

Wedding bells in the Waikato ; Swiss wedding at Eltham

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WEDDING BELLS IN THE WAIKATO.

I am sure that the 16th of June will long be remembered by the Swiss Community in the Waikato as the day when "Mathis' Gerthie" got married to "Werders' Jimmy". Miss Josy Sattler of Morrinsville and Miss Elsie Mathis, a sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaids, Oswald Werder was best man and Louis Mathis Groomsman. "Vater Wiesel Honegger", he is also known under this name, gave his daughter away. It is nothing unusual for him to give something away, but to give a daughter away will happen to "Wiesel" only twice. Everybody will readily admit that "s'Gerthie" was a beautiful bride and will also make a beautiful wife, according to a saying in Switzerland.

The wedding service was conducted by Father Murphy, a real Irishman, in the Catholic Church at Te Aroha, Chaplain Doherty read the wedding mass and I was told that "d'Muetter Hedwig" had tears of joy in her eyes. A reception was given at 12 o'clock in the Masonic Hall where the mothers of the bride and bridegroom welcomed about 120 guests. I believe that the wonderful meal prepared by Carries', who are well known for their cuisine, helped to get the guests in such high spirits and induce many to make speeches. Of course, everyone of them said more or less the same, only in a different way, but I am sure that they all meant what they said.

The three tier wedding cake from confectioner Waddel looked so nice and was of such an enormous size, that its distribution amongst the guests took nearly one hour. It is not every day that such a fine cake comes my way, and believe it or not, I had no trouble in finishing my piece right away, it was too nice to be kept.

The presents given to the newly weds were so nice and of such variety that it was a real pleasure to look at them.

This reception was just a rehearsal to get the guests in a still better mood for the celebration in the evening and "s'Honeggers' Hus", where it started, proved to be far too small and so we all went "i d'Halle". You bet that everybody danced and "Hät d'bödellet" as long and as hard as they could stand it to music provided by the "Old Wiesel and Schulers' Buebe Band" and it took them a long time to tire out their "Handoergelis". I don't really think it necessary to explain that there was no rationing of drinks and that there was always plenty left where the other bottles came from. Somebody told me that a few "urchigi Ureidgenosse" were still at it at 7 a.m. next morning. (Not 7 p.m. although that would not have been surprising.)

Well, feeling sleepy, I had to go to bed before that time, as an old man should, and as I felt that I had had my share of eating and drinking and happiness on this memorable occasion, and wishing the newly wed couple all the best of good luck, I plumped into bed.

THE CHIEF REPORTER.

(NOTE: This article was sent in written in a really amusing and interesting way in "Schwyzerdutsch" and we regret that Censorship regulations did not allow it to be printed as it reached us, as only articles in the English language can be published in this paper. We hope that this article has not lost too much of its wit through the translation.)

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SWISS WEDDING AT ELTHAM.

A wedding where both bride and 'groom were of Swiss nationality was solemnised at St. Joseph's Church, Eltham, on June 9, when Freda Elizabeth, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Steiner, Mangatoki, was married to Joseph Frank Fohn, of Switzerland. The Rev. Father Butler celebrated nuptial Mass.

The bride wore a frock of ivory figured silk. The bodice was ruched down the centre front and at the back was fastened with diamante buttons. The long fitting sleeves were pointed over the hands. The slim-fitting skirt fell to form a long train which was finished with sprays of orange blossom. The bridal

veil (loaned by the bride's sister, Mrs. W. Waldvogel, Otakeho), was caught to the head with a coronet of orange blossom. Her only ornament was a string of pearls. A sheaf of arum lilies completed her toilette.

Attending the bride were her cousins, Misses Agnes and Mary Steiner, Kapuni, who were dressed in blush pink and apple green taffeta respectively. Their frocks were cut with fitting bodices and puff sleeves, the full skirts being finished with a frill above the hemline. Bandeaux of matching flowers and shoulder length net veils were worn. Both wore gold locketts and carried bouquets of pink roses and maidenhair fern.

Mr. E. Steiner, Mahoe, brother of the bride, was best man, and Mr. J. Muller was groomsman.

As the bridal couple left the church Pauline Schupfer, a niece of the bride, presented a lucky horse shoe to the bride.

At a reception held at the Windsor Mr. and Mrs. Steiner, assisted by Mrs. J. Schupfer, received about 85 guests. Mrs. Steiner wore a navy tailleur with matching hat and accessories. Her shoulder spray was in autumn tonings. Mrs. Schupfer chose an air force blue tailored costume with navy hat and accessories and wore a shoulder spray of autumn-tinted flowers. The British and Swiss National Anthems were sung at the reception, where the usual toasts were honoured.

For travelling in the Auckland and Hawke's Bay districts, the bride chose a light grey coat and hat with navy frock and accessories.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Fohn's future home will be at Mangatoki.

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The National Bank has stated that the expenses in connection with the war have up to the present reached 5,700 million francs of which 1,100 million have been obtained by a capital levy and a quarter by taxation. The issue of an internal loan of 300 million francs is under consideration for the purpose of paying off floating debts and procuring the necessary funds for current requirements.

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People living along the shores of Lake of Geneva are likely to witness some strange spectacles. Some 200 Italian sailors have arrived at Evian and Thonon on the southern side. Fast motor patrol boats will be keeping guard and it is expected that the peaceful waters will be turned into a landing surface for flying boats.

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Mother Helvetia requires that her sons are preparing themselves physically for the military service prior to the recruit examinations. At this year's examinations the young men liable to register for service have to undergo a severe test; a sprint over a lap of 80 metres, a long jump, putting the weight weighing 500 grammes, climbing a pole, a distance run of 3 km., and a route march of 25 km. Those unable to comply with the minimum requirements will have to undergo a special compulsory training during the year.

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Planning for after-war civil aviation is one of the favourite subjects discussed by many a municipal council. Lucerne wishes to be connected with the European Air network and claims an airport to serve central Switzerland. A similar proposal is being debated by the Grosse Rat of Zug which maintains that this central Swiss airport should be constructed between Cham and Zug. Geneva is going to enlarge the existing Cointrin airfield and fancies to convert "le petit lac" - the lower end of the lake of Geneva - into an anchorage for large seaplanes; it also plans for two motor roads, one to Basle and the other one to Schaffhausen.