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Editorial

New Zealand the Switzerland of the South Seas?.....

The call has gone out, in this our adoptive country of New Zealand, for a knowledge based society to be created, in order to compete in today's technology driven world. We have been warned that massive changes to the country's economy will become necessary and that the patterns of work for our young people will in future change beyond recognition.

The warning has gone out that a workplace revolution is inevitable and that the knowledge economy will be very unforgiving on those with

no interest in learning. So it is obvious that our schools and educational institutions will have to adapt and strive for a higher level. By necessity students will have to be good learners. Parents or caregivers especially of Primary School pupils will need to encourage and help the children in their studies. Technology will become ever more important as part of a quality education. A lot of effort will be necessary in order to turn this dream into reality to become the Switzerland of the South Pacific.

Our country of origin, Switzerland, has long recognised the value of a knowledge based society with a technological elite work force. While this achievement affords Switzer-

land a prominent place in the ranking of industrialised and wealthy nations, it will not eliminate the evil of modern society, like unemployment, corruption and criminality.

- An interesting article about some hiccups encountered on the way with the introduction of modern technology in the Swiss postal services has recently been documented by Swiss Radio International as follows;

Swiss parcel service plagued by sorting problems:

The post office has now run into trouble with its new and fully-automated parcel sorting centers. These high-tech temples are beset by software and hardware problems.

- The long-standing tradition of obliging customers putting a string around parcels in order to make them easier to handle is causing the sorting equipment to tangle up. The result has been massive delays in parcel deliveries and considerable loss of revenue for the post office. - This comes at a time when the post office has lost most of its monopoly-position in the parcel sector and with international express parcel firms carving up the Swiss market. - As an interim measure, local sorting offices have had to be reopened and extra staff rehired.

- Once the computer and hardware problems are solved, the Swiss Post office will have the most modern labour-saving sorting system in the world. But it is unlikely that all the gremlins in the system will be removed before the new year.

What is your guess, will the Swiss have to sacrifice their love of producing perfect parcels with strings attached?

- How well can I remember, back in Switzerland, my dear old Grandma taking the utmost care with parcels large or small and with a solid string knotted and sealed to perfection. Thank God she did not have to face the prospects of taking stringless parcels to the post office in her days. She did most everything to perfection (in my eyes in any case) and a parcel without a string would have been for her like a shoe without a lace. Unthinkable!

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