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# HELVETIA

Magazine for the members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc  
Helvetia is in its 78th year

February 2012

## Zürich

The Canton of Zurich has a population of almost 1,400,000. The canton is located in the northeast of Switzerland and the city of Zurich is its capital. Its neighbouring cantons are Schaffhausen to the north, Aargau to

the canton. In the northwest and southeast of the canton there are more mountainous areas. The valley of the river Linth leads into the Lake Zurich and continues as the Limmat river. This valley is the most significant valley of the



area. The lands to the north and east are more agricultural, but in every part of the canton manufacturing predominates. The canton of Zurich is noted for machinery. Silk and cotton weaving were important in the past, but



Spring in the Zürcher Oberland



Forch towards Pfannenstiel, Greifensee and Uster in the background

the west, the cantons of Zug and Schwyz to the south and the cantons of Thurgau and St. Gallen to the east. Most of the Lake Zurich is located within the canton.

The area of the canton of Zurich is 1,729 km<sup>2</sup>. About 80% of the land is considered productive. Forests make up 505 km<sup>2</sup>, whilst lakes cover 73 km<sup>2</sup>. The main lakes are the Lake Zurich, the Greifensee and the Pfäffikersee. Smaller lakes are Türlensee, Katzensee, Hüttnersee, Grosser Husemersee, Mettmehaslisee, Lützelsee, Egelsee and Seeweidsee.

Most of the canton consists of shallow river valleys which drain towards the Rhine to the north of

canton of Zurich. The valley of the Glatt river originates in the Greifensee and is separated from the Limmat by ridges. The valley of the river Töss is gorge-like. It is located in the east of the canton and is separated from the Toggenburg area in the Canton of St. Gallen by a mountainous area. The Hörnli (1133 m) is the highest elevation of this mountain ridge. The valley of the river Sihl is located in the west of the canton. The Sihl and the Limmat unite in the city of Zurich. The river Sihl is separated from the lake of Zurich by the Albis Range.

Most of the land is cultivated, but the canton of Zurich is not considered as an agricultural

have now ceased to be of importance. There is a large paper industry. Small and middle sized companies are important contributors to the economy of the canton of Zurich. The city of Zurich is a major banking centre, and insurance is also of importance.

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