

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 63 (1997)
Heft: [10]

Artikel: In decline - the city of Bern/Switzerland : received from Wellington for insertion in Dec. issue of HELVETIA
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945375>

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(Registered at the G.P.O. Wellington as a Magazine)

Monthly Publication of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Group New Zealand of the Helvetic Society

Note to Secretaries

Please send in all your notices for the February edition of HELVETIA by the 15th of January. Thank you.

It's cattle-show-time in Switzerland! (October)

At this time of the year (during the autumn months, when all cattle have returned from the alps) the cattle shows are held in lots of rural villages and towns. Autumn was especially pleasant weatherwise this year in Switzerland, so we're told. In many parts of the country the farming community would have dressed in folklore costumes for these special days. (our photo is from a cattle show in eastern Switzerland).



In decline - The City of Bern/Switzerland

Received from Wellington for insertion in Dec. Issue of HELVETIA

Translation of a "letter to the editor of the Berner Zeitung" composed and written in German by Ben Liechti, Swiss-Kiwi, visiting Bern.

For the past 31 years I have lived in New Zealand, but I am still fond of my place of origin, the City of Bern. As a tourist I have visited Bern several times in the past 31 years. Now I am aggrieved to find problems like begging, drug-consumption, alcohol-abuse, tagging and criminal activities so pronounced. I find it hard to understand that so few people seem worried about these problems here in Bern. What is happening to order and discipline, things that we have justly been proud of in the past?! Why are you people of Bern so complacent?

An example:

My Wife and myself walking along some streets of Bern one evening wanted to do "window-shopping" in and near the "Schwanengasse". The smell of faeces and vomit however prevented us from doing so and soon we saw drug addicts hovering along the foot-path! - What a sight! - Why do you citizens of Bern allow yourselves to be conned by your present politicians? You, the ordinary citizens should have demanded a solution to combat the criminal problems in your town! It is high time to admit the mistakes of the past few years and to rectify and clean-up the act in our federal Capital, if Bern is not to become a City of slums.

Yours: Ben Liechti, temporarily visiting Bern.

Translation by R.R.-Editor.