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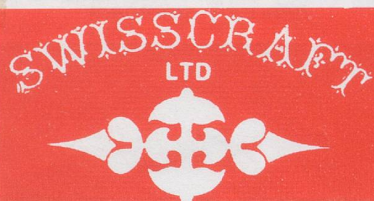
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Note to Secretaries

Please send in all your notices for
the February edition of
HELVETIA
by the 15th of January.
Thank you.

It's cattle-show-time in Switzerland! (October)

At this time of the year (during the
autumn months, when all cattle have
returned from the alps) the cattle
shows are held in lots of rural vil-
lages and towns. Autumn
was especially pleasant
weatherwise this year in
Switzerland, so we're told. In
many parts of the country
the farming community
would have dressed in folk-
lore costumes for these spe-
cial days. (our photo is from
a cattle show in eastern
Switzerland).



In decline - The City of Bern/Switzerland

Received from Wellington for insertion in Dec. Issue of HELVETIA

Translation of a "letter to the editor of the Berner Zeitung" composed and written in German by Ben
Liechti, Swiss-Kiwi, visiting Bern.

For the past 31 years I have lived in New Zealand, but I am still fond of my
place of origin, the City of Bern. As a tourist I have visited Bern several
times in the past 31 years. Now I am aggrieved to find problems like begging,
drug-consumption, alcohol-abuse, tagging and criminal activities so pro-
nounced. I find it hard to understand that so few people seem worried about
these problems here in Bern. What is happening to order and discipline,
things that we have justly been proud of in the past?! Why are you people of
Bern so complacent?

An example:

My Wife and myself walking along some streets of Bern one evening wanted
to do "window-shopping" in and near the "Schwanengasse". The smell of
faeces and vomit however prevented us from doing so and soon we saw
drug addicts hovering along the foot-path! - What a sight! - Why do you cit-
izens of Bern allow yourselves to be conned by your present politicians?
You, the ordinary citizens should have demanded a solution to combat the
criminal problems in your town! It is high time to admit the mistakes of the
past few years and to rectify and clean-up the act in our federal Capital, if
Bern is not to become a City of slums.

Yours: Ben Liechti, temporarily visiting Bern.

Translation by R.R.-Editor.