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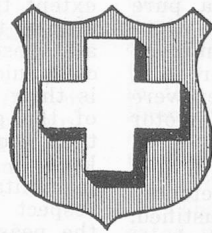
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# HELVETIA

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PUBLICATION  
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY IN  
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

16th YEAR.

JULY, 1951.

AUCKLAND.

## BOTSCHAFT DES BUNDESPRASIDENTEN AN DIE AUSLANDSCHWEIZER

Liebe Schweizer im Ausland,

Wenn am 1. August die Glocken lauten, auf den Hohen die Feuer lodern, dann denken wir an Euch, Auslandschweizer. Euer Schicksal lasst uns nicht gleichgültig. Wir wissen, dass unter Euch viele mit Schwierigkeiten zu kämpfen haben. Die ernste, immer noch so unruhvoll vor uns liegende Zeit bringt uns einander näher, als das in einer friedlichen Welt der Fall wäre.

Wir wissen, dass Ihr Auslandschweizer die Heimat nie vergessen habt und nie vergessen werdet. Wir wissen, dass während den Stunden, da in unserer gemeinsamen Heimat der 1. August gefeiert wird, sich Eure Gedanken der Schweiz zuwenden. Wir wissen, dass Ihr bei uns seid, wo immer auch Ihr in der Fremde weilen moget.

Der Bundesrat und das ganze Schweizervolk senden Euch die besten Wünsche. Der Gruss aus der Heimat soll Euch verkünden, dass wir eng verbunden bleiben wollen, wie weit wir auch voneinander getrennt sind.

Möge unseren Schweizerkolonien Glück und Segen beschieden sein und mögen die Schweizer im Ausland ihre Arbeit von Erfolg gekrönt sehen.

Wir wünschen nichts sehnlicher, als dass am 1. August die Herzen aller Schweizer im Inland und im Ausland von den gleichen vaterlandischen Gedanken getragen sein mögen.

ED. von STEIGER,

Im Juli, 1951.

Bundespräsident.

My dear fellow-countrymen,

Soon you will be gathering together to celebrate our National Day. More than one among you will experience a pang at the heart, and the upsurge of "Heimweh" when your thoughts turn to your homeland, the memory of which can never be lost, even among the lovely New Zealand countryside. Everyone retains an affection for his native land, the country of his forebears, that soil which for countless generations has nurtured his ancestors, which has been watered with their sweat and with their blood. To become what it is today every acre has cost undreamed-of efforts, has been worked over and transformed by untiring labour, goodwill and love. The dead who lie beneath that earth are greater in number and more strong than the living. It is natural, then, that your hearts should respond to the thought of those tombstones, eloquent of the heroic past of our ancestors. They are our homeland, no less than the flowering orchards, the sparkling lake, the "Alpengluhen" which leaves you in

a dream, the bells of the flocks going up to the Alpine pastures, the crackle of rifles on Sunday morning at the shooting range, the "Mannerchor" with strong male voices rising into a starry sky. How can we fail to think of them?

On the 1st August fires will be lit on the hilltops, village and cathedral bells will be pealing. This year, as every year for centuries, people will gather to hear the Mayoral speech in the public square and the children will parade carrying their paper lanterns with the white crosses. Medal in buttonhole, the men will meet in the old inns to drink a glass of white wine. They will think on their good fortune in being Swiss and in being free, but they will not speak of it, for a kind of reserve prevents them from expressing their intimate feelings. But one who knows them can read their thoughts, their fierce determination to remain independent, to owe nothing to anyone, to rely solely on themselves, which is to say, on their own work, to remain deaf to foreign propaganda and to flattering promises; in short, to keep to the straight path of duty.

Foreigners have often asked me how it is that the Swiss manage to govern themselves with so much wisdom, and how they have arrived at an enviable degree of economic development. We are certainly no more intelligent than other peoples, for intelligence is equally distributed everywhere. These people would find the answer to their question if they could be present at the celebration of our National Day. What would they see? First of all, this: that everyone works as usual. Here lies the secret of our success—work. Amusement comes afterwards.

Let us hope, my dear countrymen, that the sound of bells which will reach your ears by radio on the 1st August will be heard also in the rest of the world, more especially in Europe; for this is the sound which calls for unity, for tolerance, for vigilance; the carillon of liberty without which life would not be worth living; it is likewise a call to peace, so necessary to our neighbours to tend their wounds and to rebuild homes for those who are camping in ruins.

To that message of the bells which will come to us on the 1st August we Swiss of the Antipodes will reply: remain united, indomitable, strongly armed like our forefathers to defend our homeland. For our part here, we serve her in making her beloved by the land which has adopted us, through our uprightness, our work and our loyalty.

H. BLANCHARD,

Consul.

This year the "Sechselauten" at Zurich coincided with the 600th anniversary of the adherence of Zurich to the Confederation. The feast was a great success as the