

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 9 (1943-1944)
Heft: 1

Artikel: Swiss social programme for after the war
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942659>

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HELVETIA



Monthly Publication of the

**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
in New Zealand**



Group New Zealand of the N.H.G.

WELLINGTON.
OCTOBER, 1943.

Vol. 1, 9th Year.

CHANGE OF COMMITTEE.

As has been published in the last issue of the "Helvetia", certain nominations for a new Committee have been proposed by the Auckland group of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Advice from the present Secretary, Mr. H. Schlatter, indicate that these nominations are now confirmed.

The new Committee wishes to express appreciation in the confidence bestowed upon them by our Compatriots. We all repeat our pledge to do our very best to foster the welfare of the Society, and our loyal services are at the disposal of every member of the Society.

Willingness to work towards closer contact among Swiss in New Zealand is essential, and it should be possible to find some lively members to undertake the formation of Sub-Committees, whose duty would be to arrange local meetings or social gatherings. We have no knowledge that any such Committee has been formed, except in Auckland. Are there any Compatriots in Taranaki, Waikato, or elsewhere to tackle the job and endeavour to create local interest? We consider it would be fitting and worth while to have frequent gatherings (of any description and anywhere) among the many Swiss in this country. So, give the new committee encouragement and come forward with some definite proposal;

Another important aspect is the maintenance and increase of our membership. Everyone knowing a Compatriot not yet a member of the Society, should endeavour to enrol him or her as soon as possible. A large membership is essential to maintain the Society's finance.

We, the new Committee, look forward to full co-operation from all members, and in return we shall do our best for the welfare of the Society.

SWISS SOCIAL PROGRAMME FOR AFTER THE WAR.

The Chief of the Federal Economic Department, Federal Councillor Stampfli, in reply to several parliamentary requests, has explained in the National Council the Swiss social programme for after the war. The first place in these measures is given to the provision of work in time of a possible crisis which might arise through lack of raw materials. Some considerable time ago a very extensive

program had been evolved and prepared to put into action as soon as need arises. For this purpose a part of the salary and wages equalisation fund for serving soldiers, which at the moment amounts to 260 million francs is to be used. Conditional to every efficient social policy is the preservation of a healthy and vital economy and for that purpose prices and wages must be kept in check in order that the possibility to compete with foreign countries is not totally lost. Unfortunately the enormous weight of the mobilization debt will press heavily on the whole economic system for two or three decades, so that there are less means at the disposal for social schemes. However, the Federal Council proposes the following measures: Creation of a motherhood insurance, extension of the compulsory health insurance with the assistance of the Confederation to economically weak sections of the population, extension of the compulsory accidents insurance to agricultural labour, increased federal subsidies for the insurance against tuberculosis, preservation of a healthy agricultural industry and of a vitally strong trade in the after war period, provision for a bill about labour in the retail trade and small concerns, safeguarding of legal holidays for certain categories of employees. Towards the general old age and survivors insurance and the introduction of a family wage, which is the object of several initiatives, the Federal Council will further consider the various proposals before expressing an opinion. The whole of the federal social program is therefore built up on already existing foundations and will be advanced step by step. It is not a paradise on earth, but an endeavour for an economically bearable and social utility measure.

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RATIONING AND PRICES OF FOODSTUFF IN SWITZERLAND.

The following is a list comparing the pre-war prices of some rationed provisions with prices charged to-day.

Monthly ration March 1943.	Article	s. fr. Prices charged	
		September 1939	March 1943
500 Gr.	Sugar	.27	.63.
250 gr.	Jam	.31	.71
400 gr.	Macaroni, Spaghetti etc.	.20	.44
500 gr.	Legumes	.22	1.05
250 gr.	Oats	.11	.31
100 gr.	Millet	.05	.38
400 gr.	Flour	.16	.24
2 dl.	Oil	.30	.58
100 gr.	Butter	.50	.82
400 gr.	Cooking fats	.96	1.32
4	Eggs	.52	1.38
50 gr.	Egg powder	.50	.50
400 gr.	Cheese	1.12	1.68
200 gr.	Coffee	.44	.90
200 gr.	Coffee-substitutes	.25	.58
50 gr.	Tea	.40	.75
1200 gr.	Meat	3.57	6.---
7 kg.	Bread	2.66	3.99
12,5 lt.	Milk	3.87	5.---
140 units	Soap	.80	.85
	Total s. frs.	17.21	28.21
	Increase s. frs.	11.---	or 64%.

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The capitulation of Italy has made the deepest impression on public opinion in Switzerland. Though it cannot be said yet where the event will lead, the Swiss are aware that it may have important consequences. The Swiss authorities were not taken by surprise, and have taken the necessary measures at once. The