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Autor: Ungemuth, W.
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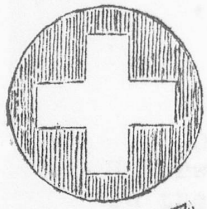
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HELVETIA

Monthly Publication
of the Swiss Benevolent Society
in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, 1st April, 1936.

No. 7

Mr. A. C. Blau informs us that the Political Department has decided to temporarily shut the Swiss Consulate in Auckland and put New Zealand under the jurisdiction of the Swiss Consulate-General in Sydney.

All the correspondence dealing with consular affairs should, therefore, as from the 15th April, 1936, be addressed to :-

G.P.O.Box 1515 DD,
Sydney,
New South Wales,
Australia.

MEMBERS AND SWISS COUNTRYMEN IN NEW ZEALAND:

Like a thunderbolt from the Blue, came the bad news that our Swiss Consulate in Auckland was to be closed by the 15th April, 1936.

For the whole Swiss community in New Zealand this action on the part of the Authorities in Berne is very lamentable. We are losing not only an important and absolutely necessary Institution, but also a Consul who has his heart in the right place. Mr. Blau has endeared himself to all he came in contact with. He was always to be found where sympathy and help were needed. Our Society is losing a very good Friend and a hard-working Helper.

We took it upon ourselves, in the name of the Swiss Benevolent Society, to despatch a cable to Berne voicing our protest. Following this, a letter was sent, confirming our cable and requesting the Department to at least reconsider the question of maintaining the Consulate, perhaps with the alternative of an Hon.Consul.

Without a Consulate we are stranded. Matters of urgency requiring consular assistance will suffer a delay of at least 2 weeks, if the nearest Consulate is in Sydney, N.S.W., quite apart from the fact that many things will never receive the necessary personal attention.

We hope that our efforts will bear the result we expect, although we cannot aspire to retain our esteemed Consul. So all we can do is to convey to Mr. Blau and his respected Mother, our very best wishes for their future and a very hearty Farewell.

W. UNGEMUTH, Secretary.

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