

National Day celebration in Wellington

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a separate camp in the Jura. There are still some Polish, French and Russian refugees (the latter in the Aargau) to be dealt with; their plight is desperate as a good many of them prefer to stay where they are now; amongst the Russians suicide is a common way out of their misery as the Soviet seems to insist on their surrender.

The Federal Council is submitting a message to the two houses of parliament which will be dealt with at one of the June sittings and which attempts to settle the future of compatriots who have been repatriated from belligerent countries. Altogether about 60,000 were forced to return - about 130,000 managed to cling to their precarious place of abode - and the catalogue of loss and damage reached the stupendous amount of 876 million francs; the Federal Council has fixed a sum of 75 million francs (125 francs each) towards efforts to put them on their feet again, i.e. to find them similar employment or teach them a new promising trade. As regards the heavy losses the government cannot accept any responsibility but will continue its exertions to secure some compensation and the unfreezing of credits (mostly accumulated savings).

Over 14 million "Pro Juventute" stamps and postcards were sold last December and the amount of 1,69 million francs will go to a welfare fund for juveniles past the school age.

Here is a cutting from "The Times", May 21st:

"The Joint War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John has made "a parting gift" of £100,000 to the International Red Cross in Geneva as a token of its deep appreciation of the inestimable services rendered to British prisoners of war and of its co-operation in the work of the War Organization in many other difficult tasks of the war. The Scottish branch of the British Red Cross Society has joined in the gift by adding £15,000.

M. Max Huber, the acting president of the International Red Cross, in expressing "utmost gratitude and profound relief" to Field-Marshal Lord Chetwode, the chairman of the executive committee, Red Cross and St. John, said so great a financial respite in their obligations made all the difference between "the pursuit of our present endeavour or relinquishing many essential parts of it." M. Huber added:- "Your gift comes at a moment when the problem of maintaining our traditional activity is at its most acute, owing to various circumstances attending the end of this war."

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION IN WELLINGTON.

The 1st August celebration for the Swiss community in the Wellington district and their friends was held in the Evening Post Building, as it has been in recent years. It was very nice to have with us our new Consul Mr. Ernest Theiler and his charming wife, and during the evening Mr. Theiler made a lively speech which everybody enjoyed. We saw some films, including "G.I.s in Switzerland" showing American soldiers enjoying the beautiful scenery. Musical items were given by Mr. Max Brulisaue and friends and another artist entertained us with some clever conjuring - all the smokers wanted to learn his trick of making cigarettes appear endlessly from his pocket. Led by Mr. Steffen on his accordion we tried out some Swiss songs - these were more successful later on when people had really warmed up to the singing.

The supper was quite a feast, with various Swiss specialities included; the ladies deserve a very hearty vote of thanks for providing so much good fare. We also give grateful thanks to Mrs. Cattin for her untiring efforts and to Mr. Hofer for his help with decorating the hall.