

News in brief

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get as far as being announced before he had time to make his escape, he would protest that he was not in a wild beast show!

A far-famed attraction of Bienne is the Taubenloch gorge, a canyon of awe-inspiring grandeur, through which the Suze rushes from the Jura to the plains. Another worth-while excursion takes one by funicular to the beautifully located mountain resort of Macolin, commanding a gorgeous panorama, which extends from the Sântis to the Mont Blanc.

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St. Moritz has been chosen as scene of the Olympic Winter Games 1940! This good news was broadcast all over the world after the international Olympic Committee, at a recent meeting in Brussels, made this all important decision. The fascinating Swiss wintersport capital was hostess to the Olympic winter games 1928, with its lofty, yet convenient location and its excellent organization for such an event as deciding factors. Nowadays, with still more improved connections, St. Moritz can be reached within 24 hours by train from any European capital, or within six hours by air, Europe's loftiest airport being at Samaden-near-St. Moritz.

Many big events have been planned for the 1938-39 season in this sparkling resort. Ski-jumping contests on the famed Olympia Leap are to be held on December 26, January 15 and 28, and February 12. The annual International Horse Races on the frozen lake are scheduled for January 29, February 2 and 5. The Boblet Grand Prix is set for February 4-5, and the Boblet World Championship for February 8-9. Among a bewildering multitude of other sports attractions will be Ice Hockey Tournaments; Ice Festivals; Races on the breath-taking Cresta Run; Ski Races, etc.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

BASELSTADT:

Potato growing will soon be a thing of the past if the Colorado beetle pest is not eradicated very shortly. Notwithstanding the many and varied attempts to stop the advance of this scourge, it seems to be on the increase. Of the 74 boroughs of this canton, 52 are affected. So far 227 cases have been discovered, 74 of which are at Waldenburg, 54 at Sissach, 50 at Arlesheim, and 54 at Liestal.

BERN:

The Federal Council empowered the Defence Department on September 12th to charge all Frontier mines as an emergency measure in case of disruptions with foreign powers. The mines are guarded by Voluntary Frontier Troops.

GRAIN HARVEST:

Once more the grain harvest in most parts of Switzerland has been very satisfactory. On August 1st, 1938 the wheat crop was estimated at 4,906,000 cwts. as against 4,932,000 last year. The barley crop was estimated to be about 174,000 against 168,600 last year, and the oats with 492,000 compared also favourably with the 478,000 of last year.

RUSSIA ORDERS THE SWISS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY:

Lately there have been a considerable number of cases in the Soviet Union where Swiss have been ordered to leave Russia. During 3 months over 60 persons of Swiss descent have been sent away. They are mostly people whose grandparents and even great-grandparents emigrated to Russia. They only know Russian, but being the owner of a Swiss name and a Swiss passport the Soviet government declines to grant them any extension of the permit of residence. These unfortunates represent a great many professions of trade, but are practically without means. Prosperous Swiss lost everything through appropriation by the Government before they were sent away. Amongst them is the

wife of a Russian Officer with a child one year old. Her husband had been sentenced to 16 years hard labour. When the authorities discovered her nationality she was simply sent back to Switzerland. These fugitives for the greater part are Berner from the Oberland whose ancestors settled in Russia as cheesemakers. Others are of the cantons of Waadt, Graubünden and Glarus. Affected boroughs and cantons as well as the Federal Government are assisting. Some have been already transported to their respective boroughs.

Notwithstanding the still very serious unemployment in Switzerland, Sulzer Bros. of Winterthur are unable to obtain the services of some skilled engineers in their own country. The Prager Tagblatt issue of the 20th August 1938 contained the following advertisement :

"For our Swiss Works at Winterthur we require the services of a thoroughly able steam boiler constructor with at least 10 years experience in the manufacture of steam boilers and furnace. Applicants with High School or Technical education, who can show proofs of practical experience, are required to give particulars regarding education, experience, salary required, and terms of appointment, and to enclose copies of testimonials and addresses for reference. Sulzer Bros. Ltd., Winterthur."

Why should Switzerland have to go beyond the border for skilled labour of that kind ?

AIR TRANSPORT :

The "Deutsche Lufthansa" reports that during 1937 the U.S.A. transported 1,267,580 passengers on their regular airlines, while Germany's transport totalled only 320,353. In comparison with the number of population in the respective countries, the U.S.A. transported one in every 100, while Germany's tally was only 1 in 200. It may be of interest to know that Switzerland during the same period transported 30,903 passengers, that is 1 in 129, a fact which proves the popularity of the air transport in Switzerland.

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DO YOU KNOW THAT ?

BASEL has the oldest University in Switzerland.
 OLTEN is the most important Railway-Junction in Switzerland.
 THE RHEINFALL near Schaffhausen is the largest waterfall in Switzerland.
 THE RIGI is the most popular and best-known Mountain in Switzerland.
 THE BEST WATCHES are made in Chaux-de-Fonds.
 THE BEST CHEESE is made in the Emmental.
 THE CHATEAU CHILLION was built in the 9th century.
 THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN is the Dufourspitze with 4638 meters.
 THE LONGEST TUNNEL is the Simplon with 19803 meters.
 PARSENN near Davos is the most ideal Skiing-territory in the World

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - FEE.

Members are reminded that the subscription fee of 10/- (or more if you can afford it) was due on October 1st. Kindly help us in our endeavours to make the Society a success, and remit to our Secretary.

Last year's defaulters please note that from January 1st. 1939 they are forfeiting their membership. Please avoid this by sending in £1, which will clear you till September 30th. 1939.

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