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The compulsory notification or registration of empty houses and flats has been introduced in Basle.

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A number of soldiers were seriously injured on November 13th during exercises with flame-throwers in the region of Sotto-Ceneri. Two of them have since died.

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The preparatory work for providing employment during and after the war period is today so well advanced, that one may safely say that never, since the state has undertaken the combating of a crisis, has our country been so well prepared to meet it. The directions of the Federal Council for the great planing contain the principle, that the Confederation, in connection with the cantons and with private enterprise, will undertake measures to combat unemployment if, and when, private enterprise is unable to provide of its own efforts sufficient employment possibilities. Work is now under survey to the amount of 5,100 million francs. In this sum, the cantons are shouldering projects amounting to 1,000 millions, the Federal Railways are interested with 760 millions, the share of private transport institutions is 250 millions, Post, Telegraph and Telephone have projects costing 420 millions, road making will amount to 500 millions, and melioration programs require 800 millions. Further measures are planed for the Export industry, the Hotel industry and agriculture. This gigantic program will of course not be started all at once, but will be translated into action when and as required by the necessity of providing work and thus preventing a crisis, and in the framework of the financial possibilities.

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In order to stretch the continually diminishing stocks of wool and cotton for textile purposes, the Swiss Viscose Society which already holds a leading position on the Continent for the manufacture of artificial silk has, with the assistance of the Federal exchequer taken up the making of artificial wool (Zellwolle) from cellulose. The annual import of 30 million kg. of cotton and 10 million kg. of wool fell in 1941 to 21 million kg. of cotton and 5 million kg. of wool and for more than a year navycerts for the import of cotton could not be obtained. The result was a great restriction of manufacture and the prospect of a total stoppage in the Swiss textile industry with its 150,000 employees. The new factories, which manufacture a high quality fibre are producing annually 10 million kg. of cellulose wool, which is mixed with wool or cotton, but is also used spun or woven by itself. The fabric is distinguished by an even fibre which dyes very evenly and by a special process can be made non-creasing and waterproof. The cellulose fabrics are, with all these advantages, considerably cheaper than woollen or cotton goods and no doubt will be able to hold their own for certain purposes, even when the possibilities of import are again restored.

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The town authorities of Geneva have placed the former Hotel Carlton, free of all charges, at the disposal of the Section for children's aid of the Swiss Red Cross, as a home for those children from the war ravaged countries who are coming to Switzerland for a three months stay. On October 20th, 800 children from the unoccupied part of France stayed as first guests at the big house, which in memory of the founder of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant, is now called Henry Dunant Home. From this home the children are distributed to the respective families who have offered to receive them. In the last seven months already 25,000 children from belligerent countries have come into our country for a long convalescence.

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OBITUARY.

Mr. Hans Freimann - died 1st March, 1943, Hawera.

In a quiet, peaceful corner of the churchyard at Hawera, our old and dear friend Hans Freimann has now found his last resting place, near his two good comrades, Hans Kuchler (1937) and Paul Zimmerman (1941) who preceded him thither.

A great many of his friends and acquaintances were present at his funeral and there were few of his fellow-countrymen in the Taranaki district who were unable

to be present. This in itself is proof that the memory of Hans Freimann, as a modest, helpful and kindly friend and neighbour, will live long amongst us Taranaki folk.

Messrs. K. Schicker, Riverlea; Werner Frank; Alphons Kalin; Albert Schicker; Charlie Wyss and Erni Uttinger acted as pallbearers, and Monsignor Cullen, who often visited the deceased when he was in hospital for five painful weeks after his serious accident, consecrated the grave which was adorned with many beautiful wreaths. He was assisted by the Rev. Father Wall, a personal friend of the family Freimann.

Hans Freimann arrived in New Zealand in 1913. Eight years later he visited his beloved homeland where he found his wife, who, during all these years, has been a true companion and an able partner in his work. They regretted very much that their happy marriage was not blessed by children, and on this account Hans Freimann was happy in the company of his godchildren and was always ready to devote his time to young guests visiting his hospitable and ever-open home.

And now our "Boss" (as his nearest friends often used to call him) has gone home, and has found rest in the churchyard at Hawera. He died in his 59th year, and all of us who liked to visit him will miss his friendly company.

Our deepfelt sympathy goes out to his bereaved wife, and to Miss Anny Herrmann who may well be said to have lost a second father. But we would remind them both that all of us find consolation and strength in the knowledge that we shall meet our loved ones again in a life after death when our struggles in this world are ended.

K.A.Sch.

FEBRUARY 14TH: -

The day for the Second Annual Picnic of the Auckland branch of the Society, and the good old weather man kept his promise.

By 11.30 the majority of intending members and friends had arrived and although we didn't get the record attendance a few braved the perils of travelling long distances. Next time we expect a little more co-operation on somebody else's part or else -- or else -- no ice cream.

The games afforded much pleasure to everyone and those who couldn't partake found enjoyment in watching. The credit for the organization of the games goes to Mr. Brauchli, and I think you'll agree with me in saying "Well done, Mr. Brauchli" (next time he thinks he can fool me by walking over something that isn't there - I'll know better). The prizes contributed by the various members were distributed to the lucky winners by Mrs. Bonny and Mrs. Steyer, and through their good judgement every participant in the games received a prize (Thanks for giving Mum the writing compendium - I needed it.)

The Committee wishes me to thank all friends who so kindly donated the prizes - (that reminds me I didn't have the chance to wet my tongue on that cider - I had better see what I can do about it). The names that require special mention are Mr. Jacob Basler for that delicious ice-cream, boy, did that tickle everyone's palate, also Mr. Peter Buechler for that fair dinkum orange juice, if you didn't have some orange juice with your ice-cream, you missed out on a great combination, and Mrs. Brauchli was responsible for the tea - to those people, a big hearty "Thank you". Hey! wait a minute, a big hearted lady went and tramped round all the shops for lollies so that the youngsters - like me - wouldn't be forgotten. Thank you, little Mrs. Peyer, they were really good.

Well, like all good things, picnics also have their end, and after a splendid sing-song (How anybody had any breath left beats me), people just didn't want to go, but buses had to be caught and trains wouldn't wait, so there was a slight movement, but we just couldn't bustle ourselves, and then lo and behold, the whole of the party brightened up again - Mr. and Mrs. Mathis and all the little Mathises offered us the use of their spacious home and grounds at Milford for a picnic, and as there wasn't much time to let all the Club's members know before the end of summer, through the 'Helvetia' a cordial invitation was extended to