

Annual report

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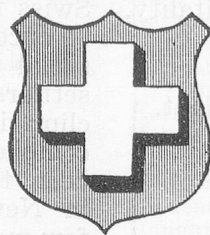
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HELVETIA

MONTHLY
PUBLICATION
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY IN
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)



GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

20th YEAR.

AUGUST, 1956.

AUCKLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society herewith submits its 21st Annual Report for the year ending the 31st of March, 1956. The membership on preliminary count has remained practically stationary at slightly above two hundred members. Resignations have been balanced by new members. There are subscriptions outstanding, and the Committee would be pleased if the members concerned would make good their oversight. No request for financial assistance was received during the period in question.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society took place on the afternoon of the 7th of July at the home of our Vice-President, Mr. W. Risi, of Ngāruawāhia, and was attended by approximately 30 members. The Committee was particularly pleased to welcome the Consul-General of Switzerland, Mr. P. H. Aubaret, as well as Mrs. Aubaret, and the Chancellor of the Consulate, Mr. Sollberger, and Mrs. Sollberger. Mr. P. H. Aubaret gave a short address at the conclusion of the meeting. In the absence of the President, Dr. L. Bossard, through illness, the Vice-President, Mr. W. Risi, presided over the meeting.

Last year's minutes and balance sheet, as shown here, were adopted. Resignations from the Committee were Miss Keller, Mr. Bachmann and Mr. Wehrli. It has been decided to fill only one vacancy and leave the other two open, so that other districts can in due course be represented on the Committee. Miss D. Peyer, the daughter of our past President, was the only newly elected committee member. The other members of the Committee were confirmed, viz., the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary-Treasurer, as well as the other three Committee members, Dr. Kaegi, Mr. J. Arnet and Mr. A. Biland.

After the conclusion of the General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society, a special General Meeting was held on the motion of the Committee to change the name of the Swiss Benevolent Society to "Swiss Society of New Zealand," at the same time changing some of the rules of the Society according to art. 12 of the said rules. The changed articles of the rules were read aloud by Mr. Risi, and each member present was handed a copy of the new rules for perusal. The new name of Swiss Society of New Zealand was adopted by the meeting as well as the altered rules. The Committee members of the new Society are the same as mentioned above for the old Society. Thus the old Swiss Benevolent Society is now dissolved and in its place the Swiss Society of New Zealand has come into being.

On the motion of Dr. Kaegi, the General Meeting of the new Society has resolved to issue the "Helvetia" bi-monthly and at the same time, if possible, to enrich its content, so as to be able to leave the yearly subscription of sh 15/- unaltered. The yearly subscription of sh 15/- is now due, and it would naturally help the Society very much if members would give more voluntarily, as the printing of the "Helvetia" has so far taken at least two-thirds of the Society's budget.

Dr. Kaegi moved also that, if in addition to the head of the family, the wife or any other member of the family under twenty-one years of age wishes to join the Society, the annual subscription per member would be sh 5/- per annum without an additional copy of the "Helvetia." This motion was also adopted.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Risi gave the warmest thanks to the Swiss Consul-General and his Chancellor for the great work they are doing for the Society. The President joins heartily in the expression of gratitude.

In his address, Mr. Aubaret thanked the Society for the work they were doing for the Swiss in New Zealand.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m. and was followed by a social evening with singing, dancing and a lavish supper which was greatly enjoyed by all and did not conclude before midnight.

The President wishes to thank Mr. and Mrs. Risi heartily for their generous hospitality, which was highly appreciated by all.

L. BOSSHARD,
President.

**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF
NEW ZEALAND**

BALANCE SHEET

31st MARCH, 1956.

RECEIPTS		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance Carried Forward at 31/3/55					684	19	3
„ Cash in hand at 31/3/55					8	0	2
„ Subscriptions					102	17	7
„ Sale of Badges					1	0	0
„ Interest on Post Office Savings Bank Account					16	3	3
„ Cash Loan by E. Gilgen					2	12	11
EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Printing of "Helvetia"		97	8	0			
„ Postages of "Helvetia"		15	7	6			
„ Stationery			9	6			
„ Audit Fee		4	4	0			
„ P.O. Box Rental		1	5	0			
„ Income Tax, year 1955		1	17	8			
„ Social Security Charge, 1955		1	3	10			
„ Sundry Postages		2	2	7			
„ Cr. Balance, P.O. Savings Bank at 31/3/56		691	15	1			
		£815	13	2	£815	13	2

**APPEAL BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS
SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND**

Now that the Society has been put on a new basis, which should give it a much wider appeal, I ask all members of the Society to do their utmost that all persons of Swiss origin join the Society. One of the foremost reasons to have the name and the rules of the Society changed was to open up means for the establishing of a society which embraces all Swiss which was not possible under the old rules. The old rules limited the scope of the Society to the support of needy Swiss, which in New Zealand are covered by Social Security benefits, while the social and cultural aspects were not specifically covered by the rules of the old Society. This has now been done without prejudicing the help for needy Swiss. The money saved for assistance to needy Swiss and in account up to the time of the changing of the rules, has been earmarked for this purpose.

From now on the Society will comprise also the social and cultural aspects and for this purpose will encourage the formation of local social circles of all members who belong to the parent Society. The parent Society will give a grant of sh1/-

per member to the local clubs. The exchange of Swiss newspapers and periodicals and books will be encouraged. The parent society as well as the social clubs in each district will welcome new settlers to New Zealand and help them to acclimatize here. One of the main drawbacks, complained of by many Swiss immigrants, has been their lack of contact with fellow citizens in New Zealand, particularly during the first few months after their arrival, which made them feel unhappy and in some cases even caused them to return to Switzerland. This making feel at home of new arrivals from Switzerland will be one of the Society's new tasks, and I appeal to all members to assist the Committee and the local clubs in the matter of offering hospitality to new arrivals.

The kind suggestion has been put forward by the Consul-General of Switzerland to loan out films of Switzerland to local groups which could be shown in conjunction with social functions. All interested should get in touch with the Consulate in Wellington directly.

The committee will always welcome suggestions by members to expand its activities and would thank them for submitting same to the secretary of the Society.

This issue of the Helvetia will be in larger numbers so that intending members of the Society can receive a copy if addresses of same are supplied to the secretary of the Society or the Swiss Consul-General.

L. BOSSHARD.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

COMMITTEE:

Patron: CONSUL-GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND
MR. P. H. AUBARET.

President: Dr. L. BOSSHARD, 24 Edmund Street,
Auckland, C.1.

Vice-President: MR. J. W. RISI, Box 23, Ngaruawahia,
Waikato.

Secretary: Mr. E. GILGEN, P.O. Box 2875, Auckland, C.1.

Executive Members:

Miss DORIS PEYER, 48 Moa Road, Pt. Chevalier, Auckland.

Mr. JOSEF ARNET, Springdale, Waitoa, Waikato.

Mr. A. BILAND, Te Kowhai Road, Te Rapa, Hamilton, Waikato.

Dr. F. KAEGLI, Rockdale, Gt. South Road, Bombay, Auckland.

Aubaret, P. H. (Mr.), Consul-General of Switzerland), Wellington, C.1.

Amstalden, G., Lysaght Road, c/o Mokoia Store, via Hawera.

Arnold, Joe, 18, Henwood Road, Bell Block, New Plymouth.