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The announcement of the departure of Dr and Mrs Walter Schmid has made our compatriots realise what they owe to him and to his attractive wife, and they want to thank him and don't hesitate to express these thanks openly. These sentiments will find a warm echo in the Swiss community.

As past president from 1935-41 of the Swiss Benevolent Society and present Secretary, I deem it a pleasure to convey a message of farewell to our departing Consul. Through the two positions held, I have come in such close contact with Dr. Schmid as perhaps no other of our countrymen had the privilege.

To represent Switzerland as Consul for fully 10 years is an unusually long period, because the life of a diplomat is "Here today - gone tomorrow". However, I can say with conviction that we Swiss in New Zealand have been fortunate as well as privileged to retain his leadership for a full decade. Dr. Schmid has a keen sense of patriotism and he achieved much in cementing the bonds of friendship among the many compatriots scattered over a wide area. Well do I remember the day of the Consul's arrival from America, when one of his first enquiries concerned the expansion and general improvement of the then modest S.B.S. Likewise will about a dozen compatriots of Auckland well remember the first little gathering we had with Dr. Schmid at the President's office, when we all particularly enjoyed and appreciated seeing his charming wife appear in a "Baernertracht". This was certainly a treat for us all and it was an excellent augury for a happy and congenial relationship between the new arrivals and the Swiss colony.

Our Consul has at all times been willing and eager to help us solve our problems; to assist us efficiently not only in his official capacity, but often in private matters as well. Personally I am more sorry than I can express at Dr. Schmid's departure, and only the knowledge that a worthy successor will replace him, compensates for the severage of our connection. I extend to both Dr. and Mrs. Schmid my very best wishes for their future welfare and happiness, and trust that in whichever country they reside, they will carry with them pleasant memories of their long stay in New Zealand.

E. Merz.

The impending departure of Mrs. and Dr. Schmid gives me the opportunity to thank them both for the very cordial hospitality they have shown me during my sometimes prolonged visits to Wellington in the course of my official duties as Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva. I have on many occasions been able to receive their warm hospitality, and the delicious Swiss dinners enjoyed at their home will always remain a pleasant memory to me. I wish Mrs. and Dr. Schmid a very happy homecoming and all success for the future.

Leon Bossard.

After having represented the Swiss Government in New Zealand for over 8 years, Dr. and Mrs. W. Schmid are to return shortly to Switzerland.

During the long years of war which created difficulties for many a Swiss resident in New Zealand, our Consul - in his diplomatic capacity - had a much more difficult task in the performance of his many duties than is usually associated with the office in peace time.

The Wellington Swiss will remember the dark days of 1941-42 when Dr. Schmid made arrangements for the safety of their women and children in case of Japanese invasion.

There were other worries for which our Consul had an open and sympathetic ear and he always used his diplomatic offices and his genial personality in defence of a just case.

Mrs. Schmid will be remembered by all of us who had the privilege to enjoy her hospitality and admire her as a charming hostess who gives with an

open heart and knows the art of surprising a "gourmand" however discriminating his expectations may be.

Dr. and Mrs. Schmid have been longing to return Home to see their beloved ones and now that this moment has come we all wish them a safe trip and health and happiness in the future.

H.S.

MESSAGE OF FAREWELL TO DR. & MRS. SCHMID.

The Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society wishes to express their deep regret in losing shortly their much esteemed Consul and Mrs. Schmid. The departure of our Consul will leave a deep gap behind; we have been the richer for his dwelling amongst us, and we shall be poorer for his leaving us.

The Society has been particularly lucky to have such a keen and interested Patron, as the bulk of the Editor's work for our "Helvetia" was compiled at the Consulate. We feel certain that all our members agree when we state, that our little monthly paper has always been interesting reading.

The long period of the war must have been a most worrying and arduous time for Dr. Schmid. To protect the interest of two enemy-countries involved an enormous amount of additional work, many unpleasant but necessary tasks and also many misconceptions and wrong interpretations of the duties he had to perform. However, we all know that Dr. Schmid discharged these duties in a most creditable manner.

We like to recall the many visits he paid to our compatriots, particularly in the farming districts. If we speak warmly on behalf of the Taranaki and Waikato colony of his many visits, we are sure they will all heartily endorse these sentiments. Dr. Schmid has a happy and congenial disposition, which made him quickly popular wherever he went.

Dr. Schmid's departure is made so much harder for us, bearing in mind the long period he stayed in New Zealand. But wherever he shall reside in future, we hope that his recollections and memories of the Swiss in New Zealand will be pleasant. In the name of every compatriot, we extend to both Dr. and Mrs. Schmid our warmest wishes for a happy and bright future. Goodbye and Good Luck!

The Committee of the S.B.S.

DEPARTURE OF DR AND MRS. WALTER SCHMID.

The tentative plans of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Schmid to leave on SS "Ruahine" have now been finalised and they will sail from Auckland at the end of July.

Dr Leon Bossard, the New Zealand delegate of the International Red Cross will be leaving by the same vessel for a trip to his homeland.

ARRIVAL OF SECRETARY FOR CONSULATE.

Miss Fanny Schmid who has been appointed as Secretary in the Consulate in Wellington, is now on the high seas and will arrive on board SS "Rimutaka" in the middle of August.

PESTALOZZI BROADCAST.

Compatriots will be interested to learn that on Sunday July 21st at 3.30 pm, 2YA will broadcast a programme commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of the great Swiss educationalist and humanitarian, Heinrich Pestalozzi.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Mr. L. Leuthard, New Plymouth: Visit his "Hygienic Dining Rooms".

Mr. L. Zurcher, 212 Pattison Road, Hastings: 1945 Apple Cider, 5/- per gallon, in two gallon lots, plus freight; samples free of charge, in ordering state dry or sweet. Jars to lend. "Moscht müends aim għa."

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