

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 27 (1964)
Heft: [12]

Nachruf: Obituaries
Autor: W.R.

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 03.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Obituaries

MARTIN JOSEPH STEINER

Another of the "great old oaks" of Taranaki has fallen!

On November 17th, Martin Joseph Steiner died suddenly. Martin migrated to New Zealand from Kanton Schwytz in 1902 and settled in Stratford and for the next 62 years remained in this and the Koponga-Rowan area. In 1906 he married Mary Sattler, who was the oldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sattler, who were also early immigrants to New Zealand—arriving here in 1880.

The Steiner-Sattler marriage was blessed with the following large family: John (Ngarua), Martin (Normanby), Annie (Mrs P. Dodunski, Stratford), Joe (Te Puke), Lew (Otorohanga), Harry (Tuakau), Eileen (Mrs F. Standbridge, Walton), Frank (Onehunga), and the late Len (D.C.M.), killed in action and the late Ada.

Mrs Steiner passed away in 1940.

In the early days in Taranaki Martin assisted many of the "new" Swiss to purchase farms and interpreting agreements and deeds for sharemilkers and lease-holders. His memory for names and places, details of purchases of farms, acreage and prices was truly amazing and even until the end of his long life he was able to astound many of the younger generation with his intimate knowledge of the various farms in South Taranaki.

Besides the members of the family mentioned above, Martin is survived by 31 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He also has one brother, Mr Frank Steiner, Eltham, and one sister in Switzerland. To the whole family of Martin we express our sincerest sympathies.

—P.H.

LOUIS BUTLER

Every man-made thing we see round us is the result of somebody's thinking and we owe a great debt to our fellow men who have, with their ability to think accurately, made such technical advances over the ages.

With the passing of Louis Butler on Monday, November 16th, we have lost one of those men. In step with the evolution of farming practices of this country, Louis presented to the farmers, from his engineering shop in Inglewood, the "Butler Sweep," a vastly superior implement to the old horse-sweep, and when, after the last war, haybalers started to succeed the sweep, he had already built the hedgecutter, an implement that took the drudgery out of cutting those big old-man boxthorn hedges of Taranaki, which threatened to engulf much valuable farmland.

The significant fact remains that the principles he employed in building his first machine are still employed in his own work-

shop as well as by all the opposition engineering firms who are building hedgecutters. However, his thinking not only remained in the narrow field of agricultural engineering. He was greatly concerned about the shortcomings of present-day monetary principles and in later years devoted considerable time to find a solution to this fault. His thoughts may have been regarded by some as a bit ahead of our time but he had the satisfaction to be called to present his ideas to the Monetary Reform Committee set up by the Labour Government when the Right Hon. Walter Nash was Prime Minister in the 50's.

Louis Butler came to Inglewood with his parents, from the Kanton Aargau, in 1902. In his marriage with Miss Mavis Isabella Julian he found the perfect partner in life. She had a deciding influence in his life, gilding him with tact and love and presented him with a proud family of five sons and five daughters. One of the sons, Iden (R.N.Z.A.F.), died in action in 1944. The late Father John Butler was a brother.

He leaves his wife, four sons (Messrs Rex, Owen, Colin and Louis, all of Inglewood) and five daughters (Mrs L. Biesick, Inglewood; Mrs E. Werder, Hawera; Mrs T. Kawalewsky, Midhurst; Mrs K. Kuriger, Oanui and Mrs P. McLean, Omata).

Anybody lucky enough to know Louis closer will miss him very much, his ideas and outlook on life were an inspiration for thoughts, not only on material matters but spiritual as well. May our sympathies at this time be a comfort to the bereaved family.

—W.R.

Thinking leads a man to knowledge. He may see and hear, and read and learn whatever he pleases; he will never know anything of it, except that which he has thought over, that which by thinking he has made the property of his own mind. Is it then saying too much if I say that man, by thinking only, becomes truly man? Take away thought from a man's life, and what remains?

—Heinrich, Pestalozzi.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR FROM SWITZERLAND

As delegate from Switzerland, Mr Rene Juri, Director of the "Schweizerischer Bauernverband," took part at the 14th Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers at Rotorua.

Previous to the conference, Mr Juri visited a Taranaki dairy farm. He was most impressed by the modern and up-to-date technique of our way of farming during his stay in Taranaki.

Mr Juri was guest of the president of the Swiss Society, Mr John Steiner.