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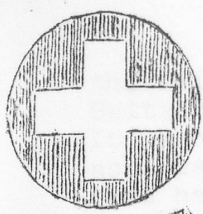
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# HELVETIA

Monthly Publication  
of the Swiss Benevolent Society  
in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, 1st May, 1936.

No. 8

## FAREWELL LUNCHEON TO THE CONSUL.

The Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society wishes to thank all members who helped to make the Luncheon tendered to Mr. Blau a success. The following extract from the N.Z. Herald of April 17th, will best illustrate the function:

Tributes to the work done by Dr. A. C. Blau, retiring Swiss Consul, who will leave by the Mariposa to-night on his return to Switzerland, were paid by speakers at a luncheon tendered to Dr. Blau at the Farmers' Trading Company's tearooms yesterday by Swiss residents of Auckland.

Mr. E. Merz, chairman of the Swiss Benevolent Society, expressed on behalf of the Swiss people throughout the Dominion the regret felt at Dr. Blau's departure. During his term in New Zealand he had rendered excellent service.

A travelling rug and a box made from New Zealand inlaid woods was presented to Dr. Blau by Miss M. Keller on behalf of those present.

Referring to his sorrow at leaving New Zealand, Dr. Blau said he had made many friends in the Dominion, both British and Swiss. He would always retain the happiest memories of his stay here.

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We wish to thank the following members for their donations which made the presentation possible:- Messrs. Altherr, Bernhard, Diggelman, Fenk, Guntern, Kaelin, Mathis L. & A., Maurer, Merz, Peyer, Schlaepfer, Schuler A. & H. & F., Steiner John, Jos. A., K. & Ch., Suter, Truetsch, Ungemuth, Walder, Weber, Werder, Zuercher, Steyer, Putman, Mesdames Duss and Gafner. - A total of £10:15:0 was collected and we have credited £2:15:0 towards the fund of the Society, as this sum arrived too late to include with the presentation fund.

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## THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF SWITZERLAND.

The position adopted by Switzerland, in the question of sanctions, has been forced upon her, as much on account of the particular geographical and economic situation which she occupies, face to face with Italy, as by virtue of the principles of neutrality which remain at the very base of her political policies. Switzerland entered into the League of Nations in reserving her neutrality, which was formally recognised by the member states of the League, in the Treaty of London of 1920. Switzerland is one of the principal countries for the transit of goods to and from Italy. She has for many years maintained intimate relationships, both economic and cultural, with her southern neighbour, and, if