

Auckland district's first picnic

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In the interests of equal provisioning the Federal War Provisioning Department has just completed a stocktaking and rationing of eggs. The monthly ration for adults and children is three eggs. Owners of chickens are allowed to use for own consumption the annual produce of $1\frac{1}{2}$ chicken per person permanently boarded with the family, the remaining eggs have to be handed over to the collecting stations.

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AUCKLAND DISTRICT'S FIRST PICNIC.

Do you know what happened in Auckland on the 8th February? The Auckland District of the Swiss Benevolent Society had a picnic at Point Chevalier, this lovely beach with playing grounds easily accessible by tram from all parts of the city. From early in the morning, our compatriots arrived with their families from all parts of the Auckland District, happy to meet other fellow countrymen and spend a day with them, chatting with one and another. Unfortunately the weather was not too good and it was rather cold, but in spite of this, old and young met together at this nice spot. A sheltered place was found where we sat together in small groups, enjoying the good company which many of us had missed for years. All the morning some of our members sat on a bench near the tram terminus, receiving all the Swiss who were anxious to meet compatriots and guiding them to the chosen place for our picnic. To call attention to themselves as the "Reception Committee", they wore a little flag with the white cross on the red field, which brings to some of us happy remembrances of past times. It was great to see how everyone was happy to meet old friends and make new acquaintances. We were also very pleased that Mr. L. Zuercher from Hastings found the way to our picnic and hope that on future occasions we may be able to welcome more visitors from other Districts.

Just before lunch a movement started in our groups - what was it? All the water lovers started to get ready for a nice swim in the sea, for the tide was just full in. One after the other went in and swam through the water though it was a little bit cold and choppy due to a fresh breeze, but it was very much appreciated. When the swimmers came back, most of them found lunch ready for them, and how inviting did it look all over our camping place! All cooking art was here presented and our compatriots from the country showed proudly the products of their gardens. "A guete" sounded from everywhere but this was hardly necessary as everything was so well prepared beforehand by all the ladies. After we had been fortified by a good meal, Messrs. E. Brauchli and C. Ding got ready to start the Sports, competitions for married and unmarried ladies, men of all ages, and children. There were enough competitions to keep us busy for a great part of the afternoon. Nice prizes were handed over to the winners of the various sports competitions. Some of these prizes had been chosen and bought by Mrs. Brauchli and Mrs. Moosberger, members of our social committee, while others had been kindly donated by the members of our society, Messrs. G. Kerler and A. Peyer. All the prizes were very welcome and you could see the winners walking around showing with a happy smile of contentment, their well-earned prizes. Big Charley had a small but significant one, specially chosen for him (as a joke) by one of the ladies.

After the sports we all got together for a nice sing song and everyone who possibly could joined in, singing some of our well-known songs from home. I am sure that it was a great pleasure for us all to sing and listen to our familiar songs. Little by little our friends had to leave regretting that this successful meeting had come to an end.

M. ROTH.

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NOTES OF THE AUCKLAND COMBINED DISTRICT AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

The combined District and Social Committee wishes to express their heartiest thanks to all, members and non-members of our Swiss Benevolent Society, who have contributed to the great success of our first picnic by attending it and helping to cover our expenses for the prizes by their generous gifts we have collected. Further we are very thankful to Mr. G. Kerler for the nice prizes he generously donated to us.

Photographs of the picnic can be obtained through the Auckland District and Social Committee at the following prices: $1/4$ Plate ($4\frac{1}{4}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ ") 1s.0d; Enlargement (8 " x 6 ") 3s.6d.

Proofs of these photographs will be shown by the following members: -

Mr. W. Ungenuth, Ferry Building, Auckland, C.I.

Mr. J. Schlaepfer, Ostrich Farm, Pukekohe.