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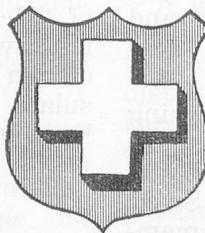
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HELVETIA

BI-MONTHLY
PUBLICATION
OF THE



SWISS SOCIETY
IN
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

20th YEAR.

DECEMBER, 1956.

AUCKLAND.

Christmas Greetings

My Dear Compatriots,

When your President, Dr. Bosshard, kindly offered me the hospitality of this Bulletin to address you on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, I felt grateful for this opportunity to wish you all a merry rejoicing at this turn of the year, and prosperity and happiness in the days to come. I am thinking of the many compatriots we have had the pleasure to meet, my wife, my colleagues of the Consulate and myself, from the South Island to the Auckland Province, in the Waikato and in Taranaki. I am thinking none the less of those we have not yet met and whom we are looking forward to knowing—particularly of those who do not have the privilege of celebrating the fete among their family, of those also who feel alone and isolated because they are living far out in the country or because they are newly arrived, and last, but by no means least, the aged and the sick. To all, I had at heart to wish a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, and with you all I wish to express these good wishes to the people of New Zealand, whose generous hospitality we gratefully appreciate, and, of course, to our compatriots at home in Switzerland.

At the time of writing these lines, however, other thoughts are unfortunately besieging our minds: 12 years after what was so much hoped by so many to be the end of a nightmare, the too familiar menace of the turmoil of war is with us again with its ugly procession of tragic consequences we know but too well. Men are fighting, individual and political freedom is being crushed, miserably unhappy hordes of refugees are lost in uncertainty. True, men of goodwill have been quick to help: from those in charge of the highest responsibilities of Government to the men, women and children in the street, who sponsor admirably such actions of humanity as the one led by the Red Cross all over the world. Unprecedented initiatives, so often calling for individual courage and appeals showing an in-

creased sense of world solidarity have been launched, such as that by our Federal Council. We will all hope, we most earnestly hope and pray, that these efforts will finally achieve what, after all, is the call of Christmas to men of goodwill: peace on earth! This will be our common thought on that day, my dear compatriots in New Zealand.

P-H. AUBARET,

Consul-General of Switzerland.

Readers will be delighted to hear of the acceptance of our youngest member in the Swiss Society. She is Miss Annabelle Joy Kaspar, born on August 24th, 1951, in Wellington, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kaspar, 39 Apu Crescent, Lyall Bay, Wellington.

SWISS CLUB, WAIKATO

On Sunday, 27th May, 1956, twenty-four Swiss resident in the Waikato District attended the original meeting organised by Messrs. A. Biland and W. Risi and held in the Te Rapa Hall, Te Rapa.

The meeting decided to form a Swiss Club, as a branch section of the Swiss Benevolent Society (now the Swiss Society of New Zealand), for the purpose of sociability and fellowship among Swiss by regular monthly gatherings. As committee members were elected: Mr. A. Biland, president; Mr. W. Risi, vice-president; Mrs. O. Fitzi, secretary; Mrs. Spirig, Mr. and Mrs. Binzegger, Mr. J. Arnet and Mr. Otto Fitzi. At a later committee meeting Mr. T. Loetscher was elected treasurer and reporter to the Head Office of the Swiss Society of New Zealand.

Since its inception the Club has held four social evenings at the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton, which were all well attended and proved most enjoyable. Such items as Swiss card games, folk songs and yodels, Fahnenschwingen, popular music, dances and raffles made every

evening a cheerful and pleasant reunion. The usual supper consisting of a Servela, bread and a cup of coffee has also proved to be most popular.

The Club membership is steadily increasing and we now have 60 members. Meetings are held every third Sunday of each month at the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton, at 8 p.m. All Swiss resident in the Waikato, who are not yet members, are heartily invited to join the Club, where they will be most welcome. The life membership fee is £1, in addition to the annual subscription to the Swiss Society of New Zealand.

OBITUARY NOTICES

It is with very deep regret that we announce the passing away of several of our compatriots, whose names are mentioned below, and we would like to extend to their relatives our most sincere sympathy.

Mr. Albert Kalin, Hawera.
Mr. Arthur Kuriger, Hawera.
Mr. Albert Meier, Waitara.
Mrs. Anna Notter, Kapuni.
Mr. John Zeier, Waitara.

CORRECTION

Owing to an error, it was stated in the August issue of "Helvetia" that Mr. Bachmann resigned from the Committee of the Swiss Society in New Zealand (Inc.), whereas the person referred to was Mr. Alois Bucheler and NOT Mr. Bachmann.

INQUIRY FROM A SWISS FARMER WISHING TO COME TO N.Z.

In order for a married man to come to New Zealand, and be granted the necessary Entry Permit to do so, it is essential for him first to have living accommodation assured, and it is practically impossible for any such person to fulfil this condition if he does not already have friends in New Zealand. This is the case for one of our compatriots, 33 years old, married with two children, who is now working in India as Joint Manager of the Agricultural Department of an old-established Swiss firm. He is a "Maschinenschlosser," but after his apprenticeship he went for two years to the Agricultural College ("Landwirtschaftliche Schule") in Rütti, Switzerland. He would like to work in New Zealand on a farm, and if this hope materialises, then when he gained enough knowledge of the local conditions it would be his intention to buy a farm.

As it is not excluded that one of the readers of "Helvetia" would like to help, their attention is drawn to this case. The address of the Swiss citizen concerned will be supplied by the Consulate of Switzerland, G.P.O. Box 386, Wellington.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The Secretary wishes to inform all members that Miss Doris Peyer has been elected to the position of Treasurer for the Society.

As the subscriptions were due on the 31st March last, the co-operation of members, who have not yet paid, would be greatly appreciated. (Membership fee remains at 15/- a year.)

Address of Treasurer:

Miss Doris Peyer,
48 Moa Road,
Pt. Chevalier,
Auckland, W.3.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Home Affairs

The navigability of the Upper Rhine, that is to say, that part of the Rhine which flows between Basle and the Lake of Constance, has once more been brought into the light of public interest through a statement of the present position contained in a Report of the Federal Council, submitted to Parliament. The Council of States proceeded immediately to discuss this problem, and took cognizance of the Report of the Federal Council in a favourable sense. No further Resolutions had to be passed. The purpose of the Report was merely to set forth the present position of this development project.

From this Report it once more became apparent that, in this matter economic, traffic, technical, financial and political aspects are to be found. The fact that the Rhine is also the frontier stream between Switzerland and Germany, gives rise, moreover, to international questions.

Up to the end of the last century, the Rhine, between Basle and Lake Constance, served chiefly as a navigational way. With the improvements brought to road traffic, the importance of transport by water declined. Then, later, when the progress of technique made it possible to exploit the forces of the Rhine through the construction of big electricity works, an improvement occurred in the prospect for navigation along the Upper Rhine. This was due to the fact that the weirs built in the proximity of the electricity plants, dammed the Rhine along