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supplementary old age grants.

Swiss citizens residing abroad may also participate in this national insurance. They have been fully informed regarding it by the Swiss Diplomatic and Consulate Representatives, even if living in a far-off corner of the world. Up to the present, 13,000 Swiss from abroad have declared their readiness to pay their premiums, in order to be able to draw the pension, when they reach the age of sixty-five, or, if they should die before then, in order that their family may benefit from the Survivors' Insurance. In an obligatory insurance of this kind, which embraces the entire population, it is not surprising if some thousands of persons who have no established domicile, as for instance, theatrical folk, concert artists and, more especially workers who hire out for temporary jobs, have not yet been registered for insurance. As time goes on, these persons will be included in the insurance, which should prove of particular benefit to them as they mostly belong to the economically weak stratum of the population and will be able to make good use of the Old Age Pension one day.

Where this insurance should prove an inestimable blessing is in the poor mountain districts, where families are large and earnings small and it is impossible for these people to take out private insurance or to count on any pecuniary assistance in their old age. This National Insurance brings the whole of the Swiss people close together in a vast communal bond, it forces the young people to save, to a certain extent, and to bear the burdens of the older generations, and to develop a keener perception for economic matters, above all the connection which exists between stable wages, prices and currency, and their deep importance.

The Law, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority in July 1947, by the Swiss people, may lack certain things which had not been foreseen when this venture was made into this uncharted land. However, before any revision can take place, it will be necessary to wait for several years' experience with the present form. The experience already gained shows that the system chosen is proving its worth. Great interest in the Swiss Insurance Scheme is being shown by neighbouring countries, which are already anxious to conclude a mutual agreement with Switzerland, in order that those of their citizens who are in Switzerland should be able to benefit from its advantages.

Extension of Application Period. On the request of the Consulate in Wellington, the period for applications for joining the Old Age and Survivors Insurance has been extended to the 30th of June, 1949. This, however, applies only to residents living within the Consular district of the Swiss Consulate in Wellington, namely, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa.

We remind readers that the "AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAG OF THE N.H.G. 1949" will be held from June 30th to July 3rd in Interlaken. Any compatriot from New Zealand who will be in Switzerland at that time is entitled to attend the meetings. Swiss societies who are desirous of proposing subjects for discussion are invited to present their requests to the "Auslandschweizerwerk der N.H.G." in Bern; the closing date for such applications is April 30th, 1949.

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

The Consulate sometimes receives requests from intending emigrants from Switzerland to supply addresses of farmers who are desirous of engaging farm hands, and at the same time, providing accommodation. The Consulate would like to know who is desirous of engaging new labour and interested farmers are asked to give their names to the Consulate of Switzerland, P.O. Box 386, WELLINGTON. C.I.

When in AUCKLAND, patronise MR. T. KOMMINOTH'S "CHALET TEAROOM" 12 Victoria St., West, (near Queen Street).

When thinking of INSURANCE, remember that MR. FRANK IMHOFF, 42 Vogel Street, Hawera, is now an Agent of The Southern Cross Assurance Co. Ltd.

Our Secretary, Mr. E. Merz, has returned to New Zealand from his trip to Switzerland. He has taken up his duties again as Secretary and correspondence etc., should now be addressed to him at P.O. Box 85, AUCKLAND. C.I.