

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 14 (1949)  
**Heft:** 8

**Vorwort:** Farewell message from the Consul, Mr. Ernst Theiler  
**Autor:** Theiler, E.

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# HELVETIA

MONTHLY  
PUBLICATION  
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY IN  
NEW ZEALAND (INC)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY.

WELLINGTON, N.Z.  
AUGUST, 1949.

Volume 8.  
14th year.

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MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION  
TO SWISS ABROAD  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE AUGUST CELEBRATIONS  
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There is hardly a Swiss family that has not relatives or friends abroad. I have a special reason to remember this because a considerable number of relatives and close friends of mine with their families are living across the seas. I often receive letters and photographs from them, and I know of their attachment to the old homeland. Already in the European countries, whenever I went abroad, I noticed the particular affection with which the Swiss greet people from home; they thoroughly enjoy hearing the sound of the native language again.

We who remained at home appreciate these sentiments and feelings of homesickness and are proud of this affection and loyalty of the Swiss abroad.

Therefore you Swiss in distant lands who celebrate the anniversary of your country, we understand and remember you. We are proud of your excellent achievements and the good reputation you enjoy. The integrity and ability of the Swiss abroad have created a good name for the Swiss individually and for the country as a whole.

You are rivalling with those at home. You know well that only with first-class achievements is our small country able to endure, and to develop further and assure for the future, the high cultural and economic standard of the Swiss people.

Dear Swiss abroad, we are conscious of your contributions. When you assemble and remember the ones at home in your home village or town, and recall the days of childhood, then be assured our thoughts are with you. Do not break the ties with your old homeland; visit it if you can. An aged Mother, or Brothers and Sisters, as well as former friends, await you. Keep faithful to the old country and its inhabitants, and do not let the love for the beautiful country which is yours grow cold. The homeland remembers you and thanks you.

E. NOBS,  
Federal President.

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FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL, MR. ERNST THEILER.  
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Dear Compatriots:

The Maori song "Now is the hour" is strongly coming to my mind as I am composing these lines to say "Farewell" to you all. It is indeed with great regret that I am leaving New Zealand, where so many Swiss families have found a happy home. It has been my privilege to visit you from time to time, and you have been very kind to me and to my family; we all thank you very sincerely. Wherever I went in governmental circles,

people never failed to point out what a splendid lot the Swiss in New Zealand are. They are held up as an example of integrity and sobriety, as well as hard working people. Needless to say, I was always very proud to hear such excellent reports, and I can say to you "I am proud of you".

From time to time new immigrants from Switzerland arrive, and it is with great pleasure that I have noticed the helping hand and the warm welcome you have extended to them. It is not surprising, therefore, that my family and I have felt so much a part of you, and that our hearts are heavy as we are preparing our departure.

I wish you all the best and now bid you a very reluctant "good-bye".

E. THEILER,  
Consul.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X SWITZERLAND TODAY X  
X ( continued ) X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
By: E. Merz, Auckland.

As far as mountain-excursions are concerned, our holiday in Switzerland slowly approached its close. It was nearly end September, and due to rather unsettled weather in July/August, we had postponed a trip we could not possibly miss: To Zermatt. This name of course, immediately conjures to your mind Switzerland's most famous peak: The Matterhorn, apart from a dozen other alpine giants surrounding this widely known tourist resort.

Although situated very isolated near the Italian border, Zermatt can be reached quickly by our fast trains from any part of Switzerland; we left Lucerne after nine o'clock and arrived there at 3 in the afternoon. From Berne there are about half a dozen fast Milan-expresses running regularly every day through the Lotschberg, and at Brig the "Zermatt-Express" waits for immediate connection. Magnificent indeed is the last brief trip through the Nicolaital to the threshold of the Matterhorn. Crossing the foaming Visp again and again, the electric train passes villages and hamlets, of whose quaint native life one catches fleeting glances on the way and at railway stations. From the deep valley, we caught an occasional view of the great Mischabel group on the left (with the 15,000 ft. "Dom"), and once or twice just a quick glimpse of the 14,800 ft. weisshorn on the right. After travelling an hour through this long and wild valley, everyone is leaning out of the window, eyes strained and watching excitedly for the first glimpse of the king of this mighty domain. However, our patience is taxed another half hour, as only just two minutes before the train reaches its destination, the Matterhorn reveals himself in its full majestic beauty.

The weather was now perfect, excepting with that filmy, much pictured cloud hovering at the side of the towering Pyramid. This, we were told at the restaurant where we had a cup of tea, serves as a barometer. They explained that behind the peak lies Italy and that the warm south wind is forever waging a battle with the north wind. If the cloud remains behind the Matterhorn, it is a sign that the north wind is master of the situation and that the weather will continue to be fair. This information made us decide to proceed with our journey immediately up the "Gornergrat"; it would be too uncertain to wait and hope the skies would keep clear for long. Like the Jungfrau excursion, it would be a waste of time and money to travel to over 10,000 ft. in uncertain weather. The full return fare Zermatt-Gornergrat, by the way, is Sfr.11.-

The wonderful Gornergrat railway takes  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours to reach the amazing height