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BIRDS OF A FEATHER . . .

IT IS QUITE SIGNIFICANT how each year the Swiss people come together for the annual picnics in Christchurch, Wellington, Taranaki, Hamilton and Auckland and meet old and new friends. It is the urge to come and interchange and have a few hours together and discuss old and new things with someone of a common language and above all to greet and see old and new faces.

This year a rather distinguished event occurred when the "Jolly Swiss Tour" from America took part in the Hamilton Picnic and it was an obvious joy to watch them enjoying themselves. They may have compared the different customs of other Swiss in a colony a few thousand miles away from their homeground of California. They may have noticed perhaps our more frugal custom, a little more reserved in spending than with the American Way of Life. But, nevertheless the Hamilton Swiss Club members have enjoyed having the Jolly Swiss Tour with them and all gained the impression that they enjoyed being present at our premier event of the year.

It is often said that the Swiss outside their home country are more patriotic than the Swiss at home. The fact is that perhaps we do not have this patriotism with us all the time, which therefore makes it seem a little more scarce and a little more pronounced — or is it the fact that we do grow more appreciative of our old Swiss Heritage, which is making us a little more patriotic? It is also obvious that the members of the Jolly Swiss Tour excelled themselves in this manner and have no doubt earned their sojourn to this country, either by hard work or diligent business practice.

Let us hope that we may be able to welcome yet another Jolly Swiss Tour to New Zealand and to our 1973 Picnic!

— W.R.