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weather. The lessons he learned were passed on to Colonel Sir John Hunt, leader of the British team.

**First Prize in Window Dressing Competition
Held in Rome Won by Swiss National Tourist
Office**

First prize in a window dressing competition held in Rome on behalf of the International Help the Children Fund went to the Swiss National Tourist Office. The window of the SNTO's Rome office depicted the facilities offered to families and school children by the Swiss Railways, and the centrepiece was a poster by Pierre Monnerat. Also on view was a working model of a Swiss electric railway. In addition to the first prize the SNTO was awarded a silver medal.

**Schiller's "William Tell" Played by Local
Company**

The first performance of Schiller's "William Tell," which is given every year in Altdorf, centre of Switzerland's authentic William Tell country, has taken place with great success. The five-act play is being performed by a local company under the direction of W. J. Ammann. The cost of seats is very moderate, and there are special rates for schools and other groups. Full details can be obtained on application to the Tellspielbureau, Altdorf, Switzerland.

NOTICE

Concerning the Swiss Insurance Law of 1947.

The Swiss Federal Old-Age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance, which has been in force since January 1st, 1948, and which is compulsory for the inhabitants of Switzerland, is also available, under certain circumstances, to Swiss living abroad who wish to participate.

Those Swiss nationals who have been insured in Switzerland, but who have moved to New Zealand and who want to join the voluntary insurance are at liberty to enrol, provided they are properly registered with the Swiss Consulate and that they sign a formal Application "Beitrittserklärung" within six months from the date of their release in Switzerland from the compulsory insurance.

Those Swiss citizens, including dual nationals, who reside in New Zealand and who have reached, or will reach, the age of 30 years on or before December 31st, 1953, and who wish to enrol for the Swiss Old-Age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance, must sign the application form by the end of this year. Naturally their registration (matriculation) with the Consulate has to be in order or taken care of first.

The annual premiums are payable until the age of 65 years. Persons gainfully occupied are liable to contribute 4 per cent. of their income in cash and in kind. The Old-Age pensions are paid out to single persons from the age of 65 years onwards, and in cases of married couples, to the husband from the age of 65 years, and to the wife from 60 years.

Persons interested in this matter should contact the Consulate, whereupon a pamphlet (at their request either in German, French, or English) giving further detail in this matter, as well as an application form, will be furnished them.

Consulate of Switzerland,
P.O. Box 386,
Wellington, C.1.

OUR FATHERLAND

(Continued)

CENTRAL SWITZERLAND AND LUCERNE

The cradle of the Confederation, the three original Cantons, the founders of Switzerland, undoubtedly take pride of place in the hearts of all Swiss. During the last fifty years, Switzerland's heavy defences were built around the Gotthard and its approaches. And it was here that throughout the long centuries, Switzerland's history was centred and built up to what it is today. Here in the very centre of our Fatherland is the peaceful meadow known as the Rutli, where, history proves beyond doubt the verbal agreement took place between the "forest cantons" of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, which led to the league of August 1st, 1291, against the rule of the Habsburgs and finally to the formation of the Swiss Confederation.

Ours is a land of mixed sternness and beauty, but in no part of it has nature bestowed her gifts with a more varied and unsparing hand than in Central Switzerland, the country round the famous lake of Lucerne, the lovely valleys, the mountains which crowd along the Gotthard line as far as Andermatt. A traveller passing through today will find it hard to realise the bitter and long struggles which once raged round these peaceful scenes with their sunny hills, rich pastures and flower-strewn meadows. Yet in these central cantons lived those stout clans of hardy peasants who again and again successfully defied the greatest powers in Europe, maintained in the name of freedom and democracy their independence, and so laid the foundation of a peaceful Confederation which forms the Switzerland of today. This is indeed the real heart of Switzerland—the cradle of an ancient race.