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Among the musical items the "Concerto Grosso" by Rivaldi, which was played by the Scala Orchestra from Milan during Lucerne's musical week was especially appreciated. Notwithstanding the precarious times the City of Lucerne had organised, as in previous years, this international rendezvous of musical art. - So to speak under the heading of "Believe it or not" we were told, that on account of the petrol restrictions, the City of Basel had turned one of her tram cars into a vehicle for newly weds, devoted to the sole purpose of manoeuvring wedding couples about town, from wedding headquarters to the church, the civil registrar etc.. This tram-car, of course, can accommodate whole wedding parties and take them anywhere in Basel or surroundings for the wedding celebrations, as long as there are rails. So Basel from now on stands for the slogan: "Where there are rails, there is hope," and is openly taking the part of the womenfolks, whereas the men are left minus a good excuse. It is therefore not surprising that apprehension was expressed, that this philanthropic venture of the City of Basel may be used by vitriolic Basler Beppis as a target for future carnival jokes.

The next Sunday broadcast from Switzerland will take place on the 5th of October. In the meantime we shall listen in to the daily broadcasts on wavelength 48.66 from about 4.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. In recent days I have often been unable to get Switzerland, as previously, on this wavelength in the morning (8.45 a.m. to 9.15 a.m.)

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WAIKATO 1st. OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS.

The 650th Anniversary of our Country's Independence was the memorable occasion of a happy gathering of Compatriots of the Waikato district, at the residence of our old and respected friend John Steiner, Eastport Rd., Waihou. After welcoming about 50 guests a happy evening was spent with the time honoured card game, "Jass", with singing and dancing. The "Ruetlischwur" the oath of allegiance to the newborn Independence of Switzerland, sworn on the 1st. of August, 1291, was solemnly repeated by Messrs. Gysler, Fischlin and Vonholzen, representing their respective Cantons, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden. Two daughters of the host and some others were attired in their national dresses. The supper will doubtless be remembered by all present: Swiss sausages, Sauerkraut, Krapfen, Birrenyagge, besides other dishes and sweets. Is it a wonder some guests did not like to leave the table? The Parish priest of Waihou addressed the guests, blessing our dear old country and hoping that it may remain immune from the ravages of the war. A telegram from our respected Consul, Dr. W. Schmid, was read, wishing the gathering every enjoyment and the best of luck. After breaking up the happy party at 3.30 in the morning, some had very little time to spare to reach their homes for milking time.

At the home of Mr. Joseph Werder, Waitoa, a small number of Swiss gathered for a Jass evening and a cup of black and "well fortified" black coffee, - a set of Swiss too old for dancing, but all enjoyed themselves thoroughly, as could be expected in Joe Werder's hospitable home.

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EXTRACTS FROM A SPEECH DELIVERED BY OUR EMBASSADOR IN LONDON.

At a Luncheon arranged by the London City Swiss Club, on June 7th last, our Minister Monsieur Thurnheer delivered a very interesting speech regarding a recent trip he made to Switzerland. Condensed extracts are as follows:

"The trip high above the sea and in or above the clouds was very pleasant. Still, we were all glad when we saw after seven hours flying the lovely Portuguese coast dotted with small white glimmering villages surrounded by vineyards. Portugal makes from the very start already at the airfield, the impression of a well-run country; it is now a very important gate, opening on one side to Europe, on the other to the Atlantic Ocean. You feel its international atmosphere immediately upon arriving when one sees Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, German, English, French and American