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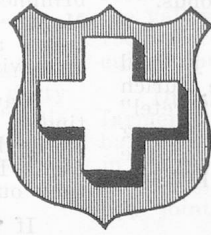
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HELVETIA

MONTHLY
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OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY IN
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

16th YEAR.

OCTOBER, 1951.

AUCKLAND.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

A Swiss Shooting Club has been born in Stratford, so following the Swiss tradition. The best results during the month of September were as follows:—

	Points.
T. Napfli	198.11
F. Suter	195.8
Niederberger	193.8
T. Schelbert	193.5
F. Gwerder	191.6
A. Risi	191.6

We wish the new Swiss Shooting Club in the Taranaki district every success, and hope that it will grow and prosper.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND'S MERCHANT FLEET.

During the last world war Switzerland had eleven cargo boats, three boats for the Red Cross, and eight chartered Greek ships at her disposal. Today the Swiss Merchant Navy includes twenty ships totalling more than 100,000 tons. Several units will be added to this flotilla, and just recently Swiss enterprises have ordered three new boats, each of 5000 tons. The crews of these ships consist of different nationalities. Most of the captains are foreigners, but a certain number of Swiss have obtained their officer's or master's certificate. The ships sailing under the Swiss flag are officially registered in Basle.

Auckland and Wellington have just had the visit of the Swiss M/S. "Baden," 10,000 tons. This brand-new ship belongs to the Nautilus Co., in Lugano. She has left Wellington for Fiji, where she will load sugar.

The festivities to celebrate the 450th entry of the canton of Basle into the Confederation started on Thursday, July 12th, at Liestal and Basle.

At 9 o'clock in the morning all the church bells throughout the "Baselbeits" were ringing.

The "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-County met at Liestal in solemn conclave, and was addressed by its President, Dr. R. Straumann.

Amongst the invited guests were the members of the Federal Council, representatives of the two Federal Chambers, the Supreme Court, the cantonal governments, the army, the church, the universities, etc., etc.

A large procession, depicting various historical events passed through the gaily beflagged street to the military barracks where a performance of the "Festspiel" entitled "Gottwilche" by E. Wirz was given. The festive gathering was addressed by the Presidents of the governments of the cantons of Basle-Town and Basle-County, Dr. F. Ebi and M. Kaufmann respectively, and by Mr. E. Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation.

As at Liestal, the members of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town assembled at the town hall in Basle to hold a solemn meeting, which was addressed by its President, Mr. Burkhardt. Amidst the thunder of the guns and the pealing of church bells a historic procession was formed, comprising over 12,000 participants, which passed through the richly decorated streets, lined by 10,000 school children, to the old battlefield of St. Jakob. In the procession, one noticed the members of the Federal Council, who received a specially warm reception.

A "Festspiel" was performed in the evening in the big Hall of the "Mustermesse." Many of the buildings and monuments were flood-lit and dancing took place in all public places.

Swiss mountain guides will reduce their fares by a third as a result of a Swiss Federal Council decision to make a subsidy to the Mountain Guides' Association.

A day's climbing tour of the Matterhorn will now cost 100 francs (£8/4/-), compared with 150 francs (£12 6/-) in the past.

The Swiss Government warned housewives to lay in a two months' supply of essential provisions, including sugar, rice, fats, oil and soap.

Recalling a similar Government warning last year, the Department of Public Economy said that those families which had consumed stocks should lose not time in replacing them. "In a troubled period such as now," the statement said, "reason demands that citizens of a country without access to the sea should have sufficient supplies on hand."

The well-known mountain guide Otto Furrer (aged 48), father of four children, lost his life on an ascent of the Matterhorn. He was thrice winner of the Kanda-race. (Twice at St. Anton and once at Murren.)