

# News of the colony

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Switzerland as being of public utility.

In certain quarters, it has caused surprise that Switzerland, the country of liberal traditions, has had recourse to a measure restricting property rights and freedom of contract. In this connection, it may be as well to mention that Switzerland is by no means the innovator in this sphere. Other countries, among them Germany, Austria, Sweden and Denmark, introduced similar legislation several years ago. Moreover, subjecting to authorisation is not the same as forbidding. The cantons have full scope to exercise their discretion in granting or withholding authorisation. All the same, the Swiss living abroad have been greatly disappointed to learn that they, too, come under the new Federal decree and cannot acquire real estate without permission, whereas foreigners resident in Switzerland can do so. This discrimination against Swiss nationals residing abroad, which seems a shocking one at first sight, is the inevitable consequence of the international treaties under which Switzerland has bound herself to treat foreigners residing within her frontiers in the same way as her own subjects. This obligation forced the Swiss government to take domicile, and not nationality, as the basis for applying the new decree. Of course, it is obvious that a Swiss living abroad who wants to buy property in his native land will not be refused permission, but the mere fact of having to ask for this may wound his self-esteem. It is to mitigate the psychologically undesirable effects of this discrimination that the provisions of the decree have been declared inapplicable in the case of individuals born in Switzerland and domiciled there for at least fifteen years.

The new Federal decree is a further step in the campaign Switzerland has been forced to undertake recently against growing foreign infiltration. The cantons are entrusted with the execution of the decree, and there is a right of appeal against their decisions to a Federal Commission.

—Swiss Bank Corporation Bulletin

### New Membership List

A new membership list will be issued shortly and printed in the Helvetia. As only financial and life members, besides the members of affiliated clubs will appear on this list, will you please check your address and your financial status. All other members will receive a statement from the treasurer and are asked to reply by return mail.

## NEWS OF THE COLONY

### AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The Auckland Swiss Club's National Day celebrations were held on Saturday, 5th August, at the Ellerton Road Hall, Mt Eden. Mr Fitzi opened the evening with a speech of welcome to all those present, and especially to our visitors, Mr and Mrs Biland, from Hamilton, and Mr and Mrs Risi, from Ngaruawahia. Mr Biland kindly read to us from the Bundesbrief, and Mr Simmy Hartmann, as guest speaker, followed this with a speech on the "comparison of life in New Zealand with that in Switzerland, and how important it was that the good name of Switzerland should be maintained in New Zealand, our adopted country."

Highlight of the evening's entertainment was the presentation of a play entitled "The Vagabond." This was spoken in "Schweizerdeutsch," and provided many laughs, and our thanks go to Mr Walter Peter as the vagabond, and to his colleagues, Messrs Lein and Lussy, who so ably supported him. For the remainder of the evening our musicians, Charley Rickenbach and Alf Mier, presented Swiss dance music, while alternatively modern music was played by a New Zealand band. At suppertime potato salad and Schueblig, followed by a sweet of Nussgipfel and coffee, was served. Later dancing continued until twelve midnight. —D.P.

### AU REVOIR

It was with regret that the committee of the Auckland Swiss Club said goodbye to a fellow committee member, Mr Walter Peter, who left with his family to return to Switzerland last month. Although not long on the committee Mr Peter in this short space of time contributed much towards the entertainment of our socials, and was always a very willing hand at any other task set in connection with the smooth running of the Auckland Club.

We would like to take this opportunity therefore, to thank him for his assistance at all times, and wish him, and his family, all the best wishes and success on their return to Switzerland.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The next social evening, "A Masked Dance," will be held on Saturday, October 7th, at the Professional Club, 12 Kitchener Street, City. Roll along in your mask and fancy costumes, and have fun. Prizes will be given for the "Best Mask."

Entrance: Members 8/- Non-members 12/-

### HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The next evening will be held on Sunday, 1st October, in the Riverlea. The Dutch Orchestra will play for you . . . bring your partners.