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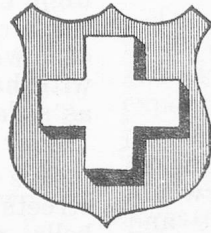
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HELVETIA

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SWISS BENEVOLENT
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GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

18th YEAR.

AUGUST, 1954.

AUCKLAND.

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday, the 1st of August, our Consul, Mr. Blanchard, entertained the **Wellington Colony** at his home, where a very enjoyable evening was spent by all present. Due to the versatility of Mr. Hermann Schlatter, excellent piano accompaniment was provided for both yodelling and dancing, and some hitherto unknown talent came to light.

Mr. Ittensohn added a lot of life to the party with his accordion and his original idea of the Polonaise, and Mrs. Trachsel was very much admired in her attractive Swiss costume.

Arranged by the **Swiss Social Club of Taranaki**, the "Bundesfeier" was fittingly celebrated in Kaponga.

Approximately 300 guests attended and the evening opened with a dinner, followed by patriotic speeches and lively dancing until the early hours in the morning. The President of the Club, Mr. John Steiner, gave the visitors a hearty welcome. Some friends came from as far afield as Christchurch, Hamilton and Palmerston North. Special greetings were extended to our Consul in New Zealand, Mr. Henri Blanchard.

The Mayor of Kaponga, Mr. E. L. Abbott, expressed a warm acknowledgement of the important part the Swiss farmers performed in the development of the district. Almost without exception the old settlers, as well as the many younger men and women, proved to be hard workers, keen to succeed.

The speech which followed, delivered by Mr. W. Risi, Patron of the Club, was also much enjoyed and appreciated by the gathering.

The Consul, Mr. Blanchard, reminded the listeners that they were celebrating the very important happening in 1291 when Switzerland's independence was gained through the courage and determination of a handful of men. "If you return now to Switzerland," he said, "you would

find the country more industrialised and modernised but the soul of the people still the same." The Kaponga Swiss people had been wise to settle in such a beautiful district, in a country where freedom was found and they were at home. He saw in them the same qualities their ancestors had. "I am very proud of you," said Mr. Blanchard. He had received a message from the President of the Confederation of Switzerland, Monsieur Rubattel, extending greetings to all Swiss abroad. Mr. Blanchard suggested that the gathering send a cable conveying its patriotic greetings to the President. The following telegram was despatched to Bern: "Anlaesslich Bundesfeier 300 Schweizer sind im Bezirk Taranaki vereinigt und ersuchen mich ihre Vaterlaendischen Gruesse dem Herrn Bundespresident darzubieten."

During the evening the winners of the "Points Prize" over the series of "Yass evenings," conducted by the club, were announced. The winners were:—

Mr. F. Suter	9979 points
Mr. J. Kaiser	8571 points
Mr. J. Dettling	8716 points
Mr. J. A. Kaiser	8571 points
Mrs. J. Kaiser	8435 points
Miss J. Bernold	8396 points
Mr. J. Sidler	8371 points

The celebration was a decided success throughout and special thanks are due to the active organisers of the event.

A. SCHICKER.

Small Cars Becoming Rule

About two-thirds of the motor-cars on Swiss roads are vehicles of less than 11 horse-power, according to a recent survey by the Government. This confirms the trend noted in recent years to small cars.

More than a quarter of the cars on Swiss roads are made in Germany. Other suppliers, in order of importance, are the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France and Italy.

As for trucks, rather more than one-third are made in Switzerland, the rest coming mostly from the United States and Germany.