

News in brief

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best of humours, it ripples along between peaceful Swiss meadows, paying here and there a quiet visit to some tiny blue lake. Ever ready for service, it flows beyond our borders to help our neighbours before losing itself in the oceans of the world. The mountain torrents of Switzerland are our glad messengers and ambassadors to the world. But here at home their services are thousandfold, their strength immeasurable. The supply of Swiss coal will never fail, will never be exhausted. In this, too, we see a wise law of compensation.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Berne, Switzerland's progressive capital, has recently inaugurated its new Natural History Museum. The beautiful and ultra modern building rises in the Kirchenfeld district and houses now in a most adequate manner the many remarkable treasures which could no longer be displayed to full advantage in the old building. The collections have long been famous for their admirable portrayal of alpine geology and mineralogy.

The Museum is much indebted to the Colonial authorities and the government of South Africa which have generously given it permission for free hunting of certain rare and otherwise prohibited wild animals which are still lacking in the collection.

Efforts are again being made by the cantons of Uri and Berne for a government subvention for the construction of a highway across the Susten Pass from Innertkirchen, near Meiringen, to Wassen on the St. Gotthard line. The building of this road would entail an expenditure of 20.37 million Swiss Francs: 11.6 million for the Bernese section and 8.77 million for the Uri part. The economic and military importance of this Alpine thoroughfare are highly emphasized.

Historic Soleure in the Jura will be the scene of the Swiss Yodeling Festival on August 8-9 and in addition to the tuneful yodels of various Alpine districts there will be alphorn-playing, singing of folk-songs, flag-swinging, dancing and a fine array of old costumes.

Yodeling dates back to the earliest days when the people of the mountains made up their own melodies and songs. Early in the 19th century some observing Swiss began to take notes of the words and melodies of different yodel lieder, and the Bernese and Lucerne alpine regions are particularly famous for their wide range of music of this kind.

A Swiss Yodelers Association was founded in 1912 and is responsible for the National Yodeling Festivals which are now being held regularly at intervals of three years.

The Municipal Tramway of Zurich inaugurated recently a new device in the form of an apparatus indicating automatically the name of the next stop. This apparatus, visible from every part of the car, indicates in large letters, the next stop, immediately after proceeding. Zurich is the first city testing this new invention, which has been produced and manufactured by a Swiss.

BERNE, 6th May 1936. On this date, a Pack-column, consisting of 4 horses and a dog, under the leadership of Corporal Pfeuti and Film Photographer Herrman, returned to Berne after an absence of seven months. They left Berne on the 8th October, 1935, visiting Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Southern Slovakia, a truly notable journey of 8,000 kilometers. They were heartily welcomed and congratulated by Colonel Haccius, Chief of the Military Depot, Berne.

LUCERNE, 10th May 1936: The opening of a new bridge was celebrated in the presence of a large gathering. The bridge, a wonderful piece of art, cost 1.3 Mill. Francs and has a total width of 26 meters - 14 meters for vehicular traffic and 6 meters footpath on each side.

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Correspondence addressed to :

W. Ungemuth, Secretary,
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