

Auckland first August celebration

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And now I am here, I don't regret my choice, and I am sure that I shall like this beautiful country more and more with its hills and mountains, and its friendly, helpful people.

Last but not least I like my work in the Consulate. I was very pleased with our nice office, because in Berne they told me that it would be not so modern in New Zealand.

On the S.S. "Rimutaka" I had a very nice trip. The greater part of the passengers were New Zealanders, returning home. The last days they were all a little excited at the thought of being at home again and of meeting all their relations and friends. Therefore I was very glad to have a warm reception from Mr. Merz. It was such a nice feeling for me to meet somebody from home in a foreign country. On the very first day, I had the good fortune to get a nice view of Auckland from Mt. Eden. It was a lovely afternoon and so I enjoyed this trip very much and I shall never forget this first impression of Auckland.

In time I hope that I will have the pleasure of meeting more of my compatriots because I am very interested to see how they are getting on in New Zealand.

I am very grateful to Mr. Merz for helping me so much during my stay in Auckland, and also to Mrs. Moosberger and Mr. Peyer for their invitations.

Fanny Schmid.

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AUCKLAND FIRST AUGUST CELEBRATION.

Auckland Social News!

To an attentive and well filled room Mr. Merz gave the following opening speech, announcing the beginning of a very delightful and entertaining evening.

"Dear compatriots - your Committee requested me to open the evening with a short address and I shall be very brief indeed. First of all I want to thank all members and friends who have appeared in force to make the occasion a success. A fairly large proportion of our visitors, I perceive, are from the country and I wish to thank these compatriots in particular for their special efforts and trust they enjoy the short entertainment provided.

We are gathered once again to celebrate the Birthday of our Swiss democracy. Today is the 655th Birthday of the Sacred Bond, made at the Rutli, and through the tenacity of our forefathers Switzerland has been able to retain the independence through the many adversities and the long centuries.

Only a year has elapsed since the war in Europe concluded and we must never forget, and always be thankful, for having again been spared being involved in the dreadful ravages of war.

Recent reports indicate rapid progress in commerce and trade, in fact a labour shortage actually exists. The Federal Council has taken the unusual step to warn industrial firms against over-expansion, and to rather defer from enlarging their staffs or extending their works, because this rush would not last for long. On the other hand 60,000 homeless Swiss returned from the war-torn countries without any possessions whatever. These people were returned from the various countries in Europe as well as the far East. The State is providing special funds running into millions, but if divided among 60,000 it would be a small sum for each individual. Collections are arranged everywhere, and it is possible that some drive will also be made in New Zealand. In this country we always had a sheltered life, we could pursue our daily work unhampered and prosper in our businesses or professions. Therefore we must not forget to express our thankfulness in our daily contact with the good people of New Zealand.

I conclude this short address with the hope that you all enjoy seeing each other again in these rooms."

Although wind, rain and cold swept the Auckland streets on the 3rd of August, a bright and cheery evening awaited the large number of compatriots and friends, who travelled from far North and South to our social gathering. Although space does not permit us to mention each of the talented and versatile artists, who were so enthusiastically received by the audience, we wish to extend our thanks for the generous way they helped with the programme.

Trusting that next year conditions will allow us to hold another such happy reunion, I'll close with the good wishes of the Committee who hope to see you all next year.

B.R. Halmeyer,
Hon. Secretary.

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FAMOUS \$10,000,000 ART COLLECTION AGAIN DISPLAYED AT BASLE ART MUSEUM.

One of Europe's most famous art collections is again on public view in the Art Museum in Basle, Switzerland, after more than six years of concealment in mountain air-raid shelters. Recently, the last masterpiece of the more than 1,000-picture collection was transferred from huge cellars chiseled in rocky Alpine walls, back to the graceful halls of the Museum of St. Alban-Graben.

The collection, which has an estimated value of over \$10,000,000 is Switzerland's finest. On the first floor are works by the old masters, centering around Hans Holbein, the younger, who worked in Basle from 1515-1532. Dutch and Flemish masters are also prominently featured, as well as such titans as Leonardo da Vinci and El Greco. Modern master-works are grouped on the second floor, with some exceptionally fine paintings by Arnold Böcklin. Here, too, a room is devoted to some notable creations by Ferdinand Hodler, best known modern Swiss painter who was, until his death in 1918, an enormously vital factor in the Expressionist movement.

The Art Museum, completed in 1936 by Rudolf Christ and Paul Bonatz, is itself an excellent example of modern architectural trends in Switzerland. Its walls of limestone and Ticinese granite, two arcaded courtyards and graceful collonnades combine ultra-modern movement with traditional Swiss forms.

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ASPECTS OF SWISS DEMOCRACY.

We think our compatriots will be interested in a series of articles on Aspects of Swiss Democracy by the Swiss historian, Walo von Greyerz, which have just come to hand. In this number we give you the first article dealing with Features of the Swiss Character; the other articles will appear in later issues.

The author proceeds from a dictum of the Swiss historian, Karl Dändliker, who, in his History of Switzerland, wrote in 1883: "What distinguishes our confederation among the nations and peoples of Europe, what makes its worth and its importance, what makes it great and wealthy, and justifies its existence, is to be sought for in its political spirit".

To this the author in his preface adds: "It is a peculiar trait that we Swiss are not so much aware of this fact as might be expected. By word and picture we direct attention especially to the country's outward beauties, to her manners and customs; we pride ourselves on the quality of our industrial workmanship; on our sports achievements and, perhaps, on our works of art and mental culture. Nevertheless we are inclined to overlook the most remarkable and the most original achievement, which is contained in the political structure. There, in the democratic communalities which have