

Sundry news from Switzerland

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

Since 1917, Switzerland has had her own fair - the Swiss Industries Fair at Basle. This up-to-date institution has developed into one of the most highly appreciated in Europe. Both attendance and the number of exhibits have increased, so to speak, without interruption, from one year to the other. The Fair Buildings are very fine and practical, covering 30,000 square metres of land. They cost over 12 millions of Swiss francs. The Twentieth Fair (April 18th to 28th, 1936) will have the character of an anniversary celebration.

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Captain Hans Schaer, a well-known Swiss pilot, recently completed his millionth kilometre in the air, a distance equivalent to 25 times around the world at the equator, or three times from the earth to the moon, and all without a single accident. Captain Schaer is 39 years old. In 1922 he began his service as passenger, freight and mail plane pilot with Ad Astra, and joined the Balair five years later. When the Swiss air lines were fused into "Swissair" in 1931, he was already known as one of the most experienced and skilful aviators in Europe. Schaer began his flying career in 1918 under the noted instructor Bider. His record, almost unique in the history of aviation, speaks well for the safety and reliability of the Swiss air services.

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Switzerland had such an enormous grape harvest last fall that physicians throughout the land urged the people to take a grape cure. The suggestion met with enthusiastic response everywhere. In Zurich, for instance, which is located in one of the great vineyard regions, there were festively beflagged stands on public squares and along the main streets. Pretty girls, in national costume, acted as sales ladies, and were kept busy selling the white and blue varieties of grapes from morning till night. It is said that many of these booths sold over 1000 kilos (1 kilogramme : 2-1/5 lbs.) of grapes per day.

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