

# Obituary

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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.

It is also with profound regret that we learn of the demise of Mr. M. Mueller, Hunter Road, Eltham, a member of our Society for many years. The late Mr. Mueller was very well known and liked amongst the Swiss Community in the Taranaki District and a large family is mourning his death and we wish to offer them our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

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COLLECTION FOR A MONUMENT FOR THE LATE FEDERAL COUNCILLOR AND FORMER PRESIDENT  
OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION - DR. GIUSEPPE MOTTA.

In the November, 1942, issue of the "Helvetia" we reported on the result of this collection amongst the Swiss people in New Zealand and now quote below a translation of a letter received from the "Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft", Berne, to which the money was handed over:

"In the name of the Committee for the "Swiss Foundation in memory of the late Dr. Giuseppe Motta" we wish to acknowledge the receipt of the amount of NZ\$39.10.6 and to thank all contributors. We have taken note of their names which will be entered on a scroll and encased in the monument.

We are indeed very thankful for this generous contribution coming from a Swiss community so far away from home and it gives us great satisfaction to see, that the Swiss in New Zealand are associating themselves with the movement to pay reverence to the memory of one of our great statesmen and his valuable deeds in the service of our country."

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

An ardent appeal was sent over the Swiss radio on March 22nd calling on our people to approach the future with a spirit of sacrifice and determination as the iron belt round our country would probably be pulled tighter still. The experience of a Swiss doctor was cited who during his mission in a Finnish military camp had to amputate the leg of a young soldier. He was trying to find suitable words to express his sympathy when the Finn interrupted him by saying, "Sir, I know what you would like to say and I thank you, but for My Finland I would gladly sacrifice the other leg." Federal Councillor von Steiger stated in a recent speech at Zurich that the coming six months would be the most critical period which our country had ever faced.

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The recent issue of 150,000,000 frs. of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent Federal Loan and 150,000,000 frs. of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent Treasury Bonds has been heavily oversubscribed. The Federal Council has decided to accept the full amount of the subscriptions, namely, 232,000,000 frs. of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent Loan and 255,000,000 frs. of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent Bonds.

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The canton of Uri is contributing about Frs. 160,000 towards the reconstruction scheme of the Lake of Lucerne Navigation company; about Frs. 100,000 are a loan free of interest and the remaining Frs. 60,000 a fonds perdu.

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The management of the Zurich Stadttheater has succeeded in reducing a former annual deficit of over Frs. 637,486 to the negligible sum of 1,700 francs. By catering for the tastes of a larger circle of theatre-goers an average of 73% of the seats available have been occupied (previously 53%); considerable credit is due to the Federal Railways which ran special theatre trains from and to Schaffhausen, Aarau, Zug, Glarus, etc.