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WHAT ABOUT OUR AUGUST 1 CELEBRATIONS ?

IT is heart-warming to note the August 1 Celebrations at home and abroad are taking place annually. At home it seems to be more than just celebrating the anniversary and it is a sort of looking back and looking forward and warning youth to come back into the steps of the fathers and lead a life of thrift and hard work.

This is often much harder than it meets the eye, because let's remember that everybody is the product of circumstances and it would be difficult for a person who came into wealth over a short period of time, due perhaps to the virtue of thrift of the forefathers and/or himself to resist temptation to spend this wealth on himself and his family and thus contribute unconsciously to softening of spirit and flesh.

I vividly remember since early school age the remarks of an old friend of my grandfather who often came for a visit. During discussions on current affairs with my grandfather he said: "Look Klemenz, a man's worst enemies are good times". This statement contains a lot of truth and we can see all round us the effects it can have.

In regard to our own August 1 Celebrations here in New Zealand, we do need a searching of our souls as to whether we are doing the right thing. We have to ask ourselves is it a time where we celebrate with dance and pomp or is it a time where we quietly remember with friends the founding of Switzerland 682 years ago?

— W.R.