

# Danish Association in New Zealand.

PATRON: V. Jensen, 50 Fitzherbert Ter., Wellington.

The First Annual Report of the Activities of the Danish Association in New Zealand, by the First President and Founder.

WELLINGTON, March, 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen!

In submitting my report to the first annual general meeting of the Association, I wish to say at the outset, that a few plain words are going to be used, I am going to call a spade a spade.

When I visited Auckland last year, I enjoyed the hospitality of many of my country folk residing in Auckland. I shall never forget the happy hours we spent together in the homes of the two Moller families. It was there and then, that I put my idea into words, and promised to the host that we Danes in New Zealand ought to show the people and the Government of New Zealand just where we stood in regard to the war against Hitler and Japan. I could feel that the Danish spirit was present here, and in that respect I have not been disappointed.

When I took ill later in the year, I was very grateful indeed for the action of the Auckland Committee in sending Mrs. Christie down here to take over the books, cash and typewriter, and that the Auckland Committee thereby saved the Association from a premature shipwreck, there is not the slightest doubt. If there is any one person in the Association who deserves my special thanks, and praise, it is our worthy Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. P. Christie. She is possessed of the true Danish spirit, is an enthusiast in the cause for which the Association was formed—in short, she is a wonderful asset to the Association, and I do hope that members will give her all the help and assistance they can, because she is really carrying a heavy load.

And coming near the end of my report, I want to say, that, after 12 months' experience, I have come to the conclusion, that the collection for an Aircraft is not popular amongst the Danes in New Zealand. It is not that the aim is too high, because the cost of such a plane, could be provided by three Danes here in Wellington, and it would not hurt them a flea-bite, but the enthusiasm is lacking. If we intended to keep the Association going, and if we are going to achieve SOMETHING in the not too far off future, then I respectfully suggest that we switch our collection over to one for a complete motor Ambulance for the R.N.Z.A.F. The money we have so far collected stands to the credit of the Association for the R.N.Z.A.F. so that is already a substantial start, I do not know the cost of such an Ambulance, but I should think it would be between £800 and £1000. When we get that amount, or when it is within sight, we can ask the Government to have the emblem of the Danish Association, "Dannebrog" painted on it, and ask to have it stationed in Auckland and then, when that happy day arrives, I would enjoy a trip to Auckland and witness the handing over of it.

The Danish Association in Wellington participated in the Anzac Day Parade. In the absence of the Dominion Consul, I had the honour of placing a wreath upon the War Memorial, on behalf of our Association.

On June the 13th, 1942, 12 members of the Association attended the funeral service and burial of the late Captain Norregaard who had been landed in Wellington from his ship the Astoride a very sick man. His coffin was draped with a full sized Dannebrog.

## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

Two such have been held during the year, the first one was called the inaugural social, at which 60 Danes and New Zealand friends were present. It was a brilliant success, thanks to the unselfish and very hard work of the Ladies of the Association. Our worthy Patron, Mr. V. Jensen, who was with us all the evening, said during his speech, that it was the finest show, put on by Danes, that he had seen during his 69 years in New Zealand. The second social was held on November 28th, in the whole of the Lyceum Club Rooms, and some of those present said it even surpassed the first social evening. I think it worth while to read out the letter of thanks and appreciation from our Guest of that evening, the Captain, his Officers and Members of the crew of the Danish motor ship "America." Such social evenings are of much assistance to the Association, but it needs careful planning and organisation in advance.

Finally, I wish you a very pleasant and successful meeting, I can assure you one and all, that I am with you in the spirit, if not in person, and I hope you will keep the Association alive, for the sake of our dear old Motherland, to whom we owe so much, our life, health, education.

LONG LIVE A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC DENMARK.

E. A. DAHL,

19, Cruickshank Street, Wellington, March, 1943.

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Report of the Association's Work as Carried on in Auckland, by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Auckland.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have much pleasure in presenting a report on the work of the Association as carried on in Auckland.

For three months I acted as Local Agent. On June 30th, 1942, a meeting of Free Danes was held. Mr. Knutzen was in the chair. A Committee of five members was formed with Mr. C. Langkilde as President and Mrs. P. Christie as Secretary-Treasurer. Committee meetings have been held monthly in private homes to save expense of hiring rooms.

