

News from Switzerland

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Sir,—I know that Arnold Biland is an intelligent, talented man. The statement attributed to him simply cannot be for real. How unfortunate that this was printed in English in this fair land. No-one can be blamed for their sex, the place in which they were born, or how they were brought up.

Any men who would deny equal rights to their sisters, to the ones they love, or to those who bear and rear the nation's children, have not cause for pride but shame. However, it is still not too late for people to search their conscience and realign their thinking. If it was not for women there would be no-one to vote.

FRANZ J. SCHULER, Tahuna.

Sir,—Luckily for the Swiss women, Mr Biland resides in Frankton, New Zealand, and as we have heard in the News, he will have lost his pride of being a Swiss and what is worse, of being a man!

I for one will be very relieved to know that Switzerland has become a real Democracy. After all, most of us have a mother, a sister, a wife to judge women's abilities on.

I fearlessly look forward to a future in which my superiority as a political wizard as well as my virality has to be proven between equals.

HANS MESSMER, Wellington.

[Sincere thanks to the above writers who have taken the trouble to reply. Controversial subjects are most stimulating, one always learns and how boring the world would be, if we all thought on the same lines.—Arnold Biland.]

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NEW SAW FOR HANDYMEN AND MODEL-MAKERS

A Swiss firm recently put on the market a saw of entirely new design, which will allow both amateurs and professionals to do an infinite number of different jobs. The great originality of this saw lies in the fact that it is equipped with an electromagnet and not a conventional motor; this revolutionary new design has the advantage of doing away with maintenance and lubrication and at the same time ensuring exceptional long life. This handy, silent light saw — its weight varies from 3.5 to 5 kg (7½ to 11 lb) depending on the model — is ideal for many purposes: it saws with remarkable precision and neatness all kinds of wood as well as resin, plastic, nylon and even metals. Its blade can be replaced by a fine file, so that it can also be used to make prototypes, in precision engineering and the watch industry.

(osec)

GROWTH OF THE SWISS CARPET INDUSTRY

The carpet industry, which during the past few years has made a number of big investments so as to modernise its machinery and develop its plant, is one of the branches of the Swiss economy with the biggest rate of growth. In fact, its output rose from about 2000 tons in 1960 to some 6500 tons in 1969. The figure has therefore more than trebled.

Similarly, its exports have increased considerably; within the space of four years, the value of exports of machine-made carpets of all kinds has risen from S.Fr. 5 to 25 million, i.e. it has increased five-fold. However, imports are still quite large: in 1969 they amounted to S.Fr. 103 million for machine-made carpets and to S.Fr. 58 million for knotted carpets. Switzerland is one of the countries with the biggest per capita consumption of carpets: with Great Britain it comes second after the USA. (osec)

PIZOL PARK, EASTERN SWITZERLAND'S BIGGEST SHOPPING CENTRE

"Pizol Park" was recently inaugurated in the immediate vicinity of highway N3 from Zurich and N13 from Lake Constance and the Rhine Valley. It is Eastern Switzerland's biggest shopping centre. The modern shopping city is located near Mels-Sargans at the foothills of the mountains above St. Gall. There are shopping opportunities galore in fourteen shops, led by Migros and Pfister Furniture. There are also restaurants, a bank, a barber and beauty salon, a "children's paradise", a gas station, and a parking lot for 1000 cars. The inhabitants of the region appreciate this ideal shopping centre as much as the holiday-makers who are on their way from the plains to the mountains or back. (snto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

In the "Kunsthalle" (Art Museum) of Berne there is an exhibition of the works of Bridget Riley. In the Museum zu Allerheiligen (All Saints) at Schaffhausen, the Zurich artist Alex Sadkowsky exhibits his picture fantasies.

On March 8 the BBC Symphony Orchestra of London is going to start its Swiss concert tour in Basle. It will then play in Lausanne, Zurich and Berne. Colin Davis will conduct works by Hector Berlioz and Harrison Birtwistle, to be followed by Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4 in G Major.

Kurt Früh has made a new film in Swiss dialect about the life of Karl Dällenbach, the Berne hairdresser of the turn of the century who had become famous for his numerous jokes and witticisms.

The wind quintet of the Southwest German Radio of Baden-Baden is going to give concerts in Geneva on February 26 and 27. The Chamber Orchestra of Württemberg is going to play on 2nd March in La Chaux-de-Fonds.