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"Look ahead, Werner, not back"

(Words of Stauffacher's wife in Schiller's "William Tell")

After the Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society had shifted to Wellington, the question now arose: "What are we going to do here way up north in order not to lose too much contact?". A prominent and active member of the Waikato recently suggested to put up and elect sub-committees, where expedient, as for instance, in Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki and probably other places. Such local committees should have full power to act, subject only to final consideration by the Central Committee at Wellington. The idea deserves consideration. When many of us met for the first time early last August, it was generally felt, that the monthly paper alone is not sufficient to keep the interest in the Society on a reasonable standard among all members. Local sub-committees, as proposed, would have to keep in contact with local members, and possibly other local countrymen of ours, and from time to time, arrange local meetings and social gatherings. Particularly social gatherings, three or four times a year, are what is really needed. This need grows the more the younger generation grows up. They do not know the native country of their fathers, and it is up to us to acquaint them with Switzerland, from so many different points of view. This need is the greater the longer the present war lasts, and no fresh influx of countrymen from Switzerland can be expected. The big success of the past First of August gatherings certainly encourages us roughly to go along the same lines. I should like members of the different districts to think the matter over and to express their opinion in the paper, so that definite proposals may be forthcoming in the near future.

A Thames Valley Member.

SWISS NEWS SUMMARY.

At the 650th Anniversary of the Swiss Confederation on the Ruetli President Dr. Wetter said that Swiss people today must protect freedom and independence in foreign relations and honour and justice within the country. That was the reason for Switzerland's compulsory military service. Her neutrality demanded great self discipline from her people, so that the outer world should never doubt its will for neutrality. Switzerland, he said, was a democratic country by tradition; democracy in Switzerland was no foreign growth. Though today democracy had apparently lost much of its prestige in the world, yet Swiss democracy should not be confused with the form of Government in any other country.

The King and our People.

H.M. The King sent the following telegram to the President of the Swiss Confederation: -

"I desire to convey to you my warm congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 650th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation, and my best wishes for the continued peace and prosperity of the Swiss people in the future. The Swiss Confederation, founded by the free choice of its members, whose independence has been so valiantly defended by the Swiss people throughout the centuries, has long been a vital part of European civilization. The ideals of freedom and harmony between different races so successfully embodied in the Swiss Confederation are fully shared by the peoples of the British Commonwealth, and I am confident that this community of ideals has contributed powerfully to the ties of sympathy so long existing between the Swiss and British peoples.

George R.I."

to which the following reply was received: -

"In the name of the Federal Council I warmly thank your Majesty for the very friendly message by which, on the occasion of the 650th Anniversary of the Confederation, you were good enough to give us a new pledge of the sentiments of understanding and sympathy which animate the peoples of the