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2. Continuation of the present system of political parties, which are a guarantee for the free functioning of the people's political rights.

3. Progressive measures in the sphere of Social Security and Social Justice.

Regarding the future foreign policy, he observed that the Switzerland-of-tomorrow was prepared to co-operate in all measures aiming to perfect an imperfect world. Switzerland, no doubt, will continue to preserve her status of neutrality.

In any event, it is to be expected that small countries will have to face difficult political problems in the post-war period. But they still have an important mission. They will remain essential for an intelligent pacification of Europe with its many races, different interests and varying degrees of political development, in all its diverse parts. Possibly the constitutional pattern of the Swiss Confederation may, some day, serve as a blue-print for a future federation of free and independent European countries.

Due to her share in the three main cultures of the European Continent, French, German and Italian, Switzerland has been called, culturally, the most typical European country, which is probably true. In the appreciation of individual and political rights, however, the instincts of the people are very much akin to the Anglo-Saxon political concept. To use a thought of the English poet Wordsworth, it would seem as if the mountains and the seas, both mighty protectors of freedom, have spared Britain and Switzerland the tyranny which has over the centuries weighed heavily upon most other countries of Europe.

.....
MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION RECEIVED AND SENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 652ND ANNIVERSARY OF SWITZERLAND.

Cable sent to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Enrico Celio:

"MY COMPATRIOTS IN NEWZEALAND GATHERED TOGETHER AT AUCKLAND WELLINGTON IN TARANAKI AND WAIKATO ON THE 31ST JULY THE FIRST AND SECOND OF AUGUST IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY DAY OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION HAVE REQUESTED ME TO ADDRESS TO YOU IN THEIR NAME THEIR BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE OF SWITZERLAND THE PRESERVATION OF HER FREE AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND THEY EXPRESS TO THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL GUISAN THEIR PROFOUND CONFIDENCE.

SCHMID SWISS CONSUL."

(English translation)

.....
Cable received from the Swiss Minister in London, Dr. Walter Thurnheer:

"ON OCCASION OF FIRST AUGUST CELEBRATION WISH CONVEY YOU AND YOUR STAFF AND SWISS COLONY HEARTIEST GREETINGS AND APPRECIATION FOR WORK CARRIED OUT TOGETHER IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND DEEP ATTACHMENT TOWARDS COUNTRY."

Reply sent by the Swiss Consul in Wellington to the Swiss Minister in London:

"STAFF AND MYSELF HEARTILY RECIPROCATATE YOUR PATRIOTIC GREETINGS DEEPLY APPRECIATING YOUR KIND REMARKS STOP YOUR MESSAGE WHICH I ALSO PERSONALLY CONVEYED YESTERDAY TO BIG GATHERING AT MANAIA TARANAKI WAS THANKFULLY RECEIVED AND YOUR GREETINGS ARE SINCERELY RETURNED STOP SIMILAR SMALLER CELEBRATIONS WERE HELD PRIOR RECEIPT YOUR CABLE AND CONTENTS WILL BE PASSED ON TO THESE COMPATRIOTS.

SCEMID CONSUL."

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Telegram received by the Swiss Consul at Wellington, from His Worship the Mayor of Auckland, Mr. J.A.C. Allum:

"FELICITATIONS ON THE 652ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF YOUR CONFEDERATION AND CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FINE BROADCAST GIVEN YESTERDAY REGARDS."

A letter of thanks has been addressed to the Mayor of Auckland for his kind wishes.

CHANGE OF COMMITTEE: The Committee in Wellington has resigned as from 30th September, 1943, and it is therefore necessary to constitute a new committee. In the opinion of the present Committee in Wellington, and of numerous members from other parts of New Zealand, the removal of the headquarters of the Swiss Benevolent Society to Auckland appears to be the best solution of the task of setting up a new Committee. Members are hereby requested to advise the Secretary in writing whether they agree with the proposed removal of the Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society, as from 1st October, 1943, from Wellington to Auckland, or whether they have any other suggestion to make in this respect.

Members not voicing any opinion in writing before 31st August will be counted as supporters of the proposal to remove the headquarters of the Society to Auckland.

For the information of our members, we publish below an exchange of letters between the Swiss Consul and the present President of the Committee at Wellington, in this matter:

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Wellington,
30th July, 1943.

Dr. Walter Schmid,
Swiss Consul,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

As you will remember the Auckland Committee of the "Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand", which was in charge of our Society for 6 years, decided in the year 1941 to cease its activities, and through your intermediary, the present Committee was set up at Wellington. I now have to inform you that the Secretary of our Society has tendered his resignation on July 5 advising me that on account of the large amount of work incumbent on him, he feels unable to carry on.

As it will be very difficult to find another Secretary among the few fellow-countrymen residing in Wellington, the Committee are of the opinion that very probably it would be an advantage for the Society if the Committee were again transferred to Auckland. Most of our fellow-countrymen are living in Taranaki and Waikato and they are in much closer contact with Auckland than with Wellington. We therefore have been given to understand that a transfer of the Committee from Wellington to Auckland would be welcomed by our members in the Waikato and Taranaki. We therefore are of the opinion that, if it is easier for a Committee in Auckland to remain in touch with our members, the present Committee also would welcome a transfer of the headquarters of our Society to Auckland.

In view of the difficulty of finding a new Secretary among the few Wellington members and in order to meet the desire of the Taranaki and Waikato members, we would ask you to kindly act again as intermediary in setting up a Committee in Auckland.

I therefore would advise you that the present Committee in Wellington intends to resign in corpore at the end of this financial year, i.e. 30th September, 1943.

We hope that it will be possible, through your intermediary, to set up a new Committee in Auckland, and thanking you in advance for your kind services,

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
Max Bruelisauer,
President.
Swiss Benevolent Society.

Wellington,
11th August, 1943.

Dear Mr. Bruelisauer,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 30th July, in which you inform me:

1. That on the 5th July, the Secretary of your Committee resigned on the grounds of lack of time.
2. That consequently your Committee has considered it advisable to resign as a body at the end of the present business year - 30th September, 1943 - seeing that there are not enough compatriots in Wellington in a position to form a complete committee.
3. That your Committee suggests the transfer of the headquarters of the Swiss Benevolent Society back to Auckland.
4. That, finally, your Committee requests me to act as intermediary in the setting up of a new Committee at Auckland.

In answer to your letter, I wish to express my regret that circumstances are compelling your Committee to tender its resignation, but I fully realise the difficulties with which you would be confronted for carrying on with the affairs of the Swiss Benevolent Society. I am, however, pleased to have this opportunity of thanking all the members of your Committee for the work done for the Swiss Benevolent Society during the past 2 years.

When in Auckland a few days ago, I approached - in compliance with your request - some members of the local Swiss group in this matter, and they agreed to take charge of the Committee again with the following proviso:

1. That all members of the Swiss Benevolent Society be given an opportunity to express their opinion as to the proposed removal of the Committee from Wellington to Auckland.
2. That if the transfer of the Committee from Wellington to Auckland is approved by the members of the Swiss Benevolent Society, the local Auckland Swiss group be given the opportunity to make the necessary recommendations for the setting up of the new Committee in Auckland from among members of that local group. Such a proposal would then be voted on by members of the Society in the usual way.

Yours faithfully,
SCHMID
CONSUL OF SWITZERLAND. "

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WEDDING BELLS. This time of the year there is generally a lull in the farming industry, and it is for this reason that the farmer not only puts off his holidays until such time, but also the most happy event of his lifetime, wedding.

We had already the pleasure to report of two weddings in the July number of the "Helvetia" and here are two more. We take great pleasure in extending to all those happy people our heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

DAVIES - STEINER:

A pretty wedding was recently celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, Te Aroha, when Lena Theresa Steiner, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. Steiner, of Springdale, was married to Roy Eric Davies, son of Mrs. R. B. Hines and the late Mr. S. Davies.