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# HELVETIA

Monthly Publication  
of the Swiss Benevolent Society  
in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, 1st NOVEMBER, 1937.

3rd YEAR : VOL. 2.

## THE AIM OF OUR SOCIETY.

A few years ago a Swiss Journalist, M. Chable, when on a visit in Auckland, expressed to me the great surprise that no Swiss Society or Club existed in this country. This expression has awakened a desire to establish a bond which would link a considerable number of countrymen together. In Messrs. Blau, Merz and J. Steiner of Waihou, we found men with energy and initiative who soon laid the foundation to our budding society. It was decided to make its purpose one of benevolence. Is it not, and has it not always been, Swiss nature to help one another?

After two years of existence we can report good progress. Our banking account in the Auckland Savings Bank amounts to £48. Not a big sum granted, but enough to foster hopes for better things to come.

Many of our members are under the misapprehension that they are subscribers to our paper "Helvetia." This is not the case. When you pay 10/- subscription (or more if you can), you are paying your membership fee. The "Helvetia" comes to you once a month, to remind you that you belong to our community, to bring to you a few items of news of our beloved homeland, and make you realise that the ties with your people at home should be strengthened instead of loosened. Although the majority of the members have not enjoyed any other benefits, we can proudly state, that in various ways we have been able to give a helping hand. We have no intention of enlarging upon these matters, - suffice to say that in the absence of a consular representative in New Zealand, we have been able to assist some fellow countrymen.

Now that we are at the beginning of our third year, let us impress upon all members - and let us hope, many prospective members - that their help is urgently needed. You may not derive any benefit as a member, but you will have the pleasant satisfaction of knowing that your subscription will help to establish a fund for needy fellow-countrymen.

As you are aware, we have been accepted as a Group of the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft, and in future the name of our Society will be : SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IN N.Z. GROUP NEW ZEALAND N.H.G.

We have just received the glad news that our Consulate of Switzerland in New Zealand will re:open again next December. It is not certain whether it will be established in Wellington or Auckland. We still have the most pleasant recollections of

our former Consul, Dr. Blau, and we feel certain that Dr. Schmid will prove a worthy successor. When the latter arrives in Auckland by the "Niagara" on December 14th, he will be assured of our hearty welcome.

Our new Consul desires the assistance of a good lady secretary -typiste, for preference of Swiss nationality, or of Swiss parentage. A thorough knowledge of at least two languages, either English and German, or English and French are absolutely essential. Applications may be forwarded to the Secretary, W. Ungemuth, Clarence Rd., Northcote, Auckland, not later than the 10th. November

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#### HELP FOR OUR UNEMPLOYED.

The Consular offices throughout the world are making exhaustive inquiries regarding the possibilities of employment and relative conditions in foreign countries. Certain sections of our people at home suffered severely through the economic crisis, in particular the building trade, farmers, office employees, technicians, etc. Many have been seeking employment for a long time, and naturally are anxious to try their luck in foreign lands.

We are convinced that all our compatriots are much concerned regarding the welfare of their fellowmen, and we appeal to you to let us know immediately should anyone of you hear of a possible source of employment in any capacity. In particular our farmer friends, most of whom appear to suffer from chronic labour shortage, are requested to consider the possibilities of giving our traditionally reliable and trustworthy countrymen a chance. For further information, enquiries, etc., please communicate with E. Merz, P.O. Box 85, Auckland, C.1.

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#### THE CHARMING AND INNUMERABLE SWISS LAKES.

The many Lakes of Switzerland contribute to the charm of the landscape and scenery. From onrushing train or motor car the eye feasts on the idyllic Lake of Zürich, then on the more severe Lake of Zug, finally to be completely captured by the Lake of Lucerne encompassed by stupendous heights. And the traveller reaches his final destination down on the zig-zag Lake of Lugano and Lago Maggiore, whose shores are studded with white-flowering magnolia trees - the genial and glamourous south. The Walensee lies deep down in the trough of a rocky valley; the Lakes of Brienz and Thoune are framed within gently-rising mountain shores; whilst vine-covered slopes and vintager's villages are reflected in the Lakes of Neuchâtel and Bienna. And the two largest: the Lakes of Geneva and Constance, are spread open like books in an extensive, sweet and smiling landscape, backed by soaring mountains.

A fleet of more than 100 steamboats rides proudly on the Swiss Lakes - there are 21 large lakes, to say nothing of the innumerable little mountain tarns. Motor car ferries cross the Lake of Constance between the town of Constance and Meersburg, the Lake of Zürich between Horgen and Meilen and the Lake of Lucerne between Gersau and Beckenried. In addition to steamboat trips on the lakes, which never lack in enjoyment, there are two Rhine trips; dapper little motor boats whip along between Basle and Rheinfelden, and between Schaffhausen and Constance. The Rhine harbour of Basle is also of importance to Swiss commerce. Apart from steamboat trips, views of the famous lakes can be enjoyed by mountain climbing in their immediate neighbourhood. For instance, in clear weather from twenty to thirty lakes can be observed from the top of Mount Pilatus.

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River is not destined

to carry on the whole of Swiss tonnage

unloaded between 1921 and 1927.