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encountered in its endeavours to assist other war-victims than the prisoners and internees to whom it had access.

On the other hand, the Detaining Power sometimes saw little advantage in encouraging such relief work. Though the extra supplies were useful in maintaining millions of prisoners, and increased the output of the workers, they put an additional strain on railway systems and means of transport already overtaxed by military demands and damaged by air raids. Besides, as the economic situation of the Axis countries grew worse, wholesale consignments of scarce foodstuffs, comforts, clothing and shoes for prisoners of war excited growing discontent among the camp guards and the population. To meet such complaints, the German authorities often had to point out that prisoners of war in Allied hands enjoyed similar privileges.

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X SUNDRY NEWS. X  
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CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1st of AUGUST CELEBRATION.

The President of the United States, Mr. Truman, sent a note to the President of the Swiss Confederation on the occasion of the Swiss National Day. President Truman said "On this day when the Swiss Confederation is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of her Constitution, I deem it a pleasure to send your Excellency and the Swiss people, the sincerest wishes and congratulations of the American people."

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Pandit Nehru, has also sent a note to the Swiss Minister in New Delhi, Mr. Daeniker, in which inter alia he says "Switzerland is almost a unique example of a country where peoples of different religions and of different languages can work together in harmony and mutual devotion for the ideal of peace."

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Peter Fraser, sent a note to the Swiss Consul in Wellington, Mr. E. Theiler, for transmission to the Swiss Government. The note reads as follows:

"I have the honour to ask that a message of Greeting and Goodwill be conveyed to your Government on the occasion of the 657th Anniversary of the Swiss Confederation.

The ancient and historic traditions of Switzerland are held in the highest esteem by the people of New Zealand, as indeed they are esteemed by the peoples of all the freedom-loving nations of the world.

It is pleasing also to recall the close and friendly relations which so happily exist between our two countries and I take this opportunity of expressing the warmest greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of New Zealand to you and to the Government and people of the Swiss Confederation on this significant occasion."

The Swiss Government replied in the following terms:

"Very moved by friendly message of Ministry. We ask you to thank the latter for the sentiments so warmly expressed and to transmit the wishes of prosperity and happiness that we are forming in Switzerland for the far away but friendly people of New Zealand."

ABOLITION OF VISAS.

The Governments of Switzerland and New Zealand, in an exchange of notes between the Prime Minister, Mr. P. Fraser, and the Swiss Consul, Mr. E. Theiler, have

A. Moosberger.

**APPENZELI:** The well-known singer and yodeller, Mrs. Marie Frey-Bernhardsgut, died in her 49th year. Together with her husband she made many appearances in Switzerland, and in other European countries. Listeners who tuned in to the programme from Station 2YA on August 1st had an opportunity to hear her.

#### LUCERNE - MUSICAL FESTIVAL:

The Musical Festival of Lucerne went off to a good start when the famous conductor and composer, Rafael Kubelik of Prague, conducted a symphony concert. The famous pianist Alexander Brailowsky played the piano concerto by Tschalkowsky and the Festival orchestra played a rhapsody by Leo Janacek and Dvorak's second symphony. After the concert the honoured guests were received by the City Council of Lucerne.

#### COST OF LIVING.

The index of the cost of living as of July 1948 was 162.5 (August 1939 = 100). There is a slight reduction in the index, namely, 0.3% due mainly to a reduction in the price of potatoes.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The English Morris Motors Ltd., are to bring on the market new motor trucks that will be constructed on the basis of licences granted to the Swiss Saurer Works. Lord Nuffield expressed the opinion that these diesel motors will be superior to any of their kind that are already in use.

There are now 1170 seats available per week on the direct air lines between Switzerland and London.

In Paris, Arthur Honegger's oratorio "King David" has been produced again with considerable success.

In the year 1947, 200 English invalids were invited to spend five weeks vacation in Switzerland, and in 1948 they will number 240. The idea is to remove them from the monotony of hospital life and to restore to them the joy of living.

The 2500th child from Berlin has just arrived in Switzerland for a three months' vacation.

When the Federal Constitution was promulgated in 1848, the English Minister to Switzerland, asked one of the high Federal Magistrates whether it would not be advisable to have the new Constitution guaranteed by the Great Powers. He received the following reply - "We are prepared to do so provided that Great Britain submits her Constitution for the Swiss people's approval."

General Guisan has been made an honorary member of the Alpine Club of London.

Mr. Edward Herriot, President of the French National Assembly, has unveiled a monument in Basel dedicated by "grateful France to generous Switzerland."

At Buchs the 150,000th child assisted by Switzerland has just passed the frontier. The boys and girls who came to Switzerland are from fourteen different countries.

The Swiss fleet of the Rhine passed in review for an hour-and-a-half at Basel, thus showing the importance that Switzerland has acquired as a fluvial nation.

One of the most unusual and most important industries of the Bernese Jura, the glass works of Moutier, has again taken up the manufacture of mirror glass. The monthly production will attain up to 1,200 sq.m. due to an electric process.

In 1947 there were more than 7,000 benevolent and social institutions in favour of employees and workers. Most of them are due to the initiative of the employers.

A Swiss lift factory has just taken out a patent for a new invention; they have designed a lift for use in garages transporting cars to different stories of a building and taking them to the respective compartments.

The air service between Rome and Zurich was inaugurated on the 14th of June, 1948.

The well-known factories of Louis de Roll of Gerlafingen have just celebrated their 125th anniversary. On this occasion the workers and employees received various gifts amounting to Sfr.1,500,000 (approximately £100,000).

The American Commercial Attache in Bern, declared before a Senatorial Committee in the United States that he was happy to be able to give a report on a country that has never required any assistance, but on the contrary that has given assistance to her neighbours. The "Journal of Commerce" has dedicated a special edition of 120 pages to Switzerland.

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X NOTICES X  
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OBITUARY.

With great Sorrow we have to announce the death of our former Committee Member -

GEORGES KERLER

who passed away on the 25th of August at the age of 71 years. Mr. Kerler was a Member of our Society since the Society was founded 13 years ago, and he and Mrs. Kerler were always eager to help the Committee in their functions.

Dear old Georges is a great loss to our Committee and will stay in our Memory for ever.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting for the election of the Committee will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Moosberger, 129 CRUMMER ROAD, GREY LYNN, AUCKLAND, W.2., on SATURDAY OCTOBER 30th, 1948. All Members Welcome.

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ATTENTION! - CALENDARS.

Last day for Subscriptions is the 25th of September, 1948.

The following Calendars for 1948 in colour, can be ordered through the Consulate of Switzerland:

"Berge und Taler der Heimat" - 9/- ... "Die malerische Schweiz" - 7/-  
"Alpenblumen Kalender" - 6/-.

The following Calendars for 1949 may be ordered in the same way as last year:

MA PATRIE DIE HEIMAT SWITZERLAND.

at a cost of 9/-.

PESTALOZZI CALENDARS.

As in previous years the popular Pestalozzi Calendars can again be ordered. the cost is as follows:-

German for Boys	...	4/3d
German for Girls	...	4/3d.
French for Boys	...	4/-
French for Girls	...	4/-
Italian	...	4/-

These calendars can be highly recommended and when ordering please add Subscription fee and state type of calendar desired.

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Our Secretary has left Auckland for a trip to Switzerland and the Committee appointed Mr. A. Moosberger, as Acting-Secretary until the end of our financial year. Please address all correspondence to:

Mr. A. Moosberger,  
129 Crummer Road, AUCKLAND. W.2.