

News in brief

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knowledge, in addition to his mother tongue, of German and French, were the avenues leading to valuable understanding of the mentality of his Confederates of German and French speaking Switzerland. As a speaker in all these three languages, Guiseppe Motta was unexcelled. His personality was one of charm and elegance, radiating a human warmth and noble simplicity, in the presence of which any possible feeling of self-consciousness on the part of those who had the privilege to speak with him, vanished and gave way to a heartening feeling of meeting a great man, with admiration and respect, on common human grounds.

After having been officially informed of the passing away of Guiseppe Motta on January 23, I have sent the following telegram to the recently newly appointed Swiss Minister in London, Dr. Thurnheer, in my own name as well as that of my fellow-countrymen in New Zealand:

"You would oblige me offering Swiss Federal Council and bereaved family my condolences and those of my fellow countrymen in New Zealand in whose memory the defunct will live on as a great statesman and patriot."

Wellington, January 24th 1940. Dr. Walter Schmid
Acting Consul of Switzerland

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NEWS IN BRIEF

RABBITS: At a Rabbit Show held at the National Exhibition in Zurich, about 2000 rabbits were exhibited representing 28 different breeds. This shows how extensive the rabbit breeding has become in latter years. It is estimated that the gross yearly turnover amounts to 10 million francs, while the invested capital is about 30 million francs.

What wonderful opportunities we are missing here in New Zealand. No other country would adapt itself more favourably for this industry than New Zealand.

The "Sausser" of the canton Wallis enjoys great popularity as export statistics show. Siders exported 370,942 litres; Sitten 623,921; Ardon 407,174; Chamoson 381,615; Charrat-Fully and Martigny 626,216; a total of 2,941,064. Prosit!!

INCIDENTS IN THE ARMY:

Frontiers are very often the cause of very peculiar, even humorous happenings.

At A-- on the river Doubs, a bridge forms the division between Switzerland and France. At the outbreak of the war this was blocked, only a narrow doorway permitting passage for Swiss desiring to visit the nearby church, but which is standing on French soil. A Swiss living in one of the neighbouring villages had joined the colour and luckily was placed at A--. Having obtained one day's leave he asked his wife to come and pay him a visit which she readily did; but to their sorrow they discovered that the very strict regulations did not permit the good lady to enter Switzerland. If they could only have lunch together, they hoped. This was finally arranged with the guards' help. In a very short time a table was placed just inside the doorway, two legs on French soil and two legs on Swiss soil. So the two enjoyed their meal under the eyes of some highly amused guards and customs officials. The wife was in France and the soldier in Switzerland. It is hoped that the heavy Swiss military boots never transgressed into the neighbouring country to damage a dainty pair of French shoes.

We wish to appeal to our members who have not yet paid their subscription for the present year, to meet their obligation as soon as possible. Our financial year terminates at the end of September. Prompt payment saves us considerable trouble and extra work. We thank you for an early settlement.

We welcome as new members - Mrs. D. Dalgleish, Waymouth Rd., Birkenhead, and Mr. B. Kalin, 166, Armagh St., Christchurch.
