

Switzerland has huge gold assets abroad

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ALTERATION IN SWISS RADIO BROADCASTS.

Cable advice has been received that as from May 4th the Swiss radio broadcasts will be transmitted 3 hours earlier on 25.28 meter band, 11865 megacycles. This means that on Tuesday and Saturday the programmes from Switzerland will be heard from 5 to 6.30 p.m.

SWITZERLAND HAS HUGE GOLD ASSETS ABROAD.

Berne. - The economic position of Switzerland is sound, despite current world-wide difficulties reflected here, and there is no intention of devaluating the Swiss franc, M.E. Weber, president of the board of the Swiss National Bank, said recently.

The bank disclosed that Switzerland has 3,600,000,000 Swiss francs in gold abroad, and although about two-thirds of this amount is blocked in other countries it can be used for purchases in the dollar area. Swiss gold possessions are at their highest level, said Weber. ("Wanganui Herald" April 23rd.)

WINTER SPORTS.

SWISS SHOPS DISPLAY "EVERYTHING". Leaving England recently "with no official backing", a party of winter sports enthusiasts paid their first visit to Switzerland for six years.

"Switzerland offered a welcome that might well have been growing over the last six years, and smiles and greetings were given by everyone", writes one of the party. "The shop windows contain wonders that are only dimly remembered in England. Briefly, there is everything, everything of a style and quality that makes window shopping fun, even for a man. Fine silk and embroidered linen goods are everywhere, and the handbags and suitcases are made of the softest leather, mostly goat skin and chamois, of perfect craftsmanship, and at very low prices, about £2 for the best bags.

For those keen on winter sports it was the best snow for seventeen years. A number of interesting personalities were to be seen, including English business men and Americans on leave from the occupation forces. They are setting a high standard of behaviour and their popularity with the Swiss is good to see.

BRITISH PRESTIGE HIGH. British prestige is very high in Switzerland today, and it seems a pity that some financial arrangement cannot be made so that the two nations can meet again.

The most amusing thing to the Swiss is to hear the Englishman carefully asking the price of everything before he buys it - francs are very scarce, and the local shopkeepers take it all in good part. ("Evening Post" April 22.)

MOTORISED FARMING.

AIMS IN SWITZERLAND. Now with petrol and tractors becoming increasingly available, many Swiss farmers have their hearts set on motorised farming, but Dr. Albert Kiener, chief of the Animal Husbandry Division of the Swiss Department of Agriculture, has warned that the operating expense of tractors is increasing faster than the maintenance cost of horses. Even before the war, when fuel and oil were about one-third the present prices, it cost from 6s.6d. to 9s.6d. an hour to operate a tractor in Switzerland, Dr. Kiener estimated, while the cost of upkeep of a horse was placed at £130 a year.

Under those conditions, Dr. Kiener said, the tendency will be for Swiss farmers, when they buy tractors, to use them only when they cannot meet seasonal labour demands with horse-power. A