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Though far away, we all are still greatly interested in the welfare of our dear old homeland, and in the variations of the manifold industries. It is always pleasing to note an improvement no matter how small. Official statistics regarding the Hotel industry show an average traffic of 22.2% for the first half of December, and of 60.3% for the second half of the month. This means an increase of 25% and 33% respectively compared with December of the previous year.

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A SCHWYZ. The people of this canton may boast with just pride of the interesting fact that the district of Hoefen has been the home of wine culture for nearly 800 years. After a decision regarding a subsidy for grapevine plantings in the canton Schwyz by the federal authorities, a Geneva paper remarked that it was waste of money to plant vines where pinecones only grew. The "Einsieden Anzeiger" retorted that their beloved fellow citizens of that western corner of Switzerland could do much worse than to wash down those bitter pills, results of financial and political mismanagement, with some of the good old Schwyzer Rachenputzer.

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On the Italian Border of Switzerland smuggling is still going on very extensively. Near the Simplan in the canton of Valais, a band of Smugglers, when crossing the frontier, were surprised by Italian customs officials. A very hasty retreat into Swiss territory by the law-breakers resulted in their loss of 780 kilos of coffee which was confiscated by the Italian officials.

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LIBRARY: We announce with pleasure that our young Library has been considerably enlarged by the gift of Mr. B. Diggelmann of Kati Kati, consisting of a large number of "Die Gartenlanbe" "Die Woche" "Zur Unterhaltung und das Wissens" and many other illustrated papers.

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It is with great regret we have to announce the death of Maurice Werder, aged 21 years, son of our member, Mr. Joseph Werder, Springdale, Waitoa. In the name of our Society, we offer the bereaved family our heartfelt condolences in their sad loss.

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#### A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

If you require a restful but pleasant holiday, come and spend a few weeks in the "Schweizerheim" amongst the sunny Thames hills. For particulars write: Mrs. E. Walder, Grafton Rd. THAMES.

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For fishing trips or excursions on the lakes of Rotorua and Rotoiti, we recommend the fine and well equipped launch, "Westella", owned by our fellow member, Kon. Altherr, 13, Fenton St. ROTORUA.

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Mr. J. Maurer, Cameron St., WHANGAREI, Jeweller & Watchmaker.  
Mr. P. Cattin, Te Kauwhata, "Scintilla" Wine, Fruit & Honey.  
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