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Moreover, already before the outbreak of the European conflict, said Mr. Kobelt, Switzerland has taken important measures to insure her defense, thus the frontier and interior fortifications have taken on considerable importance. Most of the work on these fortifications has been completely finished. Armaments have been developed in the light of the experiences made in the belligerent lands. For instance, our anti-tank equipment is constantly on the increase. Our artillery and our aviation have been considerably reinforced. Much progress has been made in this domain since the last war. The spirit of sacrifice and obligation, he went on, which actuates our troops, reflects that love of freedom and liberty, so deeply rooted in the Swiss people, and their determination to remain independent at all costs. Financial considerations, have always taken second place, although war expenditures due to the requirements of active service, have gone well over 5 billion francs. In closing, Mr. Kobelt said great events are imminent. We must never slacken our vigilance. Military measures will differ according to what is required of them. The national stronghold is the mainstay of our defenses and the reprovisioning center for our fronts. And there must be no doubt that if Switzerland means to remain free and independent after the present war she must not neglect her defenses. And as his closing statement: Switzerland has always proved that she never would or never could use her army for any other purpose than to defend and protect her national independence.

A communique issued by the Swiss Federal War Office for Food states that the production of milk has diminished. On the other hand the stronger drop in the importation of fats and oils makes it necessary to manufacture more butter. Under these conditions the manufacture of full-fat cheese has to be cut down. Therefore, total measures are being taken to control the consumption of cheese and the quality of the output. The War Office for Food has asked the Swiss union of cheese manufacturers and merchants to see to it that the more perishable type of cheese be placed on sale first.

#### SWISS SOLDIERS RELIEF FUND.

It is with pleasure that we can inform members that contributions for the Swiss Soldiers Relief Fund received from fellow-countrymen during the last year, amounted to NZ.£26.16.6, which was remitted to Switzerland as a Christmas gift.

We have now received an acknowledgement of this remittance and the expression of thanks for this contribution from the Committee of the Swiss Soldiers Relief Fund and we hope, that further contributions will be forthcoming during the present year, so that we may be in a position to send another donation at the end of this year for our soldiers and their needy families.

Contributions will be received with thanks by the Secretary of the Swiss Benevolent Society or the Swiss Consulate in Wellington.

#### AUCKLAND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

The morning broke sunny and cheery  
And Swissies were buttering their bread  
For the day of the Annual Picnic  
Lay in the few hours ahead.

And once again the picnic for the yearly gathering of Swissies at Point Chevalier is a thing of the past.

The sports this year gave everyone a chance to display their skill. Guessing number of peas in a bottle, weight of onions in a paper bag, and distances all caused amusement and excitement. The results were surprising. A plaque made of New Zealand woods with the "cross" in the centre -donated