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reshuffling in the membership of the Federal Council was possible only by an increase in the number of its members or one or the other resignation. Rudolf Minger, one of the most popular Federal Councillors, has drawn the lot and leaves the executive body of the Swiss Confederation to go back to the tilling of the land. It has always been a matter of pride for the Swiss people, that one of their Federal Councillors came from the hardworking rank and file of the Swiss farming community. High personal qualities, intelligence, interest in politics and the army, arduous work and forceful oratory, carried this man about 8 or 10 years ago to the top of the ladder of the greatest political career in Switzerland, and before he was elected a Federal Councillor, he had already worked his way into the House of Representatives and in the army he had attained the rank of a Lieutenant-Colonel, quite an achievement for a farmer, who had to make his career without college and university education. When the announcer told us that for the last time we would now hear Ruedi Minger's voice in his capacity as Federal Councillor, all listeners must have been thrilled. It was a reproduction of part of a speech, which he recently delivered at Basel, urging the people to accept the proposed new law for pre-military training. The forceful oratory in genuine Bärner dialect held us spellbound for the rest of the program, and the juicy vocabulary, which is flourishing in those parts of Switzerland where "Reudi" hails from, the farm lands between the Bernese Alps and the Bernese Jura mountains, filled our living-room with spontaneous, roaring laughter and a bit of blissful air from home.

The next broadcast from Switzerland to Australia and New Zealand will take place on -

NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1, 1941.

and again on the -

FIRST SUNDAY IN JANUARY, January 5, 1941.

Wavelengths as usual 20.64 or 26.31; time 5.45 p.m.

Please try again the Swiss broadcasts on wavelength 25.28 every day from 11 p.m. to 0.45 a.m., New Zealand time, and wavelength 46.66 on weekdays only, from 6 a.m. to 9.30 a.m., New Zealand time, and report the results of your efforts to the Swiss Consulate at Wellington.

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#### SEASON'S COMPLIMENTS

The Committee of your Society desires to extend to all our members, as well as their families and friends, the very best wishes for a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Our esteemed Consul, Dr. W. Schmid, requested us to publish the following letter:

"The Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand,  
P.O. Box 85, AUCKLAND, C.1.

Mr. President and Members of the Committee :

I have read with great interest the article of Mr. Werner Ungemuth, the Secretary of the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand, on the activities of our Society, in the November issue of the "HELVETIA". The story of the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand in my estimation is a fine record of the spirit among the Swiss people in New Zealand, because it certainly is no easy task to group our fellow-countrymen, who are strewn all over the country, in one Society. Above all, it was necessary to have the right men on the Committee to secure success, and I am therefore pleased to extend to you my vivid congratulations and deep appreciation. It is really reassuring to see how the membership from the time of the foundation of the Society in 1935 went up from 49 to 150 members in 1940.

From a perusal of the membership list I notice that there are still a considerable number of our fellow-countrymen who

"do not belong to our Society, and your appeal to the present members to help us to increase the membership, I am sure, will have a favourable echo. Let us hope that from now on during the next 12 months we may be able to increase the membership by another 50. I feel sure that every Swiss in New Zealand is in sympathy with the humanitarian purposes of our Society as well as with its further aims, namely to gather together our fellow-countrymen in New Zealand for the sake of friendship and mutual enlightenment regarding everything that concerns Switzerland. It is the privilege of the Swiss people in almost every land abroad, thanks to the friendly mission which Switzerland carries out in the world since centuries, to remain true at heart to the old country and at the same time to be loyal to the country, which is offering them hospitality and a livelihood. The Swiss Benevolent Society certainly is imbued by that spirit and although we are passing through critical times, we are much gratified that the New Zealand Government so far has allowed the Swiss Benevolent Society, under condition of censorship, to continue with the monthly publication of our bulletin "HELVETIA", which constitutes the great link among our members.

In conclusion I would thank you for the privilege of having this letter published in the December issue of the "HELVETIA", which also gives me the opportunity to tender to you and all my fellow-countrymen in New Zealand my best wishes for the coming New Year, in which my whole family joins.

Yours faithfully,  
(sgd) W. SCHMID. "

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#### COLLECTION FOR SWISS SOLDIERS.

Since we have given our last account on the collection for the Swiss Soldiers' Relief Fund, the following countrymen have made substantial contributions to this worthy cause:

J. Sax	Whakatane
J. Butler	Tariki
R. Buchmann	Auckland
J. Fischbacher	Putaruru

Many thanks again for your wholehearted support. The total amount collected now stands at £264.3.4, indeed a splendid result, of which the Swiss communities in New Zealand will be justly proud for ever. Arrangements have been made for the transfer of this amount to the Swiss Soldiers' Relief Fund in Switzerland through the Swiss Foreign Office in four instalments, namely:

£220. 9. 3	on May 31, 1940
£ 31.12.11	on September 25, 1940
£ 7. 1. 2	on November 29, 1940
£ 5. 0. 0	on December 2, 1940

£264. 3. 4  
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As yet only an acknowledgment of receipt of the first amount of £220.9.3 has been received from the Swiss Soldiers' Relief Fund, which was published in the October issue of the "HELVETIA". No doubt the three other transfers will be acknowledged in due course.

Walter Schmid.

Wellington, 2nd December, 1940.

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#### SALE OF SWISS NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY BADGES AND CARDS.

We have pleasure to advise our members that in 1940 a total of 94 badges and 46 cards have been sold, which has enabled us to remit to the Committee of the Swiss National Independence Day £ N.Z. 10.11.4. There are still a number of badges and