

News from Switzerland

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **33 (1970)**

Heft [5]

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

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Christchurch Swiss Club

2nd June: Game Evening to be held at Mr Moser's bach. Drinks and a light supper available.

20th June: Fondue Evening at Mr Moser's bach. Cover charge.

7th July: Game Evening. —J.F.

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FOREIGN WORKERS

The Italian daily "La Stampa" devoted a full page to the problems of Italian workers employed in Switzerland. The article reproduced the opinions of a panel of Swiss civil servants and politicians involved with the Italian question, including James Schwarzenbach, launcher of the anti-foreigner initiative. The latter reaffirmed the essentials of his plan, which consisted in reducing the number of foreign workers in Switzerland by a third. Another official expounded on the efforts made by the Federal Council to stabilise the imported population. According to "La Stampa", the overall majority of Swiss citizens reject the Schwarzenbach thesis but his action has revived a distinctly anti-foreign attitude. The Swiss fully acknowledged the contributions made by Italians to their economy, the paper said, and it was time for them to draw a balance sheet and re-examine their consciences.

James Schwarzenbach has complained to the Federal Chancery that the wording of the law which he proposes to submit to the people through referendum very shortly was badly translated from German into French. The Paris section of the Nouvelle Societe Helvetique had noted a number of errors and diverging nuances in the French version. For one, "Ueberfremdung" was not translated by "Surpeuplement". Schwarzenbach's claim was rejected on the ground that the translators had used a commonly-accepted French terminology, but the Chancery left any eventual alteration of the French text to the discretion of Parliament.

AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF LOANS

On September 1st last year, an agreement between the Swiss National Bank and the private banks was signed concerning minimum assets and the expansion of credit. The application of this agreement should make it possible to practise a financial policy in keeping with the demands of the situation at any time. It is interesting to note that the means of regulating these matters have been able to be found by private agreement, whereas in most industrialised countries these questions are the subject of government legislation. (osec)