

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 14 (1949)  
**Heft:** 2

**Vorwort:** This year's message of the President of the Confederation to the Swiss people  
**Autor:** Nobs, Ernst

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 14.09.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

SWISS BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY IN  
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY.

Volume 2  
14th year.

THE YEAR'S MESSAGE  
of the  
PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION  
to the  
SWISS PEOPLE.

On New Year's Day, the President of the Confederation, Ernst Nobs, made a broadcast to the Swiss people, in which he said:

"The Year is the measurement of our life and on New Year's Eve, we like to review past events and plan for the future. At this moment I wish to ask Swiss citizens, of all tendencies, groups and regions, what common bond unites you and gives your community the capacity to overcome the difficulties of the period and the problems of our age? Do you have this confidence in united efforts or do you prefer divisional action, comprising those numerous elements which are an enemy to the community. I am sure you all agree, the outstanding features of our country, are its democratic institutions, its manifold and rich culture an economic aim of general welfare for the people, and, last but not least, freedom and sovereignty. All these achievements we esteem as lasting and of high value. Acquired during centuries, they represent the uniting factors of our people. We obtained these treasures not to lose them, but to keep and increase them by the contribution of each generation and to prevent them from crumbling. These are our common aims and only in united effort, will we succeed."

The President further said:

"Foreigners who visit our country periodically and also Swiss returning from abroad, praise the Swiss people and their country. We are not carried away by these compliments as we know our faults and defects... we like criticism. Although we were not altogether spared, it has been our good luck to avoid the ravages of two World Wars which has helped considerably towards our success in the present period.

Our people do not wish to alter their traditional line of foreign policy. Neutrality remains our principle, our protection and our safeguard. But we know that words alone will not achieve this..... we are prepared and determined to defend these principles, if necessary, to the utmost limit. This dogged determination has been the reason for our success, in that it has instilled in all our citizens a sense of individual responsibility, which has helped considerably in the past, when making and standing by our decisions. In common purpose and united in our fate, we will go forward with the sole intention of retaining our independence and our freedom."

000000