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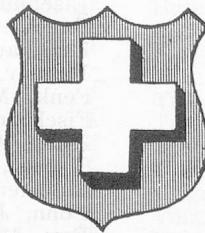
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HELVETIA

MONTHLY
PUBLICATION
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY IN
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

17th YEAR.

DECEMBER, 1953.

AUCKLAND.

GENERAL MEETING OF SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY EXTRACTS OF REPORT

The customary Annual General Meeting was held on October 28th with a rather moderate attendance.

Last year's minutes, read by the Secretary, were duly confirmed and approved by the meeting.

The balance-sheet was presented by the President, Dr. Bosshard, and was unanimously adopted and carried. This balance-sheet is printed below.

The following members for the committee have been elected:—

President: Dr. L. Bosshard.

Secretary: E. Merz.

Executive members: Miss W. Keller, Mrs. M. Tisdall, Mr. A. Buecheler, Mr. E. Straumann, Mr. E. Gilgen and Mr. H. Gilgen.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society herewith submits its eighteenth Annual Report and this year's balance-sheet. The membership remained practically stationary with 221 members. Resignations or defaults were twenty-three, while twenty-six new members joined the Society, making a net increase of three members.

No requests for assistance from needy Swiss have been received, and this part of the Society's activities was therefore not in operation. Committee members were, however, able to visit sick compatriots at Auckland whenever they were informed that they were in hospital.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society on the 28th of October, 1953, at the Secretary's offices, last year's minutes and the balance-sheet as shown below were adopted. The resignations of two Committee members were received with regret, and Mrs. M. Tisdall and Mr. A. Buecheler were unanimously elected. The President thanked the outgoing Committee members and especially Mr. A. Peyer for the long years of their service, and expressed the Society's hopes that they would continue to show an active interest in the Society.

At the Annual Meeting a discussion also took

place regarding possibilities of enlarging the scope of the Society. It is felt by some compatriots that, based on conditions in New Zealand, the funds of the Society will only in exceptional cases be called upon for relief of distress among compatriots, and it would, therefore, seem appropriate to enlarge the scope of the Society to the promotion of friendship between New Zealand and Switzerland. This would mean that both Swiss and New Zealanders would be admitted to the Society and more stress could be put to fortify the cultural bonds between the two nations. However, as the rules and constitution of the Society as at present set up and the general wide dispersion of its members all over New Zealand allow very little scope for such a move, the general meeting voted for the continuance of the present policy. However, all the members are being invited to write to the Secretary to express their views as regards the problem, so that next year's Committee will have a clearer picture of the attitude of all its members. It is felt here, that the time has arrived for a new Committee from another District of New Zealand to take over from Auckland, and the Secretary would be pleased to receive nominations from other districts, where the concentration of compatriots would allow for the formation of such a Committee.

The President wishes to express thanks to the Secretary of the Society, Mr. E. Merz, and the Consulate, and takes this opportunity to wish all members and compatriots a Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year.

L. BOSSHARD,
President.

BALANCE SHEET.

September 30th, 1953.

RECEIPTS.

| | Dr. | Cr. | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Balance carried forward | | | | 621 | 13 | 11 |
| Subscriptions, 1952-53 | | | | 159 | 12 | 0 |
| 1953-54 | | | | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Donations | | | | 15 | 10 | 0 |
| Advertisements in Helvetia | | | | 6 | 15 | 0 |
| Sales of Swiss Badges | | | | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Interest, Bank Account | | | | 14 | 5 | 4 |