

Cheap travelling in Switzerland

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Never has such a storm of protest been heard in Switzerland against foreign investments. It is well known that the State railways of France work under great difficulties and economic stress, but the fundamental resentment against such large loans abroad, is probably more due to the uncounted millions of good Swiss Francs which have been lost straight-out in Germany during recent years. On the other hand the big banks are forced to invest the gigantic reserves pouring in from abroad. During 3 recent months alone, the reserves of the National Bank increased by 250 Millions, chiefly from France due to the flight from the constantly devaluating French currency.

Berne: On October 12, our Bundesrat appointed Minister Walter Stucki as Embassadeur to Paris, to succeed Monsieur Alphonse Dunant, who acted for 20 years as Switzerland's representative in the French capital.

Berne: The Federal Budget for 1938 has just been published and the summary of the principal figures indicated below, show some interesting reading.

<u>Income:</u> (In Million Frs.)	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
Customs	186,9	209,1
Petrol	55,0	53,0
Tobacco	43,0	40,0
Tax on beverages	19,0	12,0
" " oil & fat	5,5	6,0
Stamp duties	51,4	60,5
"Crisis" Tax	28,0	30,0
Military Tax	4,0	4,0
 <u>Expenses:</u>		
Interest Service	89,1	97,8
Amortisations	79,1	83,9
State subsidies: ordinary	104,6	102,9
" " "Crisis"	69,1	61,9
Defence	80,6	95,6
State personnel	67,8	70,0

The year's deficit is assessed at approximately 12,4 Mill. Frs.

FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE: This dreaded plague still appears to spread, particularly in Western Switzerland. Likewise the much feared Colorado beetle is prevalent. In the early summer cantonal and federal agricultural organisations were doing their utmost to combat the pest. Apparently a permanent extermination cannot be expected, as even air currents seem to help spreading the plague.

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CHEAP TRAVELLING IN SWITZERLAND.

A most commonly used concession of the Swiss Railways has been lately introduced in a 30% price reduction for visitors from abroad. Today an 8 day Season Ticket only costs frs.45,- a 15 day Season Ticket only frs.63.

These reductions may be obtained from the agencies of the Swiss Federal Railways and touring offices abroad, or at any Swiss frontier station. Season ticket holders are entitled to travel at their pleasure over 5,000 kilometres of Swiss railway and steamship lines.

Owing to the devaluation of the franc, the £ and the \$ are now worth 40% more all round Switzerland, and yet there are no increases in fares, hotel prices, etc. No formality with money is necessary; prices are to suit every pocket, and solid comfort assured everywhere.

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During November we have received a copy of the following periodicals :-

1. The October number of the "Helvetia", Official Bulletin of the Federation of Swiss Societies in Argentina. This is the second number that has come to hand, and we greatly appreciate the courtesy of our fellow countrymen in far away Argentina. These copies are at the disposal of any member, especially such whose linguistic abilities include the respective language.
2. The November number of "FOEHN", a very well known and popular Swiss Magazine. Members wishing to subscribe to this interesting monthly booklet may do so by communicating to the Secretary, W. Ungemuth, Clarence Rd., Northcote. Amongst the many interesting items in this periodical we find an article written in the Swiss dialect. This is the outcome of an undertaking by the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft to work out, with the valuable help of Professor E. Dieth, a type of phonetic dialect which would easily adapt itself to any of our many dialects.
3. Directory of exportations.

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Die Frau von Herrn Dr. Schmid wird mit zwei Kindern im April oder Mai hier eintreffen. Auf diesen Zeitpunkt hin sucht die Familie Schmid eine "Stuetze der Hausfrau", womoeglich aus Schweizerkreisen. Sie soll beim kochen helfen (auf Anleitung) und alle andern Haushaltungsarbeiten flink und sauber verrichten koennen. Auch Servieren der Mahlzeiten, insbesondere bei Abendgesellschaften. Anmeldungen sind an den Sekretaer Herr Ungemuth zu richten.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to the Secretary:

W. UNGEMUTH,
Clarence Street,
NORTHCOTE,
AUCKLAND.

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