

Auckland 1st August celebration

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enabled Switzerland to put their house in order a long time ago, politically, economically and morally. One must admire this little country which, being a long distance from the sea and surrounded by the war, has mastered these difficulties. This spirit is similar to the old American pioneer spirit.

The question whether democracy can continue in its present form is much discussed in America. To this question Switzerland gives an eloquent answer; her democracy has remained alive under the most trying war conditions. One must admire her absolute impartiality, her true neutrality and her humanitarian activities. Every child in America knows that Switzerland represents American interests. Further, the Swiss Government has done very much for the belligerents in all countries and especially for the prisoners of war. This latter activity is gratefully acknowledged by the Americans which Switzerland will perceive when, after the war, thousands of Americans once more will travel across the world.

As the red cross on white ground is an intangible sign here, the white cross on red ground has become for America the symbol of good will towards mankind.

AUCKLAND 1ST AUGUST CELEBRATION.

The Auckland Social Committee wishes to thank all friends for their support in helping to make the 1st of August celebrations in Auckland a success and for the many generous donations. Even though the date was omitted from the notice in the "Helvetia", it didn't stop Auckland from having a record crowd on their evening.

Stepping into the room when coats and hats were taken by younger members, attractively dressed in National Costume, much interest was taken in the pictures arranged around the walls and decorations, also of the scroll that held the signatures of the various friends who attended the 650th anniversary of Switzerland's Day of Independence in 1941.

Songs, recitations and music rendered by several members were greatly appreciated by their audience and S'Handoerglei put everyone on their toes, the supper also was a success and waitresses being the younger members, did their job efficiently. Besides the supper, creamed meranges with liquid refreshments, were in evidence, to which nobody made any objection.

Once again, we thank those people from country districts for coming along and also those participating in the programme.

SECRETARY.

MESSAGE OF THANKS RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

In the August number of the "Helvetia" we informed members of a cable sent to Dr. Enrico Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation, on the occasion of the 652nd anniversary of our homeland and we have the pleasure to quote below a translation of a reply received from the Swiss Foreign Office on behalf of the President of the Swiss Confederation:

"Please pass on to the Swiss people in New Zealand heartiest thanks for their patriotic message."

Swiss Foreign Office.

OBITUARY.

We regret to have to inform members of the death of Mr. Arthur Hochstrasser, aged 59, at Springdale, Waitoa. The late Mr. Hochstrasser arrived in New Zealand in 1922 and was engaged in farming in the Waikato. He was taken ill a few weeks ago and died on 31st August in the Waikato Hospital. Mr. Hochstrasser was unmarried and the only relative known of is a brother in Switzerland.