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News of the Colony

ANNUAL PICNIC

A dark, cloudy and overcast morning greeted us on Sunday, February 21st. We all crossed our fingers that the rain would hold off till the evening. It seemed not everybody was as optimistic, because the crowd was not quite as numerous as last year. Still, our President, Mr John Villiger, was able to welcome our Vice-Consul Mr Erb with his wife and family, who travelled all the way from Wellington, and also visitors to New Zealand from Switzerland and U.S.A., and well-known friends from Taranaki, Auckland, Reporoa and Tokoroa. On this occasion, Mr Villiger also reminded us that for the tenth time we were holding our popular Picnic on the "Risi farm". He warmly thanked Mr and Mrs Risi for their great gesture and presented them, on behalf of the Hamilton Swiss Club, with a big lovely pottery vase and a bouquet of gladioli. He also congratulated them on their 40th wedding anniversary. Mr Risi thanked the Club and assured us that he is willing to help us in the years to come too.

As usual a big queue was always waiting for a turn at the "Kegelbahn". Messrs Villiger and Rudolf drew with 23 points each. It will be decided at a later date who takes the "Wanderbecher". The popular "Schwingen" was expertly run by Mr E. Rust. Twelve young men wanted to test their strength and in the "Schlussgang" Sepp Bosch defeated Vitus Ackermann. Ruedi Oettli, E. Preisig and Thomas Ammann were the next prize-getters.

During the afternoon we were entertained with items from an original Swiss quartet comprising of John Schuhmacher, Manurewa; Joe Fohn from New Plymouth and his cousin from California; and Charlie von Richenbach, Auckland.

In the meantime the ladies of the Committee were kept busy with the selling of grilled "Bratwürste", homemade cakes and coffee. According to the men behind the bar, there were still a lot of thirsty people despite the dull weather. Well, after a busy day we were all a little tired, especially the many children who always enjoy our Picnic.

Special thanks to Petrus, the weatherman, who laughed with us all day; to Messrs Joe and Ossie Risi, who sweated for us grilling the sausages; Mr Walter Unternaehrer, who organised so well the Society and Club shooting; to the ladies for their marvellous baking and working behind the stalls all day serving people with food and coffee and other refreshments; and to everybody else who helped in any way whatsoever to make the day such a wonderful success.

—R.E.W.

CLUB SHOOTING

The Hamilton Swiss Club shooting results were as follows: W. Rudolph (60pts), H. Meister (58), E. Studer (57), A. Reichmuth (57), W. Meister (56), B. Fluhler (54), T. Bunter (54), Marcel Rudi (54), E. Schaefer (54), I. Anderton (53), J. Staheli (52), H. Gilgen (49), J. Preisig (48), H. Leuenberger (47), Max Rudi (47), J. Villiger (46), M. Musty (45), M. Schopfer (43), K. Waldvogel (43), R. Rust (42), J. Schopfer (38), V. Acherman (35), A. Biland (32), P. Reichmuth (31), V. Villiger (24), Poppe (20).

—W.U.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

One of our best known and best liked couples, Mr and Mrs Walter Risi of Ngaruawahia recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married on 17th February, 1931, in Buochs, Nidwalden, Switzerland.

A surprise party with their three sons, three daughters-in-law and eleven grandchildren and Walter's brother and family marked the occasion.

May we, as outsiders, join our sincere congratulations to a couple who have meant and are meaning so much to our Swiss community throughout New Zealand. Swiss and Kiwis alike find Walter one of those rare men whose word is their bond and whose loyalty and fairness, be it friendship or business, is unquestioned.

And Mrs Risi is known by all Swiss as "d'Muetter Risi". No higher compliment can be paid and I know of no other who would deserve it as she does. We wish them health and happiness.

—A.B.

Wellington Swiss Club

CAMPING WEEKEND

On February 14th, 15th and 16th our Club held a most successful Camping Weekend in Riversdale. Many members knew the beautiful camp-site from previous occasions, but there also arrived various new members. Of course they were most welcome. We counted 33 adults and 23 children. The warm and sunny weather we have had for so long continued for this weekend. The water temperature was delightful, so we spent a long time at the beach jumping into the waves. Saturday evening saw us sitting together under the trees, talking about this and that and naturally commenting also on the voting rights, which the men in Switzerland finally had given to their women.

The moon, which had been full four days previously, turned the scenery into a fairyland. We got a few hours sleep only in our tents until we heard people getting up to see the sun rise out of the ocean. The freshness of the morning didn't last long how-

ever and the day was hot and the sun-lovers really had to be careful not to get sunburnt.

Everybody looked forward to the arrival of Mr Erb's family towards midday. They had promised to come along with Mr and Mrs Ritter, the new secretary of the Embassy, who had arrived in New Zealand only two days previously. It must have been exciting for them to swim in the Pacific after a real winter at home.

Packing our tents was quite a job on a hot day like this. Then we had to say goodbye to everybody and the place, hoping to come back again next year.

—M.K.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

WOMEN'S POLITICAL VOTING RIGHTS

Sir,—Congratulations Mr Biland for stating your point of view. I too believe that our ladies are too good and too pure to be involved in political intrigue.

Today, many Swiss women are full-time workers. Participation in the running of the State will leave even less time for the three K's and their god given task in the home might well be neglected. There could indeed be a future with no one to vote.

As a duty, the "Frauenstimmrecht" could prove to be a burden on the fairer sex. As a privilege it means little. It is far more important, surely, that all men uphold a fine and noble attitude for if a nation would give its women a thousand votes, at the same time would not respect their dignity, honour and purity, it would indeed have no cause for satisfaction, but only cause for shame. We find it easier, however, to respect a mother humbly raising our future citizens than a conceited "Fräulein Ständerat" angrily debating political hotcake in the Bundeshaus.

Doch glücklich ist, wer leicht vergisst;
was nun einmal nicht zu ändern ist.

FRANZ KRIEGER, Huntly.

Dr Jean-Pierre Weber, former Charge d'Affaires in Wellington and currently Consul-General in Saigon, writes in a purely private capacity:

Sir,—As an eager reader of "Helvetia", may I add just a few words on the decision of the Swiss male voters to grant voting right to their female compatriots.

Although writing in a private capacity as a Swiss citizen, I shall of course, being a civil servant in the diplomatic service, not approach the controversial aspects of this question. What I would