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Role of the Swiss Emigrant in New Zealand

Sometimes we seem to forget that it is not only our Ambassador in Wellington, but all of us Swiss living here our daily lives who are the representatives of our country.

Playing merry hell in your household does not matter so much, if you do it abroad you immediately endanger the image of your country.

Our early arrivals in New Zealand must have been our Taranaki Swiss at the turn of the century, who laid the foundation of our good name. It is our primary obligation to preserve this. It does not matter the slightest what you do, if you dig a drain, clean a street, manage a business or become Prime Minister, as long as you give an honest day's work and be honest in your dealings.

If a Kiwi employer has a choice between several nationalities, we know who he will choose, but this privilege of a good name must be treasured and worked for—it needs so very little to damage it.

Our new arrivals should be told of this responsibility never to forget where they came from and be conscious of the pride of their heritage.

I suppose I am an old fogey, but my most precious asset is (rightly or wrongly) being Swiss.

ARNOLD BILAND