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News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

We hope all our readers had a most enjoyable holiday. Well, it is back to school again for the children, and how about some of us adults doing the same!

The University of Waikato is holding a variety of excellent lectures in the evenings. Courses in Languages, Social Science, Science, Art, Literature, Music and Religion are all available.

Most courses consist of 10 - 25 lectures and start on 1st March. Prices range from \$3 to \$15.50. For Brochures please ring 65-179 or get in touch with the Registrar of the University.

Christchurch Swiss Club

On the evening of 28th January our Club's rifle shooting group was officially founded. After a few shots at and round about the targets a short meeting was held in the lounge of Mr and Mrs Mueller's residence. The Club's President Mr A. Moser, who acted as chairman, explained the details regarding the National Competition in which the group will take part for the first time with at least two teams. Mr Moser stressed the urgency for an extensive training programme as the results so far have not been very encouraging.

Mr W. Friedauer was elected as the Club's riflemaster. Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Mueller for the use of their property and for the nice supper.

Barbeque Afternoon: Temperatures having fallen just a bit too low, our proposed barbeque had to be postponed from 30th January to 6th February. The attendance was rather disappointing but for those who did show some interest in the Club's activities it was a very enjoyable afternoon and the sausages and steaks were outstanding. We even composed a new song which starts: "Where have all the members gone . . ." —A.M.

HEDY'S CORNER:

Somehow it does seem more appropriate this month to use this space for some comments made by Professor Fleiner, who is the Head for state law at the Freiburg University. When interviewed by the "Tagesanzeiger" (weekly airmail edition), Professor Fleiner had the following to say: "With this plebiscite Switzerland has now made a positive step toward becoming a member of the Convention

of Human Rights. This fact, however, does not constitute an overwhelming triumph. The accomplished fact of 'Equality for Women' is still far removed from their integration within the legal system of civil law, now under revision. Another section of civil law where substantial progress still has to be made towards equality, concerns financial as well as human and legal status. Apart from prejudiced family legal rights, women are particularly handicapped by the education system of various cantons. The need now is to remove these disadvantages and to give equal possibilities to both men and women. This plebiscite also initiated the correct constitutional platform, permitting first steps to be made for having both men and women work jointly on the proposed total revision of Federal Constitutional Laws. Such a total revision without the women's voice would have been inconceivable because women will, in equal measure with men, have to shape the future of Switzerland".

Facts (not fancies) as found in Swiss history books: Every 1st of August Switzerland celebrates its founders and the "Ruetli" is called the "cradle of Switzerland". However, where there is a cradle there must be a baby. Where there is a baby it must have been conceived by someone. Who was that someone? A woman (of course). Who was that woman? Gertrud Stauffacher. It was she who told her despairing husband: "You have stood oppression long enough. You know trustworthy men who think as you do. Confer with them how to liberate yourselves from your tyrants".

Metaphorically speaking: they liked this "baby" well enough and proceeded to build its cradle.

Forthcoming Events

Auckland Swiss Club

The Society Shooting Competition will be held on 20th February at Frank Reichmuth's farm, Henderson.

Christchurch Swiss Club

Our annual programme shows a trip to the high country, probably to Arthur's Pass, as the last social occasion before the A.G.M. in April. This trip is planned for 6th March. Invitations with details will be posted to each member. —A.M.

Laugh a little . . .

Student howler: A pupil's answer to the question, why there was so much fat in the milk: "So that the milking machine does not squeak".