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and Mr. L. Burgener with a humorous song or two.

A delightful afternoon tea of coffee and Fastnachtchuechli was served and later in the evening Surchrut and Schueblig were enjoyed by all. Special thanks to our President, Mr. Bachmann, and Mrs. Bachmann and Mrs. H. Bryner, who went to a great deal of trouble in the preparing of the Surchrut and the Fastnachtchuechli.

Swiss dance music was provided by Mr. C. Von Rickenbach, Mr. A. Meier, and Mrs. L. Mueller, and to them, and to all the other people who offered their services willingly, we are very grateful.

D.P.

Although the Consul-General is still absent from New Zealand, Madame Aubaret very kindly invited the members of the Swiss Colony of Wellington to celebrate our National Day at her home.

The house was decorated with Swiss lanterns and flags, and many complimentary remarks were made by the guests, especially about the artistic table decoration of fruit, leaves, and candles.

The Vice-Consul, Mr. W. Sollberger, read messages from the President of the Confederation and the Consul-General, Mr. P-H Aubaret, which he linked together with a few words in genuine "Baseldytsch." Afterwards the guests enjoyed a real Swiss dinner consisting of sauerkraut, sausages, ham and salads, followed by fruit salad. After this delicious meal, Madame Aubaret organized a few dance-games, which everyone seemed to take a real delight in. During all this activity Mr. Hangartner was here, there and everywhere taking flashlight photos. People danced and chatted, and time passed all too quickly; it was half-past eleven when the party finally broke up. Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening. Thank you very much, Madame Aubaret.

L.H.

Dear Compatriots,

**Excerpt from the Rules of the Society—
Paragraph C**

"TO PROVIDE FOR THE MORAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF SWISS CITIZENS LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND IN URGENT AND DESERVING CASES, IN PARTICULAR TO CARE OR PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDY FAMILIES OF LIVING OR DECEASED SWISS CITIZENS, PROVIDE A DECENT BURIAL AND RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO DIED WITHOUT ADEQUATE MEANS, AND GENERALLY PROVIDE FINANCIAL,

MORAL OR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ANY CASE IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE THINKS FIT, BUT SO THAT NO PERSON CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE AND IN THE EYES OF THE LAW OF NEW ZEALAND OR SWITZERLAND TO BE OF BAD REPUTATION OR AVERSE TO HONEST WORK SHALL RECEIVE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOCIETY."

Twenty-five years ago in the Spirit of Ruetli and Sempach a handful of Swiss joined together and founded the Swiss Benevolent Society. The above was the principal rule they laid down and when the Swiss Society took over and altered the rules in order to give it more scope it was adopted in full. In the course of the years the old Society have saved up about £670 for this purpose. We want to be worthy trustees of this inheritance and in the same old Sempacher Spirit "One for All and All for One", I am appealing to you to assist us in the patriotic deed. Your monthly paper, the "Helvetia", is our only means of income at present. We are endeavouring to make it a little more attractive by giving up-to-date news from the different Clubs so as we all know what is going on and also other news as much as we can make available. During the next two months we will compile a new register of all Society members all over New Zealand and publish it in the November or December issue. Let us make it a handly Social register, a list of honour for everybody proud to be included.

WALTER RISI,
President.

Mr. Toni Lotcher,

Box 608,
HAMILTON.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed £1, being subscription for "Helvetia" and membership fee, Swiss Society.

Name

(Please write clearly.)

Address

(Please write clearly.)

OBITUARY NOTICE

An old identity of Taranaki, and Hawera in particular, Mr. Albert Schicker, died on Friday, August 2nd, after a heart attack the day before.

Mr. Schicker came to New Zealand as a young lad almost 50 years ago and settled in Taranaki. He went home to Switzerland in 1914, with the intention of getting married and returning to

New Zealand. The war interferred with his plans and he could not return until 1921.

Mr. Schicker lost his first wife in 1935, and later went home once more and married again. He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Heidy Schupfer, their son and daughter, and four sons and two daughters by his first marriage.

W.R.

NOTICES FROM THE CONSULATE

The following Notices could be of interest not only to compatriots who regularly receive the "Helvetia" but also to those who do not receive it, and therefore the Consulate would be grateful if Members of the Swiss Society in New Zealand would kindly inform those of their friends to whom the following Notices could apply.

Swiss Citizenship

The law concerning the acquisition and the loss of the Swiss citizenship of 1952, has now been completed by a new Art. 58 bis. It concerns all women formerly Swiss citizens, who are still married and who, before 1st January, 1953, have lost their Swiss nationality either through marrying a citizen of another State or because they have been included in the renunciation of Swiss citizenship of their husband. All those concerned can now, under certain circumstances, be reintegrated.

A.H.V.

The so-called transitory rent (Uebergangsrente) which till now could only be claimed by persons living in Switzerland, can now, under certain conditions, be paid also to Swiss citizens living abroad. Persons eligible are those who could not legally join the A.H.V. in 1948, that is those who have been born before 1st July, 1883, or widows and orphans who have lost their husband or father before 1st December, 1948. As the persons eligible for the transitory rent have never paid a contribution, this benefit is subject to a means test. Under certain circumstances, the "transitory rent" can also be paid to persons who are not only Swiss citizens but who are also nationals of another State (Doppelbuerger).

All inquiries should be addressed to. Consulate of Switzerland, G.P.O. Box 386, Wellington.

REMINDER

Swiss citizens do NOT have to renounce their Swiss citizenship in order to become naturalized in New Zealand.

We would like to thank our past Secretary, Mr. E. Gilgen, for the work he has been doing for the Society and we wish him all the best for his future. Our special appreciation to Miss Doris Peyer, who so kindly undertook to finish Mr. Gilgen's term of office.

A.B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Hamilton Swiss Club is holding the regular monthly evening every third Sunday in the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton. Next evening: 15th September. All welcome.

Just a reminder to all our Swiss friends in Auckland.

Don't forget that the Auckland Swiss Club holds its monthly Social at the Epiphany Church Hall, Gundry St., Newton, on the first Tuesday in the month. Come along and spend an enjoyable evening among friends. Everybody is made most welcome.

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to the Secretary,

Mr. A. Biland,

Te Kowhai Road, Te Rapa, Hamilton.

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