks to a perfect day a big crowd of grown-ups and lots of children once again enjoyed the annual picnic at Mr and Mrs Risi's residence at Ngaruawahia on Sunday, February 22nd. A large number of members from the Auckland and Taranaki Swiss Clubs also arrived, joining in in the general sporting spirit. We were delighted to see so many of our friends who came from so far away. They even arrived with their musical instruments and played Swiss music for everybody's enjoyment. The Jodelchorli from Auckland suprised us with a few items. To these groups go our warmest thanks — we all appreciate the friendly thought.

The children as usual had their lolly scramble and the barbecue Bratswurst and the homemade cake enjoyed great popularity.

To all the committee members a 'thank you' for the day's hard work.

Results of games were as follows.—

Kegeln: 1st, W. Rudolf (25 points); 2nd, H. Fitzi, E. Wuetrich, P. Weiss (23 points).

Steinstossen: 1st, E. Giger (62.3 points); 2nd, O. A. Risi (60.10 points); 3rd, E. Wuetrich (60.7 points).

Wrestling: 1st, F. Arnold (38.8 points); 2nd, J. Boesch (38.2 points).
—M.T.R.

LOST PROPERTY

Left behind at the picnic at Ngaruawahia: 1 gentleman's coat and 1 pair of sandles, size 2.

1970 HAMILTON SHOOTING COMPETITION

1. M. Pratt	60 points	13. J. Villiger	49 points
2. W. Unternahrer	59 "	14. O. Reichmuth	48 "
3. H. Meister	59 "	15. R. Wehrli	46 "
4. W. Rudolf	58 "	16. M. Ruedi	46 "
5. H. Fitzi	58 "	17. E. Scheffer	44 "
6. K. Pratt	56 "	18. H. Oettli	41 "
7. B. Fluhler	55 "	19. H. Leuberger	40 "
8. W. Meister	54 "	20. H. Mettler	37 "
9. B. Taylor	53 "	21. K. Waldvogel	36 "
10. V. Meister	52 "	22. Mrs Studer	36 "
11. A. Biland	51 "	23. J. Webber	32 "
12. F. Arnold	50 "		

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

PICNIC AT TE NGUTA PARK

On Sunday, February 8th, the Taranaki Swiss Social Club held its 17th Annual Picnic at Te Nguta Park. Despite the weather being not as favourable for us as in other years, a large number

of members and their families and friends from all parts of Taranaki began arriving at the park in the morning. We were pleased to have with us also visitors from the Wellington and Hamilton Swiss Clubs.

With the Swiss Cantonal flags fluttering gaily in the wind, and some fine Swiss music played through an amplifying system kindly provided by Mr A. Kuriger, a truly Swiss atmosphere prevailed. Shortly after mid-day, while everybody was enjoying a picnic lunch, an aeroplane began circling over the park. This was a signal for the children to forget about their lunch for a few moments and collect the lollies which Mr A. Dunnenberger was kindly dropping from the plane for them.

Throughout the afternoon the skittle alleys were kept very busy with pins being knocked down in all directions. The children enjoyed the fishing competition provided for them, with the lucky ones winning bottles of soft drink.

The hours seemed to pass by all too quickly, and all too soon it was time for all to depart with happy memories. Results of competitions were.—

Steinstossen.—Senior men, for Walter Risi Challenge Cup: B. Muller, 1st (20ft 5½in); K. Rhyner, 2nd (20ft 1½in). Junior men, for Alec Kuriger Challenge Cup: V. Gwerder, 1st (26ft 8in); Mr Meyer, 2nd (22ft 7in).

Skittles.—Men: I. Dettling, 1st; P. Arnold, 2nd. Ladies: Mrs J. Schmid, 1st; Mrs R. Mathis, 2nd.

Raffle: Mr A. Maechler, 1st; Miss M. Meyer, 2nd. —R.W.

WEDDING: DONAGUE — LUOND

The marriage took place on February 7th in the Sacred Heart Church, Manaia, of Pauline Ann, third daughter of Mr and Mrs Don Luond of Riverlea, and Mark Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Donague, Lower Hutt.

Guests were present from the South Island, Auckland, Wellington and Te Aroha. Mr P. Hermann as Toastmaster and Miss L. Spring with her singing, made this occasion a most memorable one. —L.K.

Wellington Swiss Club

CAMPING WEEKEND AT RIVERSDALE

Saturday morning: there was rain in Wellington, rain we so much had waited for. Unfortunate for our camping plans, however, as I thought the weather would now be too bad. But the forecast for the afternoon and for Sunday was better, so we drove over the Rimutakas to Riversdale. In Masterton we met heavy

rain again and couldn't think of much else but a Jass Party under the tents. This was obviously what other members thought too, and many stayed therefore at home. As a result, we found some of the best campsites still available. There had been no rain here and the beach looked inviting. Some members had come the night before already.

After a stroll on the beach it was just delightful to sit under the trees at night and wait for the Carnival to start. Swiss "lampions" and colourful electric illumination adorned the place. And, indeed, it was worth waiting: Out from the dark came four couples — had a helicopter brought them in from a fashionable city masked ball? At first appeared a very well-dressed Sambo with his matching lady, then a couple of space-age Martians; another couple fancy dressed showed some good slogans and at last there was a wild Texan cowboy couple. The jury, who had a good prize for the winner was, however, unable to make a choice. The masks invited everybody to dance. Three cheers for our music specialist Rico Homberger, who was responsible for a most enjoyable programme which even included popular "Frau Stirnimaa". Not until after midnight, when rain finally interfered, did the gay activity cease.

Sunday morning greeted us with sunshine again and after a swim we gathered on the beach for some competitions and ball games. This also was really successful, because everybody joined in some very good games of "Volkerball". Only then the weather suddenly changed, a cold southerly and later rain hit us, so that all prepared for a quick departure. And all agreed, this camping will be well remembered. —M.K.

Christchurch Swiss Club

PICNIC TO GREENWOODS

I am sure that we were all praying that the rain would pass on Saturday night so that the picnic we had planned for the next day would be a success. We may have prayed too hard for Sunday turned out a scorcher. Greenwood is about 35 miles from Christchurch and is a beautiful place for a picnic. The children were in their bathing costumes as soon as we arrived, and were in the river building a dam. Some of us tried to catch the little fish that scuttled out of our way. Mrs Gottini was in the water for hours and there were shouts of joy when she finally caught one. Mr Suter was the only one of the adults who braved the whistles and took to the water.

Although there were only five or six carloads of Club members, there were enough people to really make the day very enjoyable. The wind was getting a wee bit cool as we finally made our way home about 5.30 p.m. —J.F.