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## **News from the Embassy:**

On Monday, 28th February 1972, Mr Andre Gelin took up his duties as Vice-Consul at the Embassy, replacing Mr Paul Erb, who has returned to Bern.

Mr Gelin began his career in the Federal Department, going to Lyon in 1942, where he stayed for three years. He was then attached to the Swiss Consulate in Nice. From March 1956, to May 1958, he stayed in Bern, and the following eight years he was in Cape Town, at the Consulate. Since January 1966, he stayed again in Bern, up to the time of his transfer to Wellington.

Mr Gelin is married with two children, both of whom have stayed in Switzerland. Mr and Mrs Gelin are French-speaking Swiss, and speak English fluently.

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### **COMPLAINTS**

We have received several complaints regarding late deliveries of the Helvetia. To improve this position all contributions for publication must be in our hands by the 8th of each month.

Your co-operation would help a great deal.—Editor.

## **HEDY'S CORNER** ~~~~~

In November the Swiss went to the voting urn to elect members for the representative assembly and for the body representing cantons in federal government.

In this year 1972 the proportionally insignificant voice of ten women representatives will be heard (total number 200 members). As in the early stages of accepting women as possible candidates on cantonal and communal levels, the French-speaking part of Switzerland has again been the most progressive in the above elections. From the total of ten women elected to the representative assembly, five were chosen by predominantly French-speaking cantons.

The body representing cantons in federal government now has its first woman member, the city of Geneva counsellor (if one may coin a new word). There again a French-speaking canton leads the way, shining in solitary splendour.

May the yoke of unaccustomed duties lie easily on the shoulders of the advance guard of our fellow countrywomen. (Halleluia!)

Women's organisations are in the process of studying the possibility of national service, ranging from voluntary social service up to military auxiliary service. A proposal envisages simultaneous general service in line with male compulsory military service, bringing men and women into line in case of emergencies. Against this is the large drain of the women's labour force and thus seems

unrealistic in peacetime. The second proposal proposes voluntary service, available for emergencies and catastrophies. A third proposal wants an auxiliary organisation on a purely voluntary basis of a nature to impress Youth of its responsibility and obligation toward the State and community, it being in the line of national service. The final proposal rests on the premise of voluntary social service run along the lines of the "Zürich social service year" already existing.

The debates of above proposals have their origin in the now accomplished political rights of women. The military department is also considering the aspects of such proposals. Although the department is fully aware of the implications, such innovations, be they voluntary or compulsory, would require a national vote.

At the time of going to press there remain only four cantons who have not yet accepted women's vote on cantonal level. Three of them (Nidwalden, Obwalden and Appenzell Ausserrhoden) will vote in this matter in the near future. Appenzell Innerrhoden remains adamant. —"Tages-Anzeiger".

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Auckland Swiss Club

Notice is hereby given that the Auckland Swiss Club Inc. will be holding their **Annual General Meeting** on 22nd April at 8 p.m. at the Newmarket Club, Teed Street, Newmarket.

Nominations for the election of officers are to be in writing, signed by the nominee and a seconder and should be received by the Secretary not later than 10 April, 1972. —E.B.

### Hamilton Swiss Club

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Eureka Hall on Saturday, 15th April at 8 p.m. We hope to see you there. Free supper.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 1972

Would Committees of the Clubs and members of the Society start thinking about the above Meeting and give motions and items for the Agenda some thought. Please keep this weekend free for this Meeting which will be held in Auckland.

Karl Bischof, President.