

News of the colony

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Lac Lemman (Lake of Geneva) will find that the start of many a friendship is made over a "Fondue" meal in one of the many "pintes" as the locals call their picturesque little inns.

Ten million five hundred thousand people visited the last Swiss National Exhibition, which took place in Zurich in 1939. In view of the greater mobility of the younger generation which, generally speaking, has become much fonder of travel, some 15 to 20 million visitors are expected to attend the next Swiss National Exhibition, which is being held in Lausanne in 1964.

The best-educated schoolchildren in the whole of Europe are to be found in the Swiss canton of Vaud. Whilst the number of hours devoted to compulsory school-education for the whole of Europe averages from 8000 to 9000 hours, the youngsters of Canton Vaud have far surpassed the figure of 10,000. The number of lessons given is rather less for other parts of Switzerland, as well as for Scandinavia, Great Britain and Germany.

A cinema with accommodation for 450 people is to be built in the near future in the huge main hall of the main railway station of Zurich, which, in the early days of the steam engine, was considered to be the largest on the Continent. A continuous film programme, showing for the most part newsreels and travelogue, will be shown from 10 a.m. up to midnight.

In Switzerland there are about 600 cinemas with a total of 200,000 seats. It is estimated that 100,000 people visit the cinema each day, which gives a sum total of 700,000 per week and over 35,000,000 for the whole year. The sale of tickets realises 70,000,000 Swiss francs a year. Every year the cinema owners pay the Treasury 9,000,000 Swiss francs in patent fees and taxes.

It is now possible to make the trip up the Rhine from the North Sea to Switzerland with all the comfort of an ocean voyage by travelling in the modern Swiss motor-ship "Basilea," which is the Italian name for Basle, its home port. The ship is powered by three 450 h.p. motors and can carry 55 passengers, accommodated in 27 double cabins and one single cabin. Further comforts on board include elegantly furnished social rooms and several promenade decks.

Switzerland and the GATT

Switzerland recently submitted an application for admission to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, known under the name of

GATT. This candidacy is a conditional one, as Switzerland wishes to reserve to herself the right to maintain the special regulations which govern the importation of agricultural produce and of cereals, in order to ensure the normal provisioning of the country. In spite of these restrictions, the Eleventh Session of GATT gave favourable consideration to Switzerland's application which was accepted. However, Switzerland's accession in the capacity of an associated member, has not yet taken place. This will only take place later on, on the basis of bilateral tariff negotiations between Switzerland and the contracting parties of the GATT. Switzerland's provisional accession to the GATT has been envisaged, nevertheless, in order that she may be able to take part in the work of GATT, without having to wait for her definite adherence.

The Forty-first Swiss Industries Fair—"Focal Point of Interest"

Basle, Switzerland: The Swiss Rhine city of Basle will be accommodating the Swiss Industries Fair for the forty-first time from April 27 to May 7, 1957. In 1956 a record number of 750,000 visitors from 86 different countries was recorded as well as 30,000 foreign buyers. In more than twenty departments, which vary from displays of watches and machinery to the elegant pavilions "Creation" and "Madame-Monsieur," which show the latest Swiss fashions, there will be exhibited once more an excellent thematic and artistic cross-section of the productions of a small country poor in raw materials but rich through specialising in the production of high-quality goods. The official poster and the advertising material for the Forty-first Swiss Industries Fair consist of gay variations on a prize-winning design by the internationally famous Swiss commercial artist, Herbert Leupin, who has added the motto "The Focal Point of Interest" to the emblem of the Basle Fair, Mercury's winged cap adorned with a Swiss cross.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Swiss in Wellington to Hold Picnic

Twice already the Swiss in Wellington have tried to have a picnic party, and both times the weather was unfavourable and the project had to be postponed.

On February 10th, this picnic will be held—rain or no rain—and everybody is cordially invited to take part. We will meet at 10 o'clock at the Cenotaph, Lambton Quay.