

# News of the colony

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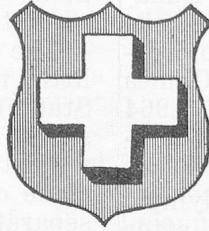
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# HELVETIA

MONTHLY  
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OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY IN  
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

19th YEAR.

JUNE, 1955.

AUCKLAND.

It is with very much regret that we have to announce that, owing to ill-health, Consul Blanchard, who was in hospital for several weeks, had to leave New Zealand at extremely short notice. He expressly asked to be remembered to all members of the Colony. Unfortunately, due to the state of his health, it is doubtful whether he will return to New Zealand, all the more as he is to be assigned to another Post at the end of this year.

## NEWS OF THE COLONY

### Obituary

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of one of our oldest members, Mr. Benedict Schumacher, who passed away suddenly on April 24th, 1955, at his residence, Luanna Farm, Ngarua, Waitoa. We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### Final Report on the 39th Swiss Industries Fair, Basle

The 39th Swiss Industries Fair, which took place in Basle from 16th to 26th April, 1955, was favoured by the most beautiful springtime weather for practically the whole eleven days and registered an extraordinarily large number of visitors. Altogether 459,612 admission cards were issued, or 23,795 more than in the previous year. If the repeated visits made by people holding season tickets are taken into account, it is estimated that the total number of entrances was more than 700,000.

Some 30,000 visitors came from abroad. Eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-four from seventy different countries were recorded at the Foreign Visitors' Office, as compared with 12,275 from 78 countries in the preceding year. Germany headed the list with 5723 visitors, followed by France with 3063.

There were 346 visitors from the United Kingdom, as against 272 in 1954, and the number of American visitors was 172 as compared with 283 last year. Canada sent 25 visitors this year and 20 in 1954. These are the actual visitors who applied to the Foreign Visitors' Office, but experience has shown that the real number of foreign visitors is usually considerably more.

The great interest shown by the foreign visitors, and which was reflected in the numbers recorded, was a good indication of the successful business transacted by exhibitors in the traditional export groups such as watchmaking, textiles, machine tools, the electrical industry and general engineering.

In the Watch Fair, which was organised for the 25th time and which has long ago developed into a regular rendezvous for those in the trade, exhibitors reported that turnover was on the whole greater than in the preceding year. In the textile section it was the clothing industry which attracted most attention together with the much admired special exhibit "Madame-Monsieur." Pronounced foreign demand for the products of the electrical and machine tool industries, which were particularly well represented this year at the Fair, corresponds to the general picture of the economic situation in most countries where a great amount of capital investment is taking place.

The business conversations and transactions which took place during the Fair were based in all the groups on optimism and confidence, and it is therefore quite permissible to describe the 39th Swiss Industries Fair as a complete success from every point of view.

The 40th Swiss Industries Fair will take place in Basle from 14th to 24th April, 1956.

### Lausanne and the 1960 Olympic Games

Between June 12th and 14th next, at the Inter-allied Club in Paris, the International Olympic Committee, consisting of some sixty members, will be deciding on the allocation of the 1960 Games. Lausanne has applied for the award of the Summer Games, while St. Moritz is trying once more for the Winter Games.