

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 8 (1942-1943)
Heft: 4

Rubrik: Sundry news from Switzerland

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 19.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

but an empty propaganda slogan. Deeds, not words, must bear out the old Swiss tradition.

The problem of what should be done with refugees who illegally crossed the frontier into Switzerland has been clarified by the Police Department which has issued provisional instructions according to which refugees who entered Switzerland before 13th August - this means the bulk of refugees - are to be allowed to stay, except for those who for grave reasons be considered "undesirable". Nothing has been settled yet regarding refugees who arrived after that date. This matter was discussed at a conference of Lausanne police chiefs yesterday. Today, shortly before noon, an official communique was handed out which stated that an adequate compromise between the commandments of humanitarianism and the inalienable spiritual heritage of Switzerland on the one hand and the safeguarding of the interests of the State on the other, was necessary. To achieve this, the instruction remains that the frontiers cannot be opened to refugees. Should refugees enter the country in spite of this, their cases will be examined individually.

It can be concluded from the words of the Minister of Justice that hardships are to be avoided in these cases. The communique says that for the time being the various authorities will continue the investigation which must serve as the basis for further resolutions.

During a conference at Berne today, the Minister of Justice, Dr. Steiger, gave more information on the refugee problem. He stated that the new police provisional instructions about refugees were mainly designed to warn refugees from Holland and Belgium, as it was considered easier to prevent their departure than to refuse them hospitality once they arrived at the frontier. The regulations about refugees issued by the Bundesrat in 1939, would not be altered, but the Bundesrat had decided to issue a warning, although efforts would be made to avoid hardship. Impossible as it was to open the frontiers to refugees, an adequate compromise would have to be found between the laws of humanitarianism and the safeguarding of the interests of the State.

SWITZERLAND APPLIES BREAD, MILK RATIONS.
Transport Troubles and Bars to Imports Force Action.

Berne, Oct. 10. The long-expected rationing of bread and milk in Switzerland was announced yesterday by the War Ministry's Food Section. Officially the reason given is the "gradual but none-the-less extensive increase in the consumption of both commodities" - a corollary of the scarcity of other rationed commodities.

Even with intensive cultivation, Switzerland produces only 30 to 40 per cent of her bread-grain needs. Transport difficulties bar free import from the United States. (Germany, which has supplied Switzerland with grain, has recently been reported as stopping shipment.)

The bread ration will be about the present average consumption per capita, namely 275 to 280 grams daily. Allocations of dried vegetables will be slightly increased in November.

Regarding milk, Switzerland again owing to transport difficulties, has been forced to reduce her livestock; in some districts the slaughter has now reached 30 per cent or more.

The daily milk ration is expected to be a pint for adult and a quart for children.

The Food Office reported that since August, 1941, no fresh milk has been exported from Switzerland and that cheese exports are at 50 per cent of the 1938-1939 average.

SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

CIVILIAN COAL RATIONS IN SWITZERLAND. Berne. The coal ration for household heating purposes during the coming winter has been established, for the time being, on the basis of 15% of the normal consumption of each household.

SWISS CONFIRMS DEATH SENTENCES. (Berne, Oct. 17.) The Military Court of Appeals, sitting in Berne, confirmed the first two death sentences under the new espionage law imposed Sept. 25 on Werner Zuercher and Jakob Josef Feer, both of the Quartermaster Corps, for violation of military secrets. Their only remaining hope is an appeal to the Federal Assembly which convenes next month.

The house shortage is so acute in Arbon (Thurgau) that no rooms can be let to non-residents without official sanction.

The local council of Thayngen (Schaffhausen) has decided to refuse for the present all demands for naturalisation.

Special permits are now required for non-military planes using our airports. The aerodromes of Basle-Birsfelden and Altenrhein (St. Gall) are reserved for flight to and from Germany, Geneva-Cointrin in addition to the first-named for air-traffic to and from France and Locarno-Magadino for the Italian traffic.

The Council of Berne Canton discussed at its meeting yesterday next year's Budget. Questions of increased agricultural production, of coal mining in the Canton and public assistance for forestry work were also discussed.

The Council of the Canton of Geneva discussed the question of fodder and hay shortage. It was announced that the authorities have arranged for 100 loads of hay to be sent to this Canton. This year the army will not get any hay supplies from Geneva and straw supplies for the army have been curtailed by 50 per cent. According to the latest estimates, the Canton of Geneva is short of 11,000,000 kg. of hay this year.

The Swiss Forest Association has been discussing in detail the country's timber supplies and the future of Swiss forestry. The Swiss Forest Association is aware of the seriousness of the country's foodstuff resources and of the necessity of using forest soil for the growing of foodstuffs. In their resolution, the Association opposed forest clearance on the grounds of short time measures with disastrous effects, and requested the Federal Government to reconsider the question. They advised that compulsory regulations be drawn up, the merits of forests as a protection should be borne in mind, the detailed projects should be examined and the areas to be cleared should be reduced.

The Sixth Army Competitions have ended at Freiburg. The Champion's Battalion was reviewed by General Guisan who, in a speech heard by 10,000, called army sport the soldier's preparation, the educational value of which would be enhanced in future. Schools would be affected.

The invention by a Swiss designed to prevent theft of bicycles - which has greatly increased of late - also deserves mention. A young man from Solothurn has designed a cylindrical lock fixed in the handlebar, which makes the latter useless, and the thief would thus have to carry the bicycle away. This Swiss invention may also prove useful outside our frontiers.

UNEMPLOYMENT PLANS.

The Government has made an inventory of all the possibilities of work in the country; use to be made of them according to needs and extent of unemployment.

The Swiss Government finds that the best measures against unemployment are those which fight it at its source. Amongst the steps contemplated, are those for the development of import and export and for extension of tourist traffic, measures to increase agricultural production as well as industry, trade and production connected with artistic, commercial and technical professions. The development of water-power is also included in the Government program and a plan to fight unemployment has thus been set up, which can be carried out as soon as events necessitate it.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. HURRAH! Only a few more weeks to February 14th. Did I hear you say and then what happens? Well, the Auckland Branch of the Society is having another picnic and invite you all to come, and what a picnic it'll be, races for young and old, more laughs and games than last year, you enjoyed yourself last year but this year you'll get a real kick out of it. The weather man has promised us a brilliant day, but in case he changes his mind we'll have it just for spite unless it pours down with Swiss hilly-billies. It will be held at the Pt.Chevalier reserve again, so mend those holes in your swim suits and prepare for your yearly wash. Come as early as you can, there will be somebody there to meet you, and stay as long as you like. How about a record attendance? Tea and milk will be provided.

Just a word to those who would like to donate some prizes to save the expenses, would they please let Mr. Peyer, 48 Moa Road, Pt.Chevalier, Auckland, W.3, know as to how many prizes they are giving by 6th February so that he can set out the final programme. Don't worry about sending along too many, they'll all find a place.

Well, anyway, I bet I'm the first one there, or am I wrong?

SECRETARY OF THE AUCKLAND SOCIAL CLUB.

SWISS BROADCAST. We herewith wish to inform members, that the Swiss National Broadcasting Station at Schwarzenburg near Berne has changed the time of transmission to Australia and New Zealand, and the details are now as follows: -
Broadcasts: Twice weekly.
Tuesday, mainly in English.
Saturday, in the three national languages.
Reception time in New Zealand: 8.45 to 10.15 p.m.
Wave length: 25.28 m.

P.S. We have been informed by some members, that the reception of this broadcast on Saturday, January the 16th, was excellent.

SUBSCRIPTION 1942 - 1943. Your annual subscription fee of sh.10/- for the year 1942/43 was due on October 1st, and you are asked to forward payment to the Secretary - Mr. Herman Schlatter, 2nd Floor, T. & G. Building, Wellington. Auckland members we wish to remind of the arrangement made with Mr. A. Peyer, 48 Moa Road, Auckland, or Mr. W. Ungemuth, Clarence Road, Northcote, Auckland. Bay of Plenty members may pay to Mr. C. Gebert, C/- Post Office, Opotiki. Kindly help to make the Committee's task easier by remitting early and your prompt attention in this respect will be greatly appreciated.

NEW MEMBER. We have pleasure in welcoming the following new member: -
Miss Genevieve Pichard, 3 Kimbolton Road, Feilding.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

MR. P. CATTIN, Te Kauwhata: "Scintilla", Wine, Fruit and Honey.
MR. JOHN BUTLER, Butcher, Tariki: Varieties of Swiss Sausages.
MR. TONY KOMMINOTH, Wellington: Visit his new "Lido Tea Rooms", 118 Courtenay Place, Wellington.
MR. L. LEUTHARD, New Plymouth: Visit his "Hygienic Dining Rooms".
MR. F. GRAEDEL, Orini R.D., Taupiri: Manufacturing "Mountain Chalet" Cream Cheese, price 6d per cake at leading dairies and grocers in Auckland. Country orders promptly dealt with.
MR. G. KERLER, 477 Karangahape Road, Auckland: Prams, Wickerwork, Toys, etc.
MR. AL. ZUERCHER, 303 Market Street S., Hastings: Apple Cider, 5 sh. per gallon in two gallon lots - samples free of charge. Send your empty jars or barrels. "Moscht müends, aim gha!"

CORRESPONDENCE:

Please address to the Secretary - Mr. Herman Schlatter, 2nd Floor, T. & G. Building, WELLINGTON.C.1.