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voluntarily spend their holiday by working on the land. In addition, a large number of students from different universities will also spend parts of their vacation on farms.

The 62nd Federal Gymnastic Festival took place in Berne from the 18th to 21st of July. 1,187 sections with together 30,000 gymnastics have taken part. The last Federal Gymnastic Festival took place in Winterthur in 1936, and the participation at this year's festival is considered to be the highest ever recorded.

Three separate processions numbering between 6 - 7,000 men marched through the gaily decorated town in beautiful sunshine, and were enthusiastically greeted by thousands of spectators.

On the last day, the general exercises took place at the Allmend in which 22,000 men took part, this imposing spectacle was watched by 100,000 spectators. Dr. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, addressed the gathering. Amongst the official guests were members of the Federal Government, General Guisan, members of the Diplomatic Corps and delegates from many Foreign Gymnastic Societies.

On the 25th of July, it was two years since the first batch of American holiday making soldiers arrived in Switzerland. Since 1945 about 300,000 soldiers have visited our country, and it is estimated that they have spent an amount of about one hundred million francs during their stay.

Thirty-four countries with 1,380 delegates were represented at the International Esperanto Congress which opened in Berne on the 27th of July. The opening meeting was addressed by Federal-Councilor E. v. Steiger, who welcomed, on behalf of the Swiss Government, the delegates.

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ELECTION OF NEW PARLIAMENT.

The term of office of the Swiss National Assembly expires this year and new elections take place on the 25th and 26th of October. We expect to be in a position to give results in the November issue of the "Helvetia."

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HAPPY COUPLE.

We have much pleasure in announcing the coming marriage of Miss Annette Cassidy to our compatriot Louis Hofer. The Best Wishes of the Swiss throughout New Zealand, especially those resident in Wellington, are extended to this pair.

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