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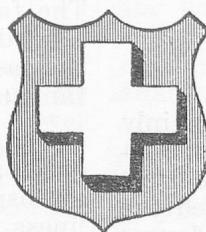
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# HELVETIA

MONTHLY  
PUBLICATION  
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY IN  
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

18th YEAR.

JULY, 1954.

AUCKLAND.

## NEWS OF THE COLONY

### Taranaki News

Our regular card evenings prove ever more popular among our compatriots; the last meeting at Kaponga produced a record attendance. We have pleasure announcing the following prize-winners:—

At St. Paul's Hall, Normanby, on June 1st:  
1st J. A. Kaiser, jun.  
2nd F. Suter.  
3rd J. Kaiser.  
Mrs. Schupfer, Consolation prize.

At Kaponga, on June 15th:  
1st F. Suter.  
2nd J. Dettling.  
3rd A. Risi.  
D. Ramans, Consolation prize.

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### Twenty Million Fruit Trees in Switzerland

A census carried out in 1951, whose results have only just been published, shows that Switzerland has about 20.8 million fruit trees, which corresponds to an average of 4 per head of population. This figure comprises trees of many different kinds, ages and crops, and it is estimated that the major part of the Swiss fruit production is yielded by half the number covered by the survey.

This census was part of the measures taken to speed up the alteration and the rationalisation of arboriculture and to strike a more harmonious balance between offer and demand through improved quality.

### Swiss Loan to the French State Railways

According to Swiss newspaper reports it is proposed that the Swiss Federal Railways make a loan of 200 million Swiss francs to the French State Railways. The first credit of 50 million

Swiss francs is thought to be advanced by Swiss Banks. The loans are to be used for the electrification of the following French Railway lines leading to Switzerland: Strasbourg-Bale, Dijon-Vallorbe and Frasne-Les Verrieres.

The transfer of the said amount will be effected through EPU and thus will result in a certain decrease of the Swiss creditor position. This applies also to the 100 million Swiss francs loan made to the Italian Central Institute.

### Sherpa Tensing

Sherpa Tensing, of Mount Everest fame, is to attend a training course for mountain guides in Switzerland.

### Light Metal in Construction

In order to be able to provide decent housing accommodation for the large number of workmen who will be engaged for years on the construction work of the new dam at the Grande Dixence, this company has just put up a huge nine-storied building, at an altitude of 2400 metres (7200 feet) a.s.l. This building represents an innovation, through the use which has been made of light metal for architectural purposes. This new building had to fulfil three conditions: it had to be immune from all danger of fire, be resistant to the variations in temperature, which are very marked in the mountains, and be built in record time.

For these reasons the choice fell on metal, for building material. The framework of the edifice is made of steel, whilst all the exterior walls are composed of prefabricated normalised elements, which can be very easily put up on the steel framework. For the external casings, window-frames, sliding shutters and the roof, only light aluminium alloys have been used. This house was built in a few months. It contains clean, pleasant and warm housing accommodation.