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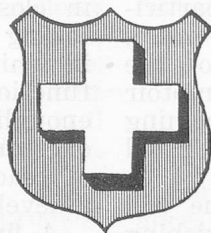
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SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY IN
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GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

17th YEAR.

SEPTEMBER, 1953.

AUCKLAND.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Swiss Social Club 1st August Celebration in Kaponga.

This year's 1st August celebration of the Club was held in a little different manner to other years. We started off with a banquet in the evening, which was expertly prepared and served by our compatriot, Mr. J. Leuthard, New Plymouth.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Abbott, the chairman of the Kaponga Town Board, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Lemm, the local police constable, were our guests of honour; otherwise it was reserved for club members and their families only. About 240 people attended and enjoyed themselves thoroughly until the cows called again in the morning.

Amongst our visitors from outside the district was Mr. B. B. Zurcher, from Palmerston North, who in his 80th year, is a very keen supporter of the club, and also three young compatriots from Christchurch, who, we hope, liked this evening with us; we sure did enjoy their music and yodelling very much.

In his speech the club's president expressed his appreciation about the great amount of goodwill enjoyed by the Swiss people amongst the New Zealand community, which was earned the hard way by our elders through sincere work and straight-forward business dealings. Mr. Abbott, in reply, thanked the Swiss people for their support whenever they were called upon, and promised the use of the new town hall free of charge on the first season as soon as it is built, which very nice gesture will be very much appreciated.

—W.R.

The United Nations Association Social Club of Wellington entertained in quick succession on two Sunday evenings, its numerous members and friends of some 30 different nations with a programme on Switzerland. On August 30th, five Swiss films were shown which were greatly appreciated, and on September 13th a small group of young Swiss gave a "variete" perform-

ance consisting of songs, accordion, mouth-organ playing, and, announced by cowbells, an improvised "Alphorn" (a most ingenious contraption consisting of a washing machine funnel on a long piece of garden hose) was blown, for which the player earned much applause. Also his "Fahnen-schwingen" was a novelty to this gathering and proved most effective. The entire programme was arranged by H. Ittensohn and the other performers, among whom were two girls in national costumes, who looked most attractive.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND THE 34th LAUSANNE NATIONAL FAIR

In Switzerland each year two great trade fairs provide a decisive stimulus to the economic life of the country: the National Fairs of Basle and Lausanne. To the foreigner, Berne is the traditional and political capital of the country, Geneva the city of great international organisations, and in Zurich he can see an eloquent demonstration of the growth of a small country, but at Basle in the spring and at Lausanne in the autumn he will find the great commercial centres of the country. It is in these two towns, one in the German speaking part of Switzerland, the other in the French speaking part, that manufacturers regularly display and concentrate in one vast exhibition the main achievements of Swiss industry.

The 34th Lausanne National Fair, a source of economic information, a stimulus of the market and providing a true picture of the work of a nation, will be opening its gates from September 12th to 27th, 1953.

A few figures will suffice to show its importance: it covers an area of over 1,000,000 sq. feet, possesses 16 halls, is divided into 20 groups and displays the products of 2,250 exhibitors from all the Swiss cantons. On a scale in keeping with the size of the country, it is the most complete and the most instructive object lesson in agriculture, industry, trade and craftsmanship, that is to say, the basic elements of an economy closely bound up with world trade.