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HELVETIA



Monthly Publication of the
SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in New Zealand

Group New Zealand of the N.H.G.

AUCKLAND:
November, 1940.

6th YEAR - VOL. 2.

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HIE ISCH D'SCHWYZ.
(This is Switzerland Calling..)

Yesterday, Sunday, November 3rd., the monthly broadcast from Switzerland came in big! From the beginning to the end every word was crystal clear, and the musical entertainment, - we specially mention the Ticinesi and French Swiss songs, as well as the yodelling and other popular tunes - was a great treat. They surely are putting on a great deal more "juice" now at Schwarzenburg to deliver their welcome news and entertainments to the farthest outpost of all the Swiss communities abroad! Congratulations and thanks for the good work and the fine programme!

When they signed off at Berne at 7.30 p.m. yesterday, I am sure all of us who had listened in had a right to be cheerful. Let us summarise some of the most important news items received :-

Political: (a) Internal: The spirit of Swiss democracy lives on unimpaired and so does the spirit of "self-defence under any circumstances". The morale and discipline of the mobilised troops are splendid: the willingness of the Swiss people to accept the financial burdens, which make self-defence possible, is proved by the budgeted expenditure in 1941 for the upkeep of the army and the necessary re-armament amounting to 1000 million francs; drastic measures have been taken against traitors to the cause of our free political institutions by recent arrests of a number of culprits; collaboration between different political parties is making good headway.

(b) External: The publication in a representative Fascist newspaper in Italy to the effect that Switzerland must survive whatever the reconstruction of the Continent may be, is significant; the reporter in English expressed the opinion that from a military and strategic point of view the worst danger for Switzerland very probably has passed, and further that the proverbial Swiss policy of aloofness from international embroilments followed since centuries, and the splendid example given by Switzerland in uniting peoples of different races and cultures in one "free, humane, understanding and hospitable fatherland" (speech of the President Pilet-Golaz on June 25, 1940) are moral forces which heavily weigh in favour of our country. We gladly accept such reflections and treasure them among our fondest wishes for our beloved Switzerland, not recklessly and selfishly, but in the spirit of devoutness and gratitude toward the ruler of the Universe.

Economic: The references to the problem of unemployment and rationing turned our thoughts to the more immediate difficulties with which Switzerland now is at grips. Butter, margarine, all kinds of textiles, soap, etc. are to be seriously rationed. Most meats, fruit and vegetables, however, still remain unaffected. Further, the Government has taken over the whole crops of wheat and rye and the area of tillable land has been considerably expanded. Christmas business is expected to take a normal aspect. The commentator therefore, felt justified in saying that conditions in Switzerland compare

still favourably with those prevailing in many other countries on the Continent. He also remarked that price increases as yet were not excessive. Who among us, when they heard of the rationing of woollen garments, did not think of the 20 odd pounds of woollen apparel which we recently despatched to Switzerland as a contribution for needy compatriots, gathered from some members of our Swiss community in New Zealand. The following was recently achieved in the field of economics: The United Kingdom released a number of Swiss chartered freighters which she was detaining at Gibraltar; negotiations with the United Kingdom for a trade treaty are proceeding; with the Vichy Government a trade treaty was signed and with Yugoslavia negotiations have begun; it has been possible to put an additional number of freighters in the service of Switzerland on the Genoa/New York run; the airplane services Locarno/Rome/Barcelona and Dübendorf/Munich, and the railway service between Geneva and Bellegarde (unoccupied France) have again been taken up.

All Souls Day in Switzerland: The account given of the observation of All Souls Day in Switzerland was inspired by a noble idea and was an outstanding patriotic and emotional feature of the broadcasting programme. Indeed, we feel that through our fathers and ancestors who have preceded us on the soil of our homeland, we are rooted in it, body and soul.

Daily Swiss Broadcasts on Wavelengths 48.66 and 25.28: No doubt Radio Switzerland is disappointed about the silence which very probably all of our fellow-countrymen in New Zealand - with the exception it seems of one - have recently kept in this matter. We want to assure Radio Switzerland though, that we have not been idle since we have been advised of these broadcasts. Most reliable and oft repeated tests, however, so far have proved that these broadcasts cannot be received in New Zealand, even though in Australia our fellow-countrymen have been successful. Naturally one does not have the urge to report negative efforts as quickly as the good news of positive results. There is always the danger that some radio shark may fool you... The Swiss Consulate at Wellington, however, has now despatched a telegram to Radio Switzerland in the following wording: "48.66 25.28 unsuccessful". We are still hoping for positive results, however, and the New Zealand National Broadcasting Service continues to be on the job with their tests, as well as a number of our fellow-countrymen, some of whom even have gone to the limit of having their new and powerful radio sets newly adjusted and new aerials fixed up, as for instance the writer of these lines. Alas! with no better results. We invite our members to co-operate in our endeavours to lure these mystery waves 48.66 and 25.28 also to these hospitable shores, notwithstanding import restrictions. They play as follows: 25.28 every day from 11 p.m. to 0.45 a.m., N.Z. time; 48.66 on week-days only, from 6 a.m. to 9.30 a.m., also N.Z. time. Please report the results of your efforts to the Swiss Consulate at Wellington.

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SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL THANKS SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
IN NEW ZEALAND FOR EXPRESSION OF PATRIOTIC SENTI-
MENTS CABLED ON AUGUST 1.

On the occasion of the recent Swiss Anniversary it was thought appropriate to send a cable message to the Swiss Federal Council, through the Swiss Consulate, expressing patriotic sentiments and hopes for the future. The receipt of this cable has now been acknowledged and we are quoting below the texts of the messages exchanged:

Cable to the Swiss Federal Council:

"Société suisse de Nouvelle-Zélande me prie de vous dire qu'en nous sentons unis en mêmes voeux et pensées avec tous patriotes pour l'avenir de notre pays bien aimé. Schmid Consulat Suisse."

Acknowledgment received by the Swiss Federal Council:

Berne, le 2 août 1940

"Monsieur le Vice-Consul,

Par télégramme du 1er de ce mois, la Société Suisse de Nouvelle-Zélande a bien voulu exprimer, par votre intermédiaire, au Conseil fédéral ses sentiments d'attachement à la patrie à l'occasion de la fête nationale.