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In Switzerland, card-holders can use their cards in 72 restaurants, 10 nightclubs, 43 small hotels, 515 shops, 34 car rental agencies, an aircraft rental agency, three travel agencies (in addition to Amexco itself) and an auto repair shop. Monthly billings on credit cards used in Switzerland average \$50,000. So far, there are only approximately 150 Swiss cardholders, but the number is expected to increase rapidly and there is a plan to issue credit cards for payment in Swiss francs in the near future (just as they are now available for pesos, pounds, French francs, marks and dollars).

As an international freight forwarder, American Express has more airport offices in Europe (12) than any other forwarding agent. The company provides comprehensive import and export facilities, including customs clearances, preparation of shipping documents, etc.

Another Amexco service on an international scale is Hertz Rent-a-Car, now a subsidiary of American Express. Already the largest car and truck rental agency operating outside the United States, in 1963 Hertz American Express opened new stations in Belgium, Denmark, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and New Zealand. The organisation's total coverage is 386 cities in 73 countries.

Finally, American Express owns a number of armoured-car services in the United States. Early in 1964, in association with Thomas De La Rue AG and Securitas AG, the American Express' Wells Fargo initiated a new Swiss firm known as Securitas Express AG, which conducts armoured car operations for banks and commercial organisations in the principal Swiss cities.

How does this large, diversified company fit into the Swiss economy? (To be continued)

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## **NEWS OF THE COLONY** ● ● ● ●

### **Hamilton Swiss Club**

The Hamilton Swiss Club held their social evening for the first time in the Old Boys Football Club hall, and a beautiful hall it is indeed, all laid out with nice carpets, an excellent dance floor and the most important item in wintertime, plenty of heaters to make it warm and cosy. The attendance was disappointing, but those who came along really enjoyed themselves. A good band and a tasty supper helped very much to make the evening a success.

A delegation from Auckland brought the big shooting cup, which they lost to Hamilton in the recent Swiss Society shooting competition. It was a very nice gesture to come along personally.

The prizegiving of the Hamilton shoot was held too. After a tie with Walter Unternaehrer and Walter Nauer with 59 points in the

first round Mervin Pratt emerged as the winner with 60 points in the second round. Walter Unternaehrer was second. Best of the ladies was Vreny Meister with 58 points.

Walter Risi was the born auctioneer when he sold the surplus sausages. We hope many more members will come along next time. —E.S.

### Christchurch Swiss Club

About twenty members of the Swiss Club left Christchurch on the morning of March 21st for a picnic to Kaituna Valley on the way to Akaroa. The weather in Christchurch was not the best, but it couldn't have been better at the valley. Mr Muller had his accordion with him so some singing was done. After lunch some of the members got out the Kegelbahn. The men started off with six rounds, but the ladies, not to be outdone, said they wanted six rounds too after being told by the men that five was enough. They probably guessed that they would be beaten, and they were. Final result: 1st, Mrs M. Nussbaumer, 78 points; 2nd, Mr M. Nussbaumer, 77 points; 3rd, Mrs O. Metzger, 71 points; 4th, Mr O. Metzger, 70 points. Now you can see why the men wanted the ladies to give up after five rounds! It was quite close though!

—Mrs J.F.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### Hamilton Swiss Club

The next evening will be held on the second Sunday, June 13th, in the Old Boys Football Club Hall. Follow plan which you received recently if you haven't been there before. Housie-housie, lots of nice prizes to win, special supper of baked Fleischkaese. Bring your friends and enjoy our beautiful new and warm hall.

—Committee III

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### **Laugh a little . . .**

An auction is being conducted on a farm. The auctioneer is sick on the day of the auction and a quite inexperienced young man is sent as a substitute, doing amazingly well. Eventually a he-goat is being brought forward for auction but the young man is uncertain about this item so he races to the phone to get instruction from the boss: "How shall I describe this beast? It has a grey fur, a grey beard, looks nasty and cunning and smells to high heaven."

"For goodness sake," says the boss in great agitation, "don't auction—this is the farmer." —Nebelspalter