News of the colony

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the Bardutts, the Seilers, Ritz and the like. But the list could easily be extended. One typical example of a "second line" successful hotelier would be Alexandre Emery from Yverdon. He became manager of three great Paris hotels, the "Edouard VIII", the "Grand Hotel", and the "Maurice". He was the founder of the "Montreux Palace", the Hotel Caux" and the promoter of the Montreux-Oberland railway which opened Gstaadt to the international touristic plutocracy. Another name deserving mention would be that of Michel Zufferey. Having servied as diplomatic courier to Napoleon III in Russia, Egypt and North Africa and been antiquarian in London for two years, he had amassed sufficient money and contracts to open a series of hotels in Montana, Vermala and Sierre. Charles Bahler, from Thun, probably had the most exotic career. Having set out from his native Thun to seek adventure in the East at the age of 21, he found a job as accountant at Cairo's "Shepherd's Hotel". A few years later he became manager of this luxury hotel and hit the jackpot with the "Irish Sweepstakes" lottery, winning half a million gold francs in one go. As the First World War had depressed the shares of the "Egyptian Hotel Company", Bahler used his godsent fortune to acquire this majority and before long found himself in control of four-fifths of the leading hotels in Egypt, from Luxor to Cairo and Alexandria. A few years later he commissioned a Swiss architect to build the "King David" in Jerusalem. He sold his empire to a Belgian group in 1932. Another name, Bernhard Simon, will remain associated with a glittering row of private hotels built for the 19th century first families and one of the largest fortunes ever made out of architecture. After a life of activities in the capitals of the world, Bernhard Simon came back to the homeland and founded the "Quellenhof" in Bad Ragaz, besides other ventures in railways and reconstruction. **(To be continued.)**

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Auckland Swiss Club

On November 20th the Auckland Swiss Club held its Annual Shooting Ball. The evening began with a superb buffet dinner, prepared by Paul Wuthrich, followed by the prize-giving.

We were also entertained by our 'Jodler Klub', the Swiss Band and blowing of the alp horns. The dance band played until the early hours of the morning. Everybody enjoyed themselves and the evening was a great success.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who gave a helping hand to make the evening possible. —P.W.

Wellington Swiss Club

25 YEARS' CELEBRATION!

January 5th, 1972 — first day of business in the new year, even at the Swiss Embassy. But this year it had a special significance for Miss Mary Fagg, who on this day celebrated 25 years as secretary of the Swiss Embassy.

All who have met Miss Fagg when calling at the Embassy know how very efficient and helpful she is and what a tower of strength she must be to the ever-changing officials at the Embassy.

It will be most befitting to express the feelings of the whole Swiss colony throughout the Swiss Society on this remarkable occasion and wishing her many more happy years at her post.

—R.M.

News from the Embassy:

Our Ambassador, Mr Max Corti, will shortly be celebrating a special Anniversary; on January 21st, 1972 he will have completed thirty years of devoted and distinguished service with the Swiss Confederation.

Since his arrival in New Zealand as our first Ambassador, most of you will have had an opportunity of speaking with him personally during his many visits to our colonies throughout the country, on which occasions you have no doubt appreciated the sincere interest and helpfulness he has always shown in all matters pertaining to our compatriots. You will recall that shortly after taking up office, he announced that his door would always be open to our compatriots, and as many of you know, this certainly has been the case, despite the fact that his official duties make heavy demands on his time. Here in Wellington, we naturally have the privilege of greater opportunities for closer contact with the Ambassador and Mrs Corti, both of whom generously support the activities of the Wellington Swiss Club.

We wish our Ambassador, whom we have every reason to feel proud of as the Representative of our homeland, a very happy Anniversary.

On January 5th, 1972, Miss Mary Fagg was presented with a document signed by the Federal Councillor, Mr Pierre Graber, in honour of her 25th Anniversary with the Swiss Representation in Wellington.

Although a New Zealander by birth, Miss Fagg has become a Swiss by adoption! Over these years she had the opportunity of meeting many compatriots, among whom numbers will certainly remember her spontaneous assistance in order to help them over-