

1st of August celebrations in Wellington

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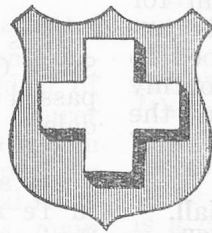
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AUGUST, 1952.

AUCKLAND.

1st OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN WELLINGTON

On the occasion of the Swiss National Day, the Consul gave a reception attended by several members of the New Zealand Cabinet, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Justice, the Mayor, the Diplomatic Corps and many other prominent personalities. There were over 80 people present, and sincere and warm congratulations were extended for the welfare and happiness of our homeland.

The Minister of External Affairs sent a message of greeting and goodwill to the Federal Council, who cabled their thanks and warmest wishes for a happy future for New Zealand.

On August 2nd, the Wellington Swiss, numbering about 40, amongst them many new arrivals, gathered at the Consul's home. After the traditional address had been given, supper was served, followed by an hour and a half screening of Swiss films showing skating in Davos, chocolate and watch manufacturing, and Swiss towns. Judging by the loud applause all the pictures were very much appreciated by the audience.

Mr. Max Brulisauer, who had the excellent idea of bringing Mr. Bob Henry along with him, then delighted everyone by playing his 'cello. We are all thankful to our friend Max for his initiative. Music and songs made an enjoyable evening which passed all too quickly, although the yodelling was rather poor. We discovered a remarkable voice among the new arrivals, that of Mr. Hermann Kleditz, who was brilliantly accompanied by Mr. Bob Henry. We thought for a moment that Caruso had returned. Another talented pianist was also revealed in the person of Mr. Heinz Ittensohn.

Speech Delivered by Mr. Walter Risi at the 1st August Celebration held at Manaia.

Dear Compatriots,

The Committee of the Swiss Social Club bids you all a warm welcome to this function of ours tonight. As you can imagine, our hearts are

full of joy to see such a happy gathering where everybody is enjoying themselves.

As you all know, the Swiss Social Club is only in its infancy, and this is its first permanent Committee. Like a child with a new toy, every member is very proud and honoured at being a member of that first Committee. It is indeed a favoured position you entrust us with.

We are well aware that this position of ours not only endows us with privileges, but it is entrusting us with great responsibilities. Responsibilities to foster and encourage the qualities of our fathers, the self-reliance, the spirit of independence, the spirit of August 1st, of the year 1291, in memory of which we are here tonight.

The Swiss Social Club does not in any way clash with the interests of the country of our adoption. Its main objects and aims are to assist persons of Swiss blood to understand the observance of the obligations of New Zealand citizenship and to help to introduce new settlers of Swiss blood into the New Zealand way of life. Its objects are to provide opportunities for Swiss to meet in social, cultural or sporting gatherings, to cultivate true comradeship and goodwill, and the spirit of "One for all and all for one," one of the foundation-stones of good citizenship.

Tonight I wish to thank my fellow Committee members, the musicians, and everybody who helped in any way to make this function such a success. In particular, the ladies who helped so magnificently tonight and on numerous previous occasions. They have always served us with a splendid supper, which takes an enormous amount of work and expense to prepare.

Every time I see those ladies I cannot help thinking that the Swiss national anthem reads a bit wrong when it says "Heil dir Helvetia, hast noch der Sohne ja," it should read "Heil dir Helvetia, hast noch der Tochter ja," but without good daughters there will be no good sons.

And last, but not least, I sincerely apologise to everybody who was not sent an invitation. Please send your addresses in to our Secretary,