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and also because the State requires exact data for the fulfilment of its economic and social duties.

#### The Swiss Merchant Fleet.

(Berne....) The young Swiss Merchant Fleet, created in April 1941, now counts 7 units with a total capacity of 39.120 tons. This tonnage, however, is clearly insufficient for the nation's imports and exports. Considering the difficulties now prevailing with regard to the acquisition of new vessels, Switzerland is doing her best to charter foreign vessels sailing under their own flag.

#### Several Millions of Letters.

(Geneva....) The activity of the Central Agency for Prisoners of War in Geneva is constantly on the increase. As it is well known, this organisation endeavours to maintain contact between prisoners and their families and thus to afford relief to both parties. The average number of letters and post-cards despatched daily by this agency amounts to about 50.000, although it has occurred that as many as 113.532 letters have been sent on one single day. The total amount of letters and post-cards so far despatched since the beginning of the war is about 8 million.

#### Aid Rendered by Switzerland.

(Berne....) During the previous World War medical delegations, consisting of Swiss doctors and nurses were sent to the different belligerent countries, where they rendered help that was highly appreciated on all sides. Being anxious to keep up this humanitarian tradition during the present conflict, Swiss medical men have lately appointed a committee under the auspices of the Swiss Red Cross Society and with the help of the Swiss Government. This committee undertakes to send medical aid to victims of the war. Help is accorded not only to wounded soldiers, but also to civilians in certain countries, for whom the consequences of the war entail cruel suffering. Having so far been spared the horrors of warfare herself, Switzerland is anxious to accomplish this humanitarian task to the best of her powers, while remaining faithful to her principles of strict neutrality.

#### A Swiss Red Cross Film.

(Montreux....) A Swiss Cinema company has this autumn begun to prepare a Swiss film entitled "Oasis in the Torment", in which the functions of the different branches of the International Red Cross Society are shown. The cast is exclusively composed of Swiss artists.

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DEATH OF PRIESTS' FATHER.

#### Mr. Louis Carmine, Takaka.

The death has occurred of Mr. Louis Ambrose Carmine of Takaka, the father of two priests, Rev. Father E.J. Carmine, parish priest of Pungarehu, Taranaki, and Rev. Father P.A. Carmine, parish priest of South Broken Hill, New South Wales.

The late Mr. Carmine was born in Locarno, Switzerland, in 1843. At the age of sixteen he went to London and in 1860 left Liverpool for Australia in the sailing vessel "Queen of the East". He took part in gold rushes in various districts in Australia and later in New Zealand. In January, 1865, the late Mr. Carmine arrived in Nelson, along with a number of his mates and the party tramped from Nelson to Hokitika to take part in the West Coast gold rush of that period. Later he was associated with the late Right Hon. R.J. Seddon in gold mining ventures on the West Coast. After a visit to the Thames district he returned to Sydney in 1877 and there he married Miss Catherine Concannon.

After his marriage he returned with his wife to New Zealand and set

up business in Lyell, then a flourishing gold mining township, in the Buller Gorge. However, in 1898, a disastrous fire destroyed the late Mr. Carmine's and the majority of the other business premises in the Lyell township and he removed to Westport.

Mr. Carmine took up residence in Takaka fifteen years ago, one of his seven sons, the Rev. Father E.J. Carmine, being parish priest at the church of the Sacred Heart, Takaka, at that time. Although the deceased, particularly of late years, was of a somewhat retiring disposition, he was nevertheless quite a well-known figure in the Takaka district. His wife predeceased him in Nelson thirty-six years ago.

Surviving members of the family are Messrs. J.P. Carmine (Takaka), C.A. Carmine (Masterton), J.F.L. Carmine (Paeroa), L.V. Carmine (Wellington) J.F. Carmine (Nelson),, the Rev. F.J. Carmine (parish priest, Pungarehu, Taranaki) and the Rev. P.A. Carmine (parish priest, South Broken Hill, New South Wales). Two daughters died some years ago.

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SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP.

May we remind members that the annual subscription fee of sh.10/- was due on October 1. Please forward payment to the new Secretary, Mr. Herman Schlatter, 2nd Floor, T. & G. Building, Wellington. Mr. Schlatter has asked us to request members not to send any bank notes through the mail, as this is against the law. Such a letter, which he recently received, was opened by the Censor and Mr. Schlatter had to pay a fine. The best way of paying dues is by mailing Postal Notes to the Secretary. We are also very pleased to state, that many of our members are helping our Society along with a little more than just the annual dues of sh.10/-. Remittances of £1 indeed are not seldom. This is a good example to follow!

NEW MEMBERS: We have pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Mrs. L. Schwyter, Monmouth Rd., Stratford, Taranaki  
Mrs. S. Williams, 353, The Terrace, Wellington.  
Mr. Wyss, Hikutaia.  
Mr. Walter Kaspar, 63, Thompson Street, Wellington.

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MR. TONY KOMMINOTH, Wellington: visit his new "Lido Tea Rooms",  
118 Courtenay Place, Wellington.  
MR. L. LEUTHARD, New Plymouth: visit his "Hygienic Dining Rooms".  
MR. F. GRAEDEL, Orini R.D., Taupiri: manufacturing "Mountain Chalet"  
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CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to the Secretary - Mr. Herman Schlatter,  
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