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evolution which seems to be taking place abroad, Switzerland has, with but a few exceptions, raised all import restrictions and her tariffs are relatively moderate. Switzerland's import policy exposes this country to the danger of foreign competition, to the necessity of constantly improving production and of adaptation to changing market conditions. Switzerland can maintain this policy only as long as international trade relations permit and it must be admitted that, today, conditions are far from satisfactory in this respect."

(O.S.E.C. Lausanne, July 1949 - P/3/49.)

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XXX  
X GREAT SUCCESS OF THE TE AROHA SWISS BALL X  
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Some 700 dancers, including members of the Swiss communities of the Waikato, and visitors from Taranaki, gathered on 20th July at the Catholic Hall, Te Aroha to make the 2nd Annual Swiss Ball a great success.

Decorations in keeping with the occasion depicted the emblems of the 22 canton of Switzerland, while a large Swiss flag provided the background for the Orchestra. The two Orchestras - Tommy Large's Collegians, and The Swiss Orchestra - provided the music for continuous dancing. The personnel of the Swiss Orchestra was - A Schuler, Putaruru, (Piano), F. Emhoff, Taranaki, (Clarinet), P. Mathis, (Bass), C. Camnzind, Putaruru, (Drums), A. Meyer, H. Schuler, A. Engelberger, E. Kuttel (Accordions). Yodelling items and Mrs. A. Steiner's 'extra' on the Zither were very well received.

The guest of the evening was Mr. E. Fretz, who represented the Swiss Consul, Mr. E. Theiler, who was unable to be present owing to pressure of engagements prior to his impending departure from New Zealand. Mr. Fretz, who was welcomed by Mr. W.A. Clark, Mayor of Te Aroha, conveyed to the Swiss residents his best wishes.

A Poultry Supper, the arrangements for which were in the hands of Mrs. H. Schuler and her many capable helpers, was a feature of the evening. The duties of M.C. were ably carried out by Messrs J. O'Sullivan and J. Steiner.

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X THE FEDERAL FINANCE REFORM X  
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The provisions governing financial matters of the Swiss Confederation are based on emergency powers only, which will expire at the end of 1949. The Swiss Parliament has, during the past few years, tried to formulate a legislation which would operate as from 1950; however, the two chambers could not agree on the main questions, and in order to avoid confusion the Federal Council has now recommended to Parliament the extension of the emergency powers for a period of five years; that is, until 1954. In particular, the Federal Council proposes to extend the regulations in force during the period 1946/49 and the continuation of collecting the following taxes:

Defence Tax  
Sales Tax  
Luxury Tax  
Clearing Tax  
and a  
Tax on Life Insurance.

The Federal Council is to report to Parliament every session on the measures taken. The two Chambers have set up a commission to prepare the discussion of the proposed Bill in Parliament.

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Dear Readers, - We much regret having to apologise for the late posting of the July "Helvetia", which was due to the sudden and serious sickness of Miss Ford who usually types and prepares "Helvetia" for despatch.

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