

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 16 (1951)
Heft: [6]

Artikel: This year the "Sechselaeuten" at Zurich coincided with the 600th anniversary [i.e. anniversary] of the adhesion of Zurich to the Confederation
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942724>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

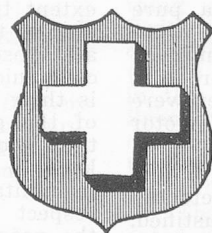
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 17.05.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

HELVETIA

MONTHLY
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 gleichgultig. Wir wissen, dass unter Euch viele mit Schwierigkeiten zu kampfen haben. Die ernste, immer noch so unruhvoll vor uns liegende Zeit bringt uns einander naher, als das in einer friedlichen Welt der Fall ware.

Wir wissen, dass Ihr Auslandschweizer die Heimat nie vergessen habt und nie vergessen werdet. Wir wissen, dass wahrend 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 Wunsche. Der Gruss aus der Heimat soll Euch verkunden, dass wir eng verbunden bleiben wollen, wie weit wir auch voneinander getrennt sind.

Moge unseren Schweizerkolonien Gluck und Segen beschieden sein und mogen die Schweizer im Ausland ihre Arbeit von Erfolg gekront sehen.

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

ED. von STEIGER,

Im Juli, 1951.

Bundesprasident.

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 "Sechselaeuten" at Zurich coincided with the 600th anniversary of the adhesion of Zurich to the Confederation. The feast was a great success as the

weather was splendid, and as if by magic the trees were covered with flowers and the lawns wore a mantle of fresh grass. The pageant marched past under a pure blue sky, and the principal streets of the town were gaily decked with bunting. The spectators numbered somewhere around 200,000. All the Zurichois were out, except the sick and the newly-born babies. But they were not the only ones; the railways and thousands of motor cars had brought an unknown crowd of visitors.

One must admit that with 3,000 participants and many hundreds of horses and the pageant stretching along several miles, such a big gathering was justified. This long procession of costume groups marched on for two hours to the sound of the bands and in the shimmer of rich and multi-coloured uniforms and shining armour. This display was not only a very instructive summing up of several centuries of Zurich and Swiss history, but was, above all, a joy to the eyes, and it was regretted that in view of the amount of work required for the organization of such a spectacle, it could be enacted only once.

A SWISS INVENTION: THE RADIO IN RELIEF.

The radiosterophonic transmission system "Helvetic," invented in Geneva, has recently been presented to the public for the first time. It is the only system in operation which does not require two emitting sets and two receiving sets. The stereophonic reproduction gives all the tonal gradations, and transmits the different intensities and phases of sound reaching the left ear and the right ear of the listener as when standing in front of a stage. It gives an impression of realism which surpasses the one obtained by the present technique.

SWISS FARMING

(Continued)

The Farmer's Origin.

The Swiss people originated from various races feeling united by common history, democratic thinking, love for freedom, and economic problems. Hence, the individual members of the Swiss Nation differ by origin, language and religion. In the towns, the peculiarities of the Swiss are less prominent than in the country, although in the former, too, all the classes of the population cherish the old way.

The influence of the Celtic population, of the Helvetians and other races is particularly noticeable in French Switzerland. There, the immigrated Burgundians were ultimately assimilated and latinized by the Helveto-Romanic population. At a later epoch, however, the influence of Berne made itself strongly felt in those Cantons of western Switzerland. In the Canton of the Grisons the peculiarities of more ancient races are still present in the population, while the Canton of the Ticine has always been under the influence of Northern Italy. In the German-speaking Swiss Midlands the influence of the Alemanni has been preponderant. The Alemanni drove the Helveto-Gallic tribes back into the Alpine valleys although there, too, they succeeded in establishing permanent settlements. Thus, the Alpine region has become the abode of descendants of various races. There, among the dark-haired descendants of the primitive Swiss numerous flax-haired families may be found whose ancient past may be connected with German immigrations.

Peculiarities of Farmers.

In Swiss agriculture the family farm is a preponderant feature. Where farm-hands and farm-girls are employed they live with the farmer's family. His home,

family and village constitute the farmer's vital space. Increasing remoteness is apt to affect to an increasing extent the ways of life in village and farm. They are men of their own, reticent and often mistrusting towards all those who are not their neighbours and village-companions. The common feature peculiar to all farmers is their Christian faith, reliance in the Church, keeping of the given word, plain ways of life, satisfaction in their work, and thriftiness. Furthermore, they like to keep to their old ways and manners, and find pleasure in military service. Additional rural peculiarities are respect of knowledge and of wealth. Modifications in the peasant features are more likely to develop in the way contact between the farmyard and the traffic increases. This explains the great difference between the peasant population in the mountain regions and that of the Midlands. In the mountain regions, too, new ways of life have made their appearance here and there. Although the modern farmer tries to preserve as much of the old ways as is possible, there is a steady expansion of co-operative thinking, of the desire for education, expert knowledge and progress and of a businesslike and commercial frame of mind. In addition, the farmer's class consciousness is on the increase. All this, and his expanding participation in agricultural politics have become the basis and starting point of present-day agriculture.

Education of Farmers.

Throughout Switzerland the growing generation of the farmer population receives good schooling. The elementary school is the concern of the Cantons. The Federal constitution provides only for the elementary school to be State-owned, compulsory and free of charge. Attendance, in a general way, at the primary school is up to the age of fifteen, the age limit below which children may not be employed in factories. Instead of attending the primary school throughout, a great number of future farmers attend the secondary school or district school. In recent times, the majority of the Cantons set up training schools, so-called "Fortbildungsschulen," with compulsory attendance in part. These schools however, limit their courses to a restricted number of lessons a week. In the villages agricultural education is included in their syllabus. Hence, they form a sort of transition for the professional school.

The prosperity of the Swiss people is mainly based on the excellent professional education of the growing generation. In this, the youth in the country has its full share. The professional education of the Swiss farmers is, in the first instance, the task of the intermediate agricultural schools. These comprise the theoretical-practical schools, prevalently with two annual courses, and the winter school with two winter courses with prevalently theoretical teaching. In addition, there are various special schools and housekeeping schools. Many of these schools are very well equipped, and have highly experienced expert teachers required to own the diploma of the agricultural section training. Except for that University being the concern of the Confederation agricultural education is the business of the Cantons. Numerous lectures and courses organised by the Cantons and the agricultural associations are intended to add to the general expansion of expert knowledge. The same holds good in respect of professional tuition given by way of broadcasting.

The Cantons provide, as far as State-owned schools are concerned, four agricultural theoretical-practical schools, 37 winter schools, three for fruit growing, wine growing and horticulture, four dairy schools and 16 agricultural housekeeping schools. Moreover, there are four private professional schools receiving State subsidies. The demand has developed to such an extent in recent years that subsidiary classes have had to be opened in many cases.

Many agricultural teachers act simultaneously as farm advisers. In the majority of cases, these use cars