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ALTERATION IN SWISS RADIO BROADCASTS.

Cable advice has been received that as from May 4th the Swiss radio broadcasts will be transmitted 3 hours earlier on 25.28 meter band, 11865 megacycles. This means that on Tuesday and Saturday the programmes from Switzerland will be heard from 5 to 6.30 p.m.

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SWITZERLAND HAS HUGE GOLD ASSETS ABROAD.

Berne. - The economic position of Switzerland is sound, despite current world-wide difficulties reflected here, and there is no intention of devaluating the Swiss franc, M.E.Weber, president of the board of the Swiss National Bank, said recently.

The bank disclosed that Switzerland has 3,600,000,000 Swiss francs in gold abroad, and although about two-thirds of this amount is blocked in other countries it can be used for purchases in the dollar area. Swiss gold possessions are at their highest level, said Weber. ("Wanganui Herald" April 23rd.)

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WINTER SPORTS.

SWISS SHOPS DISPLAY "EVERYTHING". Leaving England recently "with no official backing", a party of winter sports enthusiasts paid their first visit to Switzerland for six years.

"Switzerland offered a welcome that might well have been growing over the last six years, and smiles and greetings were given by everyone", writes one of the party. "The shop windows contain wonders that are only dimly remembered in England. Briefly, there is everything, everything of a style and quality that makes window shopping fun, even for a man. Fine silk and embroidered linen goods are everywhere, and the handbags and suitcases are made of the softest leather, mostly goat skin and chamois, of perfect craftsmanship, and at very low prices, about £2 for the best bags.

For those keen on winter sports it was the best snow for seventeen years. A number of interesting personalities were to be seen, including English business men and Americans on leave from the occupation forces. They are setting a high standard of behaviour and their popularity with the Swiss is good to see.

BRITISH PRESTIGE HIGH. British prestige is very high in Switzerland today, and it seems a pity that some financial arrangement cannot be made so that the two nations can meet again.

The most amusing thing to the Swiss is to hear the Englishman carefully asking the price of everything before he buys it - francs are very scarce, and the local shopkeepers take it all in good part." ("Evening Post" April 22.) . . . . .

MOTORISED FARMING.

AIMS IN SWITZERLAND. Now with petrol and tractors becoming increasingly available, many Swiss farmers have their hearts set on motorised farming, but Dr.Albert Kiener, chief of the Animal Husbandry Division of the Swiss Department of Agriculture, has warned that the operating expense of tractors is increasing faster than the maintenance cost of horses. Even before the war, when fuel and oil were about one-third the present prices, it cost from 6s.6d. to 9s.6d. an hour to operate a tractor in Switzerland, Dr. Kiener estimated, while the cost of upkeep of a horse was placed at £130 a year.

Under those conditions, Dr.Kiener said, the tendency will be for Swiss farmers, when they buy tractors, to use them only when they cannot meet seasonal labour demands with horse-power. A

medium-priced tractor here costs around £936. Prices for work horses range from £205 to £251. Of Switzerland's 149,000 horses, 90,000 are used as work animals. There are between 12,000 and 13,000 tractors. About 150,000 cows, mostly in the northern part of the country, also contribute to farm power. ("Evening Post", April 23)

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NEW ZEALAND'S APPRECIATION OF SERVICES RENDERED TO N.Z. PRISONERS OF WAR BY SWISS WATCH MANUFACTURERS.

The Council of the N.Z. Horological Institute has unanimously passed the following resolution:-

"The New Zealand Horological Institute Inc. wishes to officially place on record its appreciation of the services of tools and materials given by Swiss watch manufacturers through the Red Cross to New Zealand prisoners of war, who did watchmaking for the Allied forces in Italy and Germany".

A copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Swiss Foreign Office who, in turn, have passed it on to the President of the Swiss Horological Association for publication in the Swiss Press.

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AUCKLAND SOCIAL CLUB wishes to make a preliminary announcement with regard to their 1st. of August Celebrations to be held on 3rd August at the Overseas League Rooms. This year it is the intention of the committee to send invitations to all those friends who have attended the socials in previous years. If you are not on the list, or have been omitted from the list, invitations will be forwarded to any guests who have not attended our socials previously and who would like to be included, upon request to the Secretary, Miss B. Haltmeyer, 9 Edenvale Road, Mt. Eden, Auckland, S.7.

The committee would appreciate it if all replies to invitations would be in to the Secretary not later than July 15th, so as to facilitate catering arrangements.

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DEATH OF MR. BERNHARD WYSS.

We regret to announce the death of our compatriot Bernhard Wyss of Hikutaia on 3rd January 1946.

Mr. Wyss underwent an operation for appendicitis which proved rather serious. However, he apparently made quite a good recovery, but some time later he was taken ill and after a short illness he died.

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WANTED:

Elderly or middle aged Pensioner Lady as Companion to elderly Lady on farm in King Country. Reply to the Secretary, P.O. Box 85, Auckland.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Many of our esteemed members still owe their subscription fees. Would you kindly REMIT NOW to the Secretary or the various district collection agents, as advertised in previous issues.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

Mr. L. Leuthard, New Plymouth: Visit his "Hygienic Dining Rooms".
Mr. L. Zurcher, 212 Pattison Road, Hastings. 1945 Apple Cider, 5/- per gallon in two gallon lots, plus freight: samples free of charge, in ordering state dry or sweet. Jars to lend. "Moscht müends aim ghä."

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to the Secretary - Mr. E. Merz, P.O. Box 85, AUCKLAND.