

# Report by President Mr. A. Peyer : annual meeting 1948

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# HELVETIA

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GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY.

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REPORT BY PRESIDENT

- MR. A. PEYER -

ANNUAL MEETING 1948.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the home of the Acting-Secretary, Mr. A. Moosberger, on the evening of the 30th October, 1948.

Most of our City Members were present, also two compatriots who joined up at the close of the Meeting. The election of officers for the Committee did not take long since the old Members were willing to carry on for a further term in their present capacity. However we had the good fortune to enlist the services of Mr. B. Buecheler as an additional Committee Member. His help I am sure, will be fully appreciated by all.

Most of the evening was taken up by discussing the finances of the Society, which unfortunately are getting worse every year, and the position must be rectified if the Society wishes to carry on activities. As stated when presenting the Balance Sheet last month, although the figures as they appeared thereon, were correct in every detail, the whole of the expenditure for the year was not actually shown due to the fact that the Secretary had not been able to procure the accounts for such amounts before the closing date of the financial year.

As all Members are aware, the Society was started during the depression years (1936) with a yearly contribution of 10/-, the aim being to build up a fund for the purpose of assisting compatriots and their families in need of financial and moral support from time to time, as also to provide a closer contact between the Swiss citizens scattered throughout New Zealand.

Due to the apparent prosperous times we are enjoying, the Society has not had to spend much in the field of Benevolence so far, as no needy cases have come under the notice of the Committee. However, times may change and someday we may be glad to be in the position to lend a helping hand. We would however, take this opportunity of reminding Members, that at all times we would be pleased to receive information from them of any deserving cases which may come under their notice.

The initial Subscription in 1936 was 10/- per annum which has never been increased. In the past we have made appeals to Members to subscribe more than the 10/- if in the position to do so. A number of Members have been sending in £1 and upwards and as a result this year's Donations reached the quite nice amount of £44. 8. 6. We must remind Members that these Donations must not be used to pay for expenses but must remain in the Fund for the purpose for which the Members originally intended them to be allocated.

Discussing the Balance Sheet, we find for instance - To Printing By-Laws (Rule Books) £17. 15. 0; this expenditure need not be incurred again for years. Then - To Bookshelves for Library - there we may have more to expend as we received an additional parcel of books from our late Mr. G. Kerler. These books by the way, are here for all members to read, free of charge, all the Secretary asks is to be reimbursed for postages. The sum spent in Stamps & Stationery - £5. 8. 9 - is rather high, mostly due to the many notices the Secretary had to send to remind forgetful members. The rest of the items listed, I am sure, you all agree, are not out of proportion, specially, "General Expenses and Exchange on Cheques" which this year is very low, a matter of 6/6d.

However, the cost of Material and Printing the "Helvetia" has risen approximately 50% over last year and brings the Expenses above the Income of the Society. To quote a few figures on last year's costs:

Income from 205 financial Members		£102. 10. 0
Year's cost for material and printing not including stock on hand for over one year	£91. 11. 4	
Other expenditure	33. 6. 6	£124. 17. 10.

This gives an overall loss of £22. 7. 10 or 2/2d per Member; even spreading expenditure on Rule Books over the next ten years, will still leave a deficit of £9. 4. 0 or 9½d per member.

The meeting therefore agreed unanimously, since there is no chance of getting "Helvetia" much cheaper in future, that there are only two ways to put the Society on a healthy footing again:

- (a) To increase Subscription Fee to 15/- per annum
- OR
- (b) Publish the paper once every two months instead of monthly.

The final decision to be left with members. The Committee would appreciate it if members would take the trouble and write to the Secretary expressing their views on the matter and, if a better way can be found as suggested, the Committee will be only too pleased to adopt it.

In conclusion, we would ask members to forward their fees in good time. If the 10/- fee rolls in, we will take it that members are satisfied with a bi-monthly publication, if on the other hand, Members send in Subscriptions of 15/- or more ('fivers' most acceptable) then publication will continue on the monthly basis.

Please make your decision, but do not forsake us; the cause is worth it and the Subscription cheap even at £1. Please respond early and willingly, your Committee give their time unsparingly, all they ask is your support.

(Signed) A. PEYER.  
president.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE ACTING-SECRETARY - MR. A. MOOSBERGER.

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To the Committee and the Members of the S.B.S.,

As the new financial year commences (October 1st) may I be permitted to take up some space in our Society's paper.