

Annual report

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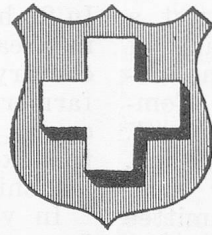
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SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY IN
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GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

19th YEAR.

AUGUST, 1955.

AUCKLAND.

**AUSLANDSCHWEIZERWERK
DER NHG**

Liebe Landsleute,

Während wir heute, am 1. August, den Bund unserer Vater erneuern, steht uns ein jeder von Euch vor Augen. Und aus ganzem Herzen erneuern wir denn auch den Freundschaftspakt, den die Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft vor 36 Jahren mit Euch besiegelt hat, als sie sich entschloss, zwischen der Schweiz und allen denen, die in der Fremde leben, eine Brücke zu schlagen. Wir versprechen Euch, weiterhin für Euch Zeugnis abzulegen. Wir versprechen, Euch auch in Zukunft Heimatluft nahezubringen. Und es bedeutet für uns eine grosse Ehre, es gerade heute zu tun, indem wir Euch im Folgenden die Botschaft vermitteln, die unser Bundespräsident an Euch richtet.

Euch allen wünschen wir eine schöne Bundesfeier.

AUSLANDSCHWEIZERWERK DER NHG

Alice Briod

Dr. H. R. Christ

**1st OF AUGUST MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS
CONFEDERATION**

Meine lieben Landsleute,

der 1. August soll uns Schweizer in der Heimat und Euch Schweizer im Ausland im gleichen Geist vereinigen. Er soll uns aber auch veranlassen, über den Sinn unserer Zugehörigkeit zur eidgenössischen Gemeinschaft nachzudenken.

Ihr, die Ihr fern der Heimat festgehalten seid, mögt Euch gelegentlich mit einer gewissen Enttauschung fragen, warum die Erwartungen, die Ihr in die Heimat setzt, nicht immer Euren Hoffnungen entsprechend erfüllt werden. Wir aber, die wir durch Lander und Meere von unseren Mitbürgern im Ausland getrennt sind, können

die Bedeutung Eurer verschiedenen Sorgen nur im Rahmen der Gesamtheit unserer gemeinsamen Probleme beurteilen. Es liegt uns indessen daran, Euch wissen und fühlen zu lassen, dass Eure Sorgen auch unsere Sorgen sind. Mit uns gehört Ihr einer Gemeinschaft an, die nur im Zeichen der Solidarität und des gegenseitigen Verständnisses leben und sich entwickeln kann.

In diesem Sinne wenden wir uns an Euch, dankbar für Eure Anhänglichkeit an die Heimat und vom Willen getragen, Euch zu helfen, die Schwierigkeiten unserer Zeit soweit wie nur möglich zu meistern.

Der Bundesrat und Eure Mitbürger in der Schweiz wünschen Euch eine glückliche Zukunft und übermitteln Euch den Gruss der Heimat.

Max Petitpierre
Bundespräsident

ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society herewith submits its twentieth Annual Report and this year's balance sheet. Owing to the change of the closing of the financial year from 30th September to the 31st March, as adopted at last year's general meeting, the period reviewed covers only six months. The membership on preliminary estimate has remained stationary. It is hoped that a slight increase will be shown when all members have sent in their subscriptions, which are in some cases delayed on account of the change of the financial year. No request for financial assistance was received during the period under review.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held during the afternoon of the 2nd of July at the home of our Vice-President, Mr. W. Risi, at Ngaruawahia. It was attended by an increased number of members and relatives from the Auckland, Waikato and Taranaki Districts, over forty being present. Last year's minutes and balance sheet, as shown here, were adopted. Mr. Hans Gilgen resigned from the Committee on account of other activities, and in his place was elected Dr. Kaegi, of Bombay, as representative of the Auckland District. The Committee was further

of the opinion that its membership should be enlarged so as to give the Waikato District a good representation, thus widening the basis of the Committee. Consequently the meeting decided to elect two new members to the Committee from the Waikato District, Mr. J. Arnet, Springdale, Waitoa, and Mr. A. Biland, Te Rapa, Hamilton, were elected, in addition to our Vice-President, Mr. W. Risi. The other Committee members from Auckland, Miss W. Keller, Mr. Bucheler, Mr. M. Wehrli, were re-elected, as well as the President, and also the Secretary.

The General Meeting decided 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 acclimatisation which, by experience, is always the most difficult during the first few days. The Committee invite nominations for these posts from Wellington, New Plymouth, Napier, Tauranga, Christchurch, Dunedin, as well as Auckland. These representatives would also act as spokesmen for the members of the districts concerned, bringing any matters of importance to the attention of the Committee. It was also decided to advise the Immigration Authorities and the Swiss Auswanderungsamt in Bern of the existence of representatives of the Swiss Benevolent Society at various ports to help all Swiss immigrating to New Zealand.

A further remit charged the Committee to study a change of the constitution of the Society so as to adapt the Society for new tasks. It is felt that since most resident members, when in need, become beneficiaries of the Social Security of New Zealand, which covers a much wider field than the Society can ever hope to deal with, its programme should comprise activities not yet included in the constitution. The Committee would welcome any suggestion in this respect which members of the Society may care to submit.

At the conclusion of the meeting the social continued well into the night, with accordion playing, yodels, and community singing. The president would like to use this occasion to thank Mr. and Mrs. Risi for the lavish hospitality offered.

DR. L. BOSSHARD,
President.

36th LAUSANNE NATIONAL FAIR

Once again Swiss manufacturers will be showing the world their latest lines at the Lausanne National Fair, which is to be held in the traditional month of September, this year from 10th to 25th.

This great exhibition will be based on the four principal groupings of the Swiss productive system: agriculture, from which the others took their rise; industry, whose products figure so largely at the Fair; and trade and handicrafts,

where the emphasis will be on consumer goods. In 22 halls on a site measuring 134,000 sq. yards in area, 2300 exhibitors from all parts of the country will show what the manufacturers, farmers and craftsmen have achieved in the course of the year and bring home to visitors the excellence of the Swiss design and workmanship.

In view of the position Switzerland occupies in world trade, the Lausanne Fair has always been national in character. Nonetheless it has on previous occasions made the friendly gesture of inviting one foreign country to be represented as a guest of honour.

Hence, under the aegis of its Legation at Berne and its Minister of Trade, Argentina will be putting its principal resources on show in an official pavilion. It is most opportune that Argentina should have been invited to take part this year, for both countries are at present making efforts to improve and extend their mutual trade.

Since the success of the Fair has been due in the past not only to the services it performs for Swiss trade and industry but also to the interesting exhibitions held at the same time, the 35th Lausanne Fair will include a fascinating pavilion where the astonishing possibilities of the new science of cybernetics will be exhibited in unprecedented detail.

Valuable concessions in the form of reduced rail fares in Switzerland and abroad are available to every visitor to the Fair. Those wishing to take advantage of the reductions should make application to official Swiss representatives in their own country of wherever they are resident.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

An Urban Hygienic Problem Cleverly Solved

Recently, a new building has arisen in Berne, possessed of a very modern architecture, with definite lines and large windows. Surrounded as it is by lawns, ornamented by rose trees and flowering shrubs, one might easily take this building for a school or a sanatorium, were it not for the immense chimney which dominates it. This elegant edifice, which is just as clean and modern inside as it is outside, is nothing other than the "Garbage Palace" of the town of Berne. This incinerating plant for household garbage, which is in accordance with the requirement of the public hygiene of a big city, is one of the most perfect in the world. Its model equipment has been entirely produced by Swiss firms. Its incinerators make it possible to get rid of approximately 80,000 m³ of garbage, which has to be eliminated from the city of Berne each year. Although the plant is not yet working day and night, it is almost able to cover its costs. Indeed, every ton of garbage burnt produces a ton of steam which is supplied to firms in the neighbourhood and also serves