

Greetings

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Preface**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **18 (1954)**

Heft [12]

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

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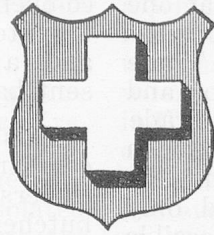
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HELVETIA

MONTHLY
PUBLICATION
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY IN
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

18th YEAR.

DECEMBER, 1954.

AUCKLAND.

GREETINGS

*Mr. Blanchard, the Swiss Consul,
wishes to extend to all compatriots his
very best wishes for a Happy Christ-
mas and Bright and Prosperous New
Year.*

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Next Year's Federal Gymnastic Festival in Zurich

The organizing committee of the 64th Federal Gymnastic Festival, which will be held next year in Zurich, elected as its chairman Mr. Emile Landolt, president of the town. The Federal Society at present consists of 25 associations grouping 2603 sections and 229,297 members (226,341 in 1953); out of 134,425 active members there are 32,989 women and 42,372 school children of both sexes. Several sections are particularly active in North and South America.

Seventy-five Years of Football

The St. Gallen Football Club, the oldest in Switzerland, recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation; although the minutes of the first meeting are missing from the club's records, the club nevertheless possesses a copy of statutes dated April 19th, 1839.

Novelty Launched by Swiss Watchmaking Firm

An important watchmaking factory has just launched a novelty in the shape of a watch having instantaneous seconds. In an ordinary watch the second finger moves five times per second. In the new watch, it only moves once per second. This new watch possesses the advantage of making it possible to obtain a more

exact reading of the time per second; it also makes possible very precise comparisons with all kinds of laboratory and navigation, and it will prove of the greatest service to doctors and nurses when taking a pulse, giving an anaesthetic, etc.

This result has been obtained by providing the watch with a meter which does away with the usual jerkiness of the finger and only allows it to move once per second.

Grock's Farewell to the Circus World

Adrien Wettach of Bienne (canton of Berne), the clown known all over the world by the name of Grock, has made his final exit from the ring. This famous Swiss artist, who is 74 years old, gave his last performance in Germany before an audience of some three thousand enthusiastic spectators, after 61 years of triumphant activity in the ring.

Grock stated that he will spend the winter in Italy and then come to live in Lausanne.

Switzerland's Main Fairs

Here are three dates to note for 1955: April 16th/26th, 39th Swiss Industries Fair at Basle; September 10th/25th, 36th Swiss Comptoir, Lausanne National Fair; October 6th/16th, Olma, the Swiss Agricultural and Dairy Products Fair at St. Gall. No decision has as yet been made concerning the date on which the Lugano Swiss Fair is to be held next year.

The 25th International Motor Show at Geneva, which ranks with the Motor Shows of Paris and London, will be held from March 10th to 20th, 1955. Plans are being made to include a retrospective exhibition of cars.

INCREASED WAGES OR SHORTER WORKING HOURS?

A Swiss political party, the Alliance of Independents, has launched a Popular Initiative, with the aim of obtaining a reduction in the length