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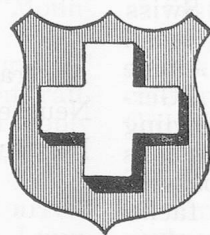
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HELVETIA

MONTHLY
PUBLICATION
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY IN
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

19th YEAR.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER.

AUCKLAND.

We have pleasure in announcing that Consul-General Pierre H. Aubaret, together with Mrs. Aubaret and their two sons, arrived in Wellington November 28th, to take up his duties as head of the Consulate. Both Mr. and Mrs. Aubaret are looking forward very much to meeting members of the Colony throughout the country, and wish to extend to one and all their sincere good wishes for a very Happy Christmas.

WARM CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

I wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and Prosperity throughout the New Year.

There may be some great changes in the coming year in our Society. With the help of you all, I am sure we can make our Society into a real and interesting thing and not a dead, useless movement.

As you know, we would like to nominate representatives in all the more important port cities of New Zealand, in order to welcome new arrivals from Switzerland, and to facilitate their acclimatization which, by experience, is always the most difficult during the first few days or weeks. The committee invite nominations for these posts from Wellington, New Plymouth, Napier, Tauranga, Christchurch and Dunedin, as well as Auckland. These representatives would also act as spokesmen for the members of the districts concerned.

The committee would welcome any suggestions in this respect which members of the Society may care to submit.

E. GILGEN,
Hon. Secretary.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Automobile Club Launches a Big Campaign

A friendly hand signal to other drivers made at the right moment is a good way of increas-

ing road safety, of making very heavy traffic more fluid, and—by no means the least of its merits—of creating a more friendly atmosphere on the road. The campaign that the Swiss Automobile Club has just launched under the slogan: "A friendly hand signal can be a great help to your fellow motorists," has a threefold aim. First of all, it hopes by means of the friendly hand signal to succeed in eliminating the many dangerous situations which can easily result in an accident. Secondly, a hand signal helps to speed up traffic and make it more fluid—particularly in town—by doing away with uncertainty and hesitation. Thirdly, the friendly hand signal creates an atmosphere of courtesy and camaraderie on the road. In this connection, the Swiss Automobile Club has no illusions; it knows that drivers will not change their ways from one day to the next, but in the long run the good example will certainly have its effect. The driver who sees that others are being considerate towards him will gradually and quite naturally be led to behave in the same courteous manner. If the friendly hand signal had no other result than to promote a more friendly and courteous atmosphere on the roads, this alone would fully justify the Swiss Automobile Club's campaign.

How to Cross the Alps during the Winter

During the long winter months the Alps form a barrier of snow and ice between Italy and Northern Europe with only the Julier Pass, at an altitude of 6600 feet, being kept open to traffic all the year round. It is easy to see therefore the importance to the motorist of the Simplon and St. Gothard rail tunnels which are completed by the Loetschberg and Abula tunnels. The passage of cars through these tunnels has been organised with great efficiency by the Swiss Federal Railways. Special loading platforms have been constructed as well as special wagons for transporting cars, and the loading formalities have been simplified down to the last details. Consequently the flow of cars can be kept up without difficulty even at peak periods in the first days of spring when the sap is rising in the trees and all tourists feel that irresistible urge to take