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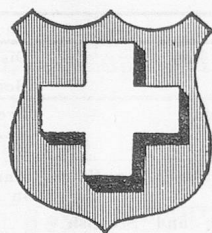
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AUCKLAND.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

The Consul-General has received a message from Federal Councillor Dr. Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation for 1956, in which he says:—

“I should appreciate it if you would transmit to all our compatriots established in New Zealand my best wishes for success, happiness and prosperity in 1956.”

The President's New Year message in German is annexed to this issue.

New Arrivals at the Consulate

Mr. Walter Sollberger, accompanied by his wife, has recently joined the Consulate. He will eventually replace Mr. Oscar Oesch as Chancellor. Mr. Oesch has been transferred to the U.S.A., but will not be leaving New Zealand for some time yet. Miss Lotti Hess, who has come to take up secretarial duties, is also a welcome addition to the Consulate. Mr. and Mrs. Sollberger and Miss Hess are all looking forward very much to the pleasure of meeting members of the Colony.

GREETINGS TO THE SWISS COLONY

During my recent return trip from Switzerland I had the pleasure and privilege to meet our two former Swiss Consuls, Mr. Theiler in New Orleans, and later Dr. W. Schmid in Los Angeles.

Most members of our Colony will have pleasant recollections of these very popular envoys, who performed their tasks so efficiently.

Dr. Schmid had charge of the Consulate in Wellington for nearly 10 years during the war, as well as pre- and post-war periods. Of course, every one of us had some personal matters needing attention during these trying years, and we certainly were well looked after. Dr. Schmid

was most interested to know how his many friends were doing in lovely New Zealand, and I gave him information as best as I could. His ardent wish is that he could again visit us one day, but this day seems still very remote indeed. Dr. Schmid is representing Switzerland as Consul-General in Los Angeles, now carrying the third largest Swiss colony in the States (after New York and Chicago) and incidentally the city has now a population approaching five million.

Dr. Schmid spared no effort in making our sojourn in the great metropolis a pleasant and memorable one. My wife and myself shall never forget the hospitality extended to us by his charming wife, who, incidentally, paid the Swiss Colony of Auckland a fine compliment in appearing in a “Bernese Tracht,” when she introduced herself the first time in 1936. Her husband spent much time in showing us Los Angeles, and because the area of this city is probably the largest in the world, it took him hours to show us the many interesting sights. We went to Warner Bros.' film studio, to the famous Hollywood Bowl, where we spent an hour seeing the rehearsal of a television programme; we saw the famous Beverley Hilton Hotel, the Bel Air Hotel, the fine Los Angeles golf course and drove over the nearby hills past the countless fantastically shaped homes and villas of this great city. Both Dr. and Mrs. Schmid wished to be remembered to all the Swiss they had the pleasure to meet whilst in New Zealand.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Theiler, in New Orleans, were equally kind and generous in their hospitality. There is also much to see in this old town, originally founded by French settlers. The old city has a distinct French character, and is probably best known by its many night cabarets and show places. The city is also proud to boast the longest railway bridge in the world, crossing the Mississippi not far off from the centre of the town. Our stay was unfortunately very short and Mr. and Mrs. Theiler also asked me to convey their best greetings to those that still remember them.

E. MERZ.