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Autor: Schmid, Walter
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HELVETIA

Monthly Publication
of the Swiss Benevolent Society
in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, 1st. January, 1938.

3rd Year: Vol. IV

Once more we are on the threshold of a new Year and we wish to extend to all our Compatriots in New Zealand the best of Health and Happiness,- A most hearty PROSIT NEUJAHR.

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It is our pleasure and privilege to announce that our newly appointed Consul, Dr. Walter Schmid, arrived in New Zealand last week. He was met by a small deputation of our members upon arrival, and he expressed the keenest interest in our endeavours to bring the Swiss community in closer contact and considers the medium of our progressive Society will go far towards promoting the desired objective.

Dr. Schmid promised us his fullest support in every possible way, particularly as regards suitable news from Switzerland, which has been badly lacking since the closing of the previous Consular office. In passing, we may remark that this lack of regular news from home has often prevented your committee from publishing more suitable and interesting articles. The "Helvetia" will be considerably enlarged in future, and a new innovation will be featured in the way of regular news and articles printed in our own language. This additional work will be furnished by the Consular office and in the name of all our members we wish to express our appreciation of the help offered. Our publication however, is of course still available to any member wishing to contribute news, advertisements, etc., - in fact we encourage you to do so.

As soon as the Consular office has been established in Wellington, we shall publish the address and other eventual information. The Swiss Benevolent Society of N.Z. desires to offer Dr. Schmid a most hearty welcome and trusts that his sojourn and his work amongst us will be most pleasant and beneficial.

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Meinen Landsleuten in Neuseeland zum Gruss.

Meine amtliche Versetzung vom Schweizerischen Konsulat in New Orleans, Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika, nach Neuseeland, so sehr es mich bemuehte, die nach 10 jaehrigen, beruflichen Aufenthalte in dem Lande der "unbegrenzten" Moeglichkeiten gemachten Freundschaften zuruecklassen zu muessen, war fuer mich ein Ereignis, dem ich mit Spannung entgegensah. Es freut mich ausserordentlich Gelegenheit zu haben, eine Spanne meines Lebens unter den von der Heimat entferntesten Landsleuten, unsern Schweizern in Neuseeland, verbringen zu koennen. Mein erster Eindruck von meinen Landsleuten hier in Neuseeland, welche ich bereits kennen gelernt habe, gibt mir die feste Ueberzeugung, dass es mir unter Euch gefallen wird. Es freut

mich auch besonders feststellen zu koennen,dass der Schweizername in diesem Lande einen guten Klang hat,was wir Schweizer in der Heimat zum grossen Teil Euren Vorgaengern und Euch zu verdanken haben. Meinen besondern Dank nochmals der Delegation Eures Vereines,welche mich bei meiner Ankunft in Auckland in Empfang nahm und der sich nachher noch einige andere Landsleute anschlossen. Ich werde,wenn mir die Redaktion Eures Monatsblattes "Helvetia" diese Gefaelligkeit erweist,ueber die Aufgaben meiner Mission in diesem Lande,in den kommenden Nummern Eures Vereinsorgans,berichten koennen. Fuer dieses Mal will ich mich damit begnuegen, Euch allen freundeidgenoessischen Gruss zu entbieten und der Hoffnung Ausdruck zu verleihen, im Laufe der naechsten Zeit noch recht viele von Euch persoendlich kennen lernen zu koennen. Auch moechte ich Euch heute schon versichern,dass mir persoendlich und dem naechstens in Wellington zu eroeffnenden Konsulate keine Muehe zu viel sein wird, Eure Vereinsbestrebungen foerdern zu helfen und Euch zu Diensten zu stehen. Es ist mir bereits gelungen eine Sekretuerin aus Euren Kreisen zur Mitarbeit beim Konsulate zu gewinnen, naemlich Frl.Hanley Marie Dahinden aus Oeo bei Opunake,Taranaki.

Wellington, den 21 Dezember,1937.

Dr.Walter Schmid, Vizekonsul und Verweser.

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SPORTS IN SWITZERLAND.

GYMNASTICS: The fame of Swiss Gymnasts has long ago spread far beyond the frontiers. The gymnasts of today are following up the unbroken tradition of more than a century. It speaks for itself that over 150,000 members are today enrolled in the Federal Gymnastic Association. The tradition is nation wide, free from all class distinction,a sport in its purest sense. Rich and poor, high and low, all are judged by their ability. Swiss gymnasts have also been instrumental in developing this fine sport in other countries, and in international contests they again and again demonstrated their ability and set up new standards of proficiency. Nearly every district -every parish - in Switzerland has its Gymnastic Club and a gymnasium of its own. And everywhere hard work and good fellowship are the watchwords.

Next to the Gymnastic sport,the Football (or Soccer) is the most popular pastime in our country. Small as the country is,some outstanding teams have been produced,and,for instance, during the Olympic games at Amsterdam,the international eleven conquered all competitors excepting the final match which was lost against Uruguay.

LIGHT ATHLETICS: Practically every category of light athletics is enthusiastically practised in our old country. The number of athletes is legion and the general standard of performance exceptionally good. In spring cross country races are held in all parts of Switzerland; in early summer local meetings take place as preliminary canters for the national championships and international contests,which are usually held between July and September on the excellent sports grounds and running tracks of Basle,Berne,Lausanne and Zurich

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Large Foreign Loan: Recently a loan of 200 Million Swiss Francs has been taken up by the big combined French State Railways. The interest is fixed at 4% and the subscription at 99. The big transaction is negotiated by a Syndicate of leading Swiss Banks.