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the Swiss importer, forming an integral part of the chain, has no part to play in the field of transport.

The future of Swiss shipping is to a large extent bound up with the development of both national and world trade, since Swiss shipowners also work for foreign principals. With Switzerland's trade steadily growing and world trade expanding considerably, the Swiss merchant navy's prospects are exceedingly promising.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Hamilton Swiss Club

We really had a "gmütliche" Fondue evening on the first Saturday in September. Over seventy Fondue-lovers, amongst them some guests from Auckland, came to sample this delicacy of wine and cheese.

For a change the dance music was provided by a stereogram with loudspeakers. There was never a dull moment with Ernst Rust's large collection of records, both "urchig" and modern. Thanks Ernst for playing such a variety of records, so old and young could enjoy themselves on the dance floor.

During the evening our Riflemaster, Mr H. Meister, presented the various winners of the recent shooting competition with their trophies and merit awards.

A big 'thank you' goes to all the Ladies who provided the Fondue-sets and the "busy bees" in the kitchen. —R.E.W.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

Memories were brought back to 1920 when a party of young Swiss left Switzerland to migrate to New Zealand. On Tuesday, 10th August 1971, at the Waimate Hotel, Manaia, a party of twelve people met to celebrate the coming to New Zealand of seven of them fifty-one years ago.

The party of seven were: Mr A. Kalin, Hawera; Mr J. Zimmerman, Hawera; Mr M. Kalin, Napier; Mr F. Nolly, Stratford; Mrs R. Kuriger, Oaonui; and Mr & Mrs J. Kaiser, Hawera.

With their wives and two guests, Mr & Mrs L. Chamberlain, Kapuni, they recalled many of the past things that had happened in the fifty-one years.

The evening was spent with a social hour and then a dinner. A moment's silence was observed for the deceased who had come

out on the same ship. Mrs Kaiser recalled fifty years ago working in the Waimate Hotel, and related a few amusing incidents. Two of the party who came out on the same ship were unable to be present. They are Mrs Schumacher and Mr J. von Holzen.—L.C.

Christchurch Swiss Club

Our social dance was held on Saturday, 28th August. The evening was cold and rainy, but once inside the hall, the atmosphere was very warm. The hall was gaily decorated with balloons, lanterns and coloured lights. Dancing started with many different varieties of one basic dance. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely whether dancing or not.

Supper was served and it was delicious — hot and cold savouries, sandwiches of all kinds, plain and cream cakes and coffee or tea. The dancing resumed in earnest with a balloon dance which was won by Tony and Heather Lemmens. Foot-sore and weary we left at 2.30 a.m.

The Committee wishes to thank all those who helped after the dance.

Birth: Congratulations to Noeline and Othmar Kenel on the birth of their daughter, Manuela, born on August 18th. —J.F.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

AFFILIATED CLUBS

Sir,—With regard to the letter under the pseudonym “Taranaki Swiss Social Club” in last month’s issue, if space permits my reply is as follows.—

To whom it may concern: Your reaction to my statement has created an opportunity to get down to a few hard facts which, I believe, have given me every right to make the statement. Facts which you either have chosen not to include in your letter or those of which you may not have any knowledge.

Your letter is signed “Taranaki Swiss Social Club”; although I have my doubts, it has to be assumed that the content of the letter has been approved by a majority of your members. With this assumption in mind, this letter is directed to you as a Club.

May I quote from your letter: “We have given considerable thought over the years to affiliating to the Swiss Society whose aims and objects as a benevolent society we heartily endorse, and feel that there is a real need for the Swiss Society as such”. A very nice thought indeed and in the right direction, but thinking and acting are two different things, in your case quite contradictory. You have given definite assurance that you heartily endorse the aims and objects of the Society so you also must