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HELVETIA



Monthly Publication of the
SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in New Zealand

Groupe New Zealand of the N.H.G.

AUCKLAND, N.Z.

1st. MAY, 1940.

5th YEAR : VOL. 8.

COLLECTION FOR OUR SWISS SOLDIERS.

The collection for the mobilised Soldiers in Switzerland is now in full swing, and the results from some districts are gratifying indeed. The approximate figures to date are as follows :- Auckland (Collection-List Messrs. Merz & Ungemuth) £65 ; Waikato (Mr. John Steiner, Waihou) £31 ; Bay of Plenty (Mr. C. Gebert, Opotiki) £14.10.0. From Taranaki we have received no list so far, but we feel quite confident that the many friends there will contribute substantially and bring the final total to £200, or more.

Once again we wish to impress upon our compatriots the urgency of help. Here in New Zealand, we hardly know that there is a war on, while in Europe every country is going through untold hardships.

The soldiers of Switzerland receive only a paltry pay to guard our borders, and you know that there are constantly several large divisions mobilised. What about their wives and children, brave and full of patriotism? They have to face hard times and an uncertain future. And yet, we are sure, they pray for nothing more fervidly than the preservation of their neutrality and independence.

We wish to ask the whole of the Swiss Community in New Zealand again, to do their share for this worthy cause. Do not wait until the subscription list is presented or sent to you, but forward your donation immediately to the Swiss Consulate, P.O. Box 386, Wellington, C.1., or to the Secretary, Mr. W. Ungemuth, Clarence Rd., Northcote, Auckland, N.4.

The Swiss colony is spread very extensively over New Zealand and it is quite impossible to communicate with each compatriot separately. But we do hope that everyone will recognise it as a duty to help our soldiers of Switzerland who are passing through anxious times.

None of us is overlooking the necessity and duty to sympathise with and support New Zealand, the country of our adoption; we know that many have helped substantially, and will help still more in future. But, please do not forget the country of your birth in time of stress. The Swiss soldier, be he father or son, is called away from his family, and although the authorities and benevolent institutions do their best to ease the hardship, the resources are limited. Therefore, we want to help too, and we shall prove that notwithstanding the thousands of miles distance, our proportion of the contribution will not slack behind those of countries much nearer.

A splendid suggestion of another way to help has been made recently, which we feel will appeal to the ladies of our colony. We wish to ask our fair compatriots to knit socks and pullovers for men; babies' clothing, cardigans, mittens, etc. Every contribution, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated. Please forward such goods to : Mrs. W. Schmid, P.O. Box 386, Wellington, C.1.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SWISS CONSULATE AT
WELLINGTON, P.O. BOX 386.

NACHRICHTEN DES SCHWEIZERISCHEN KONSULATS IN
WELLINGTON, P.O. BOX 386.

The Swiss Consulate at Wellington is greatly interested in receiving clippings of any New Zealand newspapers and magazines, bearing on any Swiss topics, not including, of course, cable and radio news which appears through the whole New Zealand press.

The members of the Swiss Benevolent Society of New Zealand and other readers are requested to kindly mail any clippings of the described nature to the Consulate of Switzerland, which will greatly appreciate such help. Postage will be refunded by return mail.

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Das Schweizerische Konsulat in Wellington ist den Mitgliedern des Schweizerischen Wohltaetigkeitsgesellschaft in Neuseeland sowie anderen Landsleuten und Lesern dankbar fuer die Zustellung von jeglichen Zeitungsartikeln in neuseelaendischen Tages-, Wochen- und Monatszeitungen und Zeitschriften ueber die Schweiz oder schweizerische Dinge, fuer welche es grosses Interesse hat. Ausgenommen sind natuerlich die ueblichen Telegramm- und Radionachrichten aus der Schweiz, welche in allen Tages-zeitungen erscheinen. Portospesen werden den Einsendern umgehend verguetet.

ONE OF THE MANY HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES OF SWITZERLAND.

The International Committee of the Red Cross
at Geneva.

During the last war, a learned French writer, Rémy de Gourmont, asked in one of his articles what was the meaning and origin of the mysterious sign of the Red Cross - about which nobody knew anything.

The work of the Red Cross, the 75th anniversary of which was celebrated this year, was founded by the first Convention of Geneva (22nd August 1864). The first steps had been taken by a resident of Geneva, a plain citizen who had chanced to be present at the battle of Solferino in 1859 and had seen the frightful state of the wounded, who died of thirst and infection in that hot countryside. Dunant had published in 1862 his "Souvenir de Solferino", a small volume written for a few chosen readers. (Dunant personally sent it to a few European sovereigns). In this he related simply what he had seen after this deadly battle, what he had done, with ridiculous material to help the unfortunate sufferers, and what should be done to improve the medical service with the help of doctors and civilian helpers. The Swiss Commander-in-Chief, General Dufour was a member of the first committee of five persons, all from Geneva, which organised the two international conferences which were the genesis of the Convention of Geneva held in 1864. Gustave Moynier was for 47 years the