

News of the colony

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snowfield, the dark yellow flowers of the Rhaetian Alpine poppy sway in the slope wind blowing down over the steep scree, a pair of golden eagles soar endlessly over the distant heights, the modest corn marigold presents its head to the radiant mountain sun at an altitude of nearly 9000 ft. — a jay pecks at a bluish cembra-pine cone, and plump marmots can be heard shrilly crying.

Nearly 50 miles of hiking trails run through the territory of the Swiss National Park. Signboards and markers of all kinds keep the visitor perfectly oriented on the Park and its environs. In a National Park neatness and cleanliness are expected as a matter of course — as nowhere else. Thus Park rules and regulations are actually welcomed and respected by the understanding visitor. To keep the region unspoiled, it is, for example, forbidden to stray off the marked trails in the Park and to wander about freely. Friendly park rangers will remind one of this necessary regulation, and they are ready at all times to render assistance of any kind.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Hamilton Swiss Club

This year's Annual General Meeting was held in the Eureka Hall on Saturday, 15th April. After the minutes were read and accepted, the Treasurer read the financial report which is in a very sound state. The President, Mr J. Villiger, in his report touched on the highlights of the year, and thanked everyone who helped so willingly with all our functions.

Election of Officers resulted: President, Mr J. Villiger; Vice-President, Mr J. Staheli; Secretary, Mrs R. E. Waldvogel; Treasurer, Mr K. Waldvogel; Riflemaster, Mr H. Meister and Mr M. Pratt; Auditor, Mr W. Risi. The Committee was elected en block as follows: Mr and Mrs W. Steiner, W. Müller, J. Risi, E. Rust, E. Staheli and Mesdames V. Villiger, H. Staheli and M. Flühler.

After discussing various topics concerning the Club the ladies of the Committee served an excellent supper. —R.E.W.

Wellington Swiss Club

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On April 8th 33 members, who obviously are concerned about their club's wellbeing, got together for our Annual General Meeting in Westbrook House. A pleasant atmosphere was provided by the room of the Senior Citizen Social Club. While

waiting for our Vice-President we took the opportunity to look into the balance sheet; this showed the income exceeding the expenditure. The President's Report, copies of which were also distributed around the tables, attracted our attention with some personal and outspoken remarks on the decrease of interest in various functions arranged during the year. It also showed disappointment over the little response to the questionnaire which the committee had sent out towards the end of the social year.

After Mr Francis had opened the meeting, the various reports were read and approved. Mr Francis was pleased to mention that a solution had been found for our Kegelbahn, in that Mr Fuhrer was willing to store it in one of his chicken sheds which he does not use any more. The meeting agreed with Mr Francis' proposition to cut down the number of committee members for the next year to seven. The discussion about several points were quite lively, but then our Ambassador Mr Corti took kindly the chair for the election of the new committee, which resulted as follows.—

President: Mr K. H. Signer. Vice-President: Mr H. Lüthy. Treasurer: Mrs R. Messmer. Secretary: Mrs M. Katz. Members: Mr J. Hangartner, Miss K. Keller, Mr M. Fuhrer.

Mr Bischof thanked the outgoing President for all the work he had put in for our club during the last year and wished him a happy return to Switzerland.

Everybody now enjoyed a hearty supper with coffee or tea. Then the lights were turned off for the screening of slides from southern Africa which our new Vice-Consul Mr Andre Gelin had taken while stationed in Capetown. In both quality of the pictures and their particular selection showing various aspects of life and countryside, this presentation was really excellent and applauded by everybody. Thus our meeting came to a happy end and we all give our best thanks to Mr Gelin for this contribution. —M.K.

Christchurch Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on Thursday, 20th April in the St. Alban's Swimming Club Hall. Mr Moser welcomed everyone, especially two new members.

Following the reading of the previous meeting's minutes, the reports from the President and the Treasurer, there was a heated discussion on the non-presentation of a balance sheet and the Auditor, Mr Wagner, stated that in future an inventory is to be made of all stock in the Club. Things settled down once everything was made clear.

When it came to the Elections, as usual, the buck was passed from one to another. Mr Moser called for a five-minute recess, but after this time was up, no nominations were forthcoming. Mr Moser closed the meeting and a Special General Meeting is to be held very soon.

N.Z. SWISS ABROAD REP. TO VISIT SWITZERLAND

Mr Arnold Biland, Editor-in-chief, and Mrs Biland, of Hedy's Corner fame, are departing for a four-month sojourn to Switzerland on May 23rd. We all wish them a most happy vacation and look forward to the time of their return home with the glowing stories of what has happened at the conference of the Swiss abroad and other stories of their well-deserved sojourn.

HEDY'S CORNER

NATIONAL SERVICE FOR SWISS WOMEN ?

(conclusion)

For what non-military tasks would those liable for service be trained and employed? We must be aware that the growing generation must take part in — and be involved in — the continuance of sound social and economic conditions in Switzerland. The aim is to strengthen the individual's commitment and responsibility for one another.

During the last war it was quite obvious that loyalty to the state was the prime requisite for survival. All efforts are to be made in this direction of instilling the feeling of caring for those in need: the sick, the invalids, the children, the aged. There is of course no lack of compassion and the means for relief are largely available. But at present there is a pathetic lack of helpers. This condition has deteriorated to such an extent that essential services cannot be offered any more. The civil air-raid precaution, help in natural disasters, agricultural work and help for peasants in alpine districts — all these would receive help from the conscripted work force.

Giving a hand and other small actions, executed conscientiously, can easily be given by Youth, even after short training and this all the more when there is a sense of dedication. The tasks can be widened in scope so that this service may in good time be welded to our state system.

As far as recruiting is concerned, it is advisable to conscript the girls at school leaving age and if possible before training for a profession or trade. The duration of such service would preferably be the same as that for military service of recruits. During the first few weeks all those conscripted would be living together as a community and during that time would be instructed in State Science, the study of social questions, an introduction to sick and child care. Next comes practical experience, if possible in groups. A difficulty will be to find tutors. These should not only be experts in their profession but should also possess a large measure of understanding and insight.

The national service is in no way conceived as a stop-gap where labour is scarce. To instil loyalty into the new generation toward