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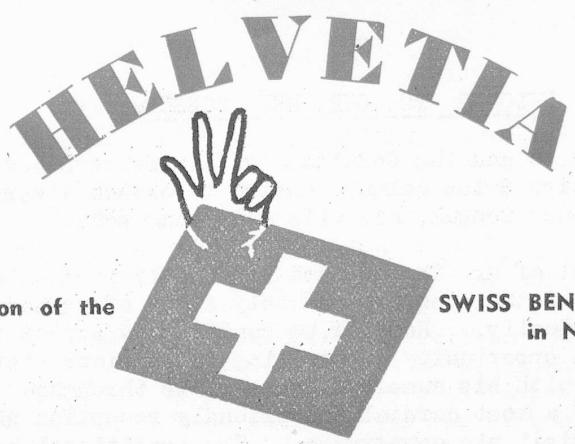
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FAREWELL MESSAGE.

A little more than $8\frac{1}{2}$ years ago I landed at Auckland from S.S., "Niagara", coming from the Deep South of the United States, and 4 months later my wife and family arrived in Wellington direct from Switzerland. All of us had been thinking of New Zealand as a strange land, but after the lapse of $8\frac{1}{2}$ years, what we thought of as a strange land has now become almost our second country. We have learned to love this beautiful country and its people, Maori, and Pakeha alike.

When I arrived in Auckland I was greeted in Swiss by some of my compatriots from Auckland Province. In the course of time, in my association with my compatriots in New Zealand I have heard almost all the homely dialects of our Alemannic cantons. I know by now many a Swiss farm and, in general, the way of life of my compatriots in New Zealand. My wife and I have good reason to be proud of the Swiss in New Zealand, and here I should also add that the long years of war have put the whole Swiss community to a severe test. Almost to a man we have stood this test, we have shown what we are - chips of the old Helvetian block. This has brought us the respect of almost every New Zealander, so that I may say, that the prestige of the name "Swiss" has not suffered during the difficult times we went through together, but, on the contrary, has gained.

You will therefore understand, my friends and compatriots, that my wife and I are privileged to leave New Zealand with nothing but good feelings, which is a great reward for the years we have spent among you in this enviable country.

It is indeed hard for us to lift the anchors; however, on the other side of the world beckons that glorious little country where our ancestors lived and toiled for centuries, and also fought for centuries for a freedom we are still enjoying: such a destination is enviable also, and the thought of this takes the sting out of the departure which truly saddens our hearts.

In conclusion, Mrs. Schmid and I wish all of you compatriots and friends, only the best for the future in the land of your choice: health, happiness, prosperity and freedom.

DR. WALTER SCHMID,

SWISS CONSUL.