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during and after the last war, as well as daily. It is very regrettable that countries which in such critical times had not the courage or force to defend themselves against foreign political influences, reproach us regarding our neutrality.

Our main task today is to persuade the Governments of all countries that Switzerland is always ready to maintain and defend her neutrality, when necessary, with arms, and that our policy of neutrality can be an element to maintain and strengthen the peace in Europe and in the whole world. I do not doubt that when the Swiss people and the Swiss Government are convinced of this necessity of the maintenance of our neutrality, we will be able to create the necessary comprehension which gives us the possibility to participate in the unification of Europe.

NEWS OF THE COLONY ★ ★ ★ ★

Auckland Swiss Club

The celebration of our National Day in Auckland was a unique event. Entering the Hall, a most impressive drawing of our National Hero, "Wilhelm Tell," greeted you, together with a coloured mass display of flags of our 24 Cantons. Your eyes would wander along this forest of flags in search of your own County, and there it was too, wecloming you among all the others, giving you the warm feeling of also belonging to the community. The gay lampions, the soft candle lights in the decorated containers and the gallery of pictures from our Country gave the hall a cosy atmosphere so much appreciated by all the guests.

Our honoured guests, the Consul General of Switzerland, Dr Rossetti, and Mrs Rossetti, were greeted by our President, Mr H. Fitzi, and Mrs Fitzi. Also greeted was the President of the Swiss Society, Mr J. Steiner, from Taranaki, and the President of the Hamilton Swiss Club, Mr Biland, and Mrs Biland, accompandied with their son and daughter-in-law. Furthermore, we had the pleasure of greeting quite a number of friends from as far away as Taranaki. Among them were Mr and Mrs W. Schicker, from Inglewood, Mr and Mrs J. Hiestand, from Awatuna, with their two daughters now staying in Auckland, Mr and Mrs W. Schultz, formerly from Taranaki, and Mr Louis Kuriger, from Opunake.

About 8.30 p.m. Mr Franz Arnold Jnr., from Hamilton, began the programme with two items of "Alphornblasen" and, surprisingly, the melodious tunes sounded beautiful, even in the hall, carrying you away up to the lovely Alps and for a short time you would forget the hall and all. After singing the National Anthem, Mr Fitzi held the opening speech and greeted all compatriots in four languages, hoping that everybody would have a pleasant evening and also thanking the Committee members for all the work they had done in the preparation of this Day.

Charlie Rickenbacher, Alf Meier and Louis Mueller played the Opening-Marsch, giving the guests a taste of what was yet to come.

Dr Rossetti then began his speech by greeting all compatriots and giving us a most interesting account of the geographical, historical and political situation of our Country since its Independence Day in 1291. A translation in English was distributed so our New Zealand guests were also able to follow his speech. This brought the official part to an end and the entertainment started with a solo-yodel from Mr Josef Arnold. All of us listened intently—for many it was the first time to hear so close one of the best yodellers from home. The charm and the unassuming modesty with which Mr Arnold presented his items were noted specially. There were no "Star-Allueren," he simply did not need them; no one does who is proud of the rare talent he possesses and knows how much pleasure he can give to so many from home.

The next item was a humorous speech by Engen Huebscher, with Mrs H. Mueller, pointing out all the good deeds we should do to be a real and true patriot as long as someone was doing it and, of course, also a little dig at the ever-sore subject, "the Army-Tax." This was a terrific success, applauded by all. Miss Doris Peyer then sang a solo-yodel "I han e Schatz am schoene Zuerichsee," the best performance I have heard from her, accompanied by C. Rickenbacher, followed by a further Waltzer and yodelling from D. Peyer, to which Mr and Mrs Enzler were performing again a true "Boedeler." Everybody was fascinated with the speed they danced.

The Yodel-Choir, intonated by Louis Mueller, gave two items with Mr J. Arnold singing the yodelling part—a special treat for everyone. I would like to mention also a New Zealand girl, Miss Alma Newland, who joined the choir and sang the Swiss words most charmingly. Eugen Huebscher, who was a very busy bee as he had to appear almost in every item, was on stage again playing in solo "Wilhelm Tell," as understood by a Ticinese. What a show! The whole audience roared with laughter and even those who could not understand the language were able to follow his excellent acting—a talent we have to guard carefully. This was followed by two accordeon items played by C. Rickenbacher and M. Bachmann which were enjoyed by all. The whole audience joined in a last item, the Ruetli song, and then supper arrived. Coffee with the Nussgipfel as well as the little apple pies, etc., from Mrs Flueskiger, were all served in top speed. From then on the second part of the evening started, i.e. dancing, with both orchestras, the Swiss and the Flamincoes, playing. Committee members finally had a bit of a spell and also enjoyed the dancing.

Special thanks to the decoration organisers, in particular to Mr Otto Stalder and Arthur Lussy for doing the flags and the magnificent drawing of "Wilhelm Tell," and to all other members who made this evening another great success. —H.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Hamilton Swiss Club's 1st August celebration proved an irresistible magnet for it drew Swiss from near and very far to the Riverlea Cabaret, where the function was held. The hall was filled to bursting point. Our guests of honour were the Consul General, Dr. O. Rossetti, and Mrs Rossetti, and the President of the Swiss Society, Mr John Steiner, and Mrs Steiner. Unfortunately, the Mayor of Hamilton, Dr D. Rogers, and Mrs Rogers had to send their apologies at the last moment. We were delighted to see friends from Taranaki and Auckland. The Hamilton club President, Arnold Biland, welcomed everybody and floral arrangements were presented to Mrs Rossetti and Mrs Steiner. To the old and young generation of Swiss alike, Dr Rossetti's "Festrede" was equally informative, for the former a necessary refresher course and for the latter a guide-line on how to be a Swiss in a foreign country. John Steiner brought the greetings of the Swiss Society.

The Hamilton club over the years has always been blessed with talents galore and this year was no exception. A "Doppelquaretee" gave us songs; Sepp Arnold yodelled and his son Franz blew his Alphorn and also did some very good "Fahnenschwingen." (We are really quite proud of these two club members, as their fame and corresponding demand for their talents seems to spread through the North Island.); the Oettli brothers entertained us with accordeon duets with their customary irresistible "Schwung." The same can also be said of the violin-accordeon duets by Hedy Biland and Heiri Oettli.

The Riverlea proprietor, Mr Roberts, quite outdid himself with the supper catering—savoury cabbage (something very delectable), Russian eggs, ham off the bone and many more delicacies. The "piece de resistance": Goulash served from a huge bowl by the chef himself, ladled out amidst the crowd. Blatterteigbretzeln and Torte with coffee finished the meal. Needless to say, the women committee members appreciated the considerate and thoughful committee who gave them a duty free night. Equally appreciated were the two very hard-working bartenders, Charlie and Walter Steiner, who selflessly attended the thirsty customers. After supper Messrs Schuler and Immlig and our guests, Messrs Rickenbach and Bachmann, played dance music.

It was lovely to see that so many had come in Swiss costume. The walls were decorated with Swiss travel posters and paper lanterns were strung between the beams. The tables presented a very colourful picture. Along the middle of the long tables stood candle-lit Swiss lanterns on high red and white stands. The stands were linked by green paper ribbons and at intervals on the ribbon stood bowls filled with vividly coloured paperflowers. To enhance the vividness, coloured glasses with burning candles inside them surrounded the bowls. Mr and Mrs Biland were in charge of decorations and John Villiger was master of ceremonies.

Proofs of the photos taken at the Riverlea can be seen at Photo Supplies, Ward Street, Hamilton (on right hand side when you turn into Ward Street from Victoria Street).

—H.B.

Wellington Swiss Club

Once again members and friends of the Swiss club gathered to celebrate our National Day. The beautifully decorated hall looked very inviting and soon after 8 o'clock the President welcomed a large audience. Mr Schaerer read the Message from the President of the Swiss Federation and addressed us with a short speech.

Two very interesting films were screened, "Wo stehen wir" and "Balloons," which took us for a journey to many well-known places in Switzerland. No effort was spared to serve a delicious hot meal for supper, which was enjoyed by everybody. Afterwards, the band played tunes for dancing. Everbody enjoyed themselves and were on the move, having chats with friends or appearing on the dance floor. The time passed far too quickly and the evening came to an end after midnight.

Many thanks to all the helpers who worked so hard to make this evening such a success. The biggest reward for them was the large attendance of 130. The Committee would like to express their most sincere appreciation to Mr Bruno Brandli for his excellent catering services and to all those voluntary helpers who came to his assistance and who also gave a hand with the tidying-up afterwards. —R.M.

OBSCHIEDSGRUSS

Liebe Landsleute,

Die Zeit zum Abschiednehmen von euch und von Neuseeland, dessen fremdartige Schoenheit mich in Bann nahm, ist leider gekommen.

Wahrend der vier Monate meines Aufenthaltaltes habe ich, auf meinen Studienreisen durch beide Inseln, Hunderte von euch kennen und euere Leistungen und Erfolge schaetzen gelernt.

Von allen Mitbuergern, die ich in den verschiedensten Landsgegenden fand, wurde ich freundlich aufgenommen, einige von euch haben mit interessanten und wertvollen Angaben zu meinen Artikeln fuer die Schweizerpresse, beigesteuert, andere boten mir echt Schweizerische Gastfreundschaft.

Ich danke einem jeden Einzelnen recht herzlich fuer das, was er fuer mich tat, gruesse euch freundlich und wuensche euch allen alles Gute.

Mit Wort und Schrift will ich in der Heimat ueber die Schweizerkolonie in Neuseeland, auf die sie stolz sein kann, berichten und ueber euer Gastland orientieren.

B'buet uech der Herrgott!

U. Victor Benziger