

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 3 (1937-1938)
Heft: 5

Artikel: Emigration
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943105>

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HELVETIA

Monthly Publication
of the Swiss Benevolent Society
in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, 1st February, 1938. 3rd Year. Vol. 5.

DR. W. SCHMID, our new Consul of Switzerland, has notified us that he has opened the Swiss Consulate at:

309, Brandon House,
152, Featherston Street,
WELLINGTON.

He has informed us that his appointment has now been recognised by His Excellency the Governor General and that he has taken up his duties as Consul of Switzerland as from the 17th January, 1938.

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With deepest regret we record the death of our countryman, FRITZ SATTLER, farmer, of Inglewood. He unfortunately lost his life through being crushed by a lorry.

F. Sattler was born at Barr, Canton Zug in 1890. At the age of 25 he emigrated to America. In 1920 he sailed for New Zealand. Here he settled in Taranaki where he resided until his death. He was not married and he is survived by three brothers, Messrs. Charles Sattler, Hawera, Hans Sattler, Te Awamutu, and Emil Sattler, Morrinsville, to whom we extend our sympathy.

We are very much indebted to a fellow-member in Taranaki who informed us of this sad fatality. This has not only awakened our sympathy with all his relatives, but it has brought home to us the fact that so far we have not had the pleasure of registering any members from Inglewood and its surroundings, although there seem to be a fair number of Swiss in the locality in question.

Our Society has now entered into its third year, and we would welcome members from Inglewood.

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EMIGRATION:

Up to the end of September, 1937, the Political Department of Switzerland has assisted 162 families comprising 812 persons to emigrate overseas. Another 25 families of 151 persons have also secured federal assistance, making a total of 187 families or 963 persons. Most of these emigrants have gone to Argentina, Brazil and Canada. Others intend to settle in Paraguay, Peru, and Ecuador. Quite a notable Swiss colony has originated in Puerto Rico in Argentina. As the present Government

grants are nearly exhausted the Federal Council intend to present to the Parliament proposals of further subsidies to assist emigration, amounting to 1½ millions Swiss francs.

This report presents to us a very favourable opportunity to approach the responsible Authorities in New Zealand regarding the immigration of Swiss farm labourers and milkers. Everybody knows that the farming community of New Zealand is greatly handicapped by a dearth of farm labour. We feel convinced that, should the New Zealand Government consider our proposal favourably, a considerable number of Swiss emigrants could be placed.

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PROHIBITION OF FREEMASONRY IN SWITZERLAND:

A national poll taken on the 28th November 1937 on a proposal to abolish Freemasonry in Switzerland was negatived by the large majority of 281,000 votes, or approximately 66%.

The initiative for this proposal was introduced by the so-called Federal Action, a small group which at one time carried the name "Federal Front" and which is under the guidance of Dr. W. Frick and E. Hüni of Zürich.

The result is a remarkable one, inasmuch as the only canton which favoured it was Fribourg. All the other cantons voted solidly against it. Apparently the people of our country considered this proposal an encroachment on our liberties as laid down in our Federal laws, especially on the freedom of association.

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THE NEW PALACE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IN GENEVA:

Six years after the formation of the League of Nations in 1926, the Council decided to build a home for the League which should answer for every purpose. This work should also represent an expression of goodwill amongst all the various peoples concerned. Of 377 plans, 9 were selected for a final decision. On the 7th September, 1929, the foundation stone was laid for the new palais in the Arania Park. On the 6th November, 1933, according to Swiss custom, a small spruce tree on the top of the roof proclaimed the completion of the framework. In February, 1936, the Secretarial Offices were opened, and now finalisation of the erection of this wonderful building will not take much longer. An average of 500 workers of all countries belonging to the League are employed. The general costs amount to 29 Million Swiss francs. This does not include the library, valued at 5,5 Million francs, the munificent gift of J. D. Rockefeller, Junior. The Palais is divided into 4 parts, 1st. The Secretarial Offices, 2nd. The Council's Hall, 3rd. The Assembly Hall, and 4th. The Library. Its dimensions are 18,000 square meters and approximately 40,000 cubic meters. In volume it can easily be compared with the palace of Versailles. The furnishing of the rooms was taken over separately by all the States concerned, and no costs and labour were spared to combine style and beauty. Well and truly it will be the Home of all Nations of the World. Building and furnishing harmonise beautifully in its exquisite refinement.

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