

Sundry news from Switzerland

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trains wind through loop-tunnels that corkscrew up steep mountain slopes, then there are numerous viaducts, avalanche galleries and nearly 5,000 bridges. And finally, those unique examples of Swiss technical ingenuity, the cogwheel railroads and funiculars that take visitors at dizzy angles to alpine summits.

At present, rail traffic in Switzerland is at an all-time peak. Over 800,000 passengers are carried daily, and mileage travelled every 24 hours totals about 125,000 miles. New engines and rolling stock are being added by all lines in steadily increasing quantity, and the Federal Railroads have announced their schedules, both domestic and international, will be speeded up even more within the next few months.

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

On the 10th of March the 1st of August Committee met in Berne to discuss the arrangements for this year's collection. It was decided that the funds collected in 1947 should be earmarked for the education of infirm people and for cancer research work.

The net result of last year's collection amounted to 1,100,000 frs., of which amount three-quarters were allocated to Swiss abroad, and one-quarter to Swiss who, owing to the war, had to return to Switzerland.

A commercial treaty between Switzerland and Czechoslovakia has just been concluded. Czechoslovakia has agreed to deliver to Switzerland - sugar, glass and china ware, coke, Iron and metal goods, machinery, textiles, boots and shoes and chemical products, whilst Switzerland will supply Czechoslovakia with machinery, scientific instruments, dyes, medical products, textiles, watches and agricultural products.

Negotiations which have been under way during the last few days between Swiss financial experts and officials of the Belgian Ministry of Finance concerning a 50 million franc loan to Belgium have been concluded. The loan has been granted by Swiss banks. The Swiss credit will be used for the modernisation of the Belgian telephone and telegraph system. The 70,000 telephones with automatic equipment are to be imported from Switzerland.

The Swiss Federal Government in a report on its policy towards the Press in the war gives an account of the struggle with the Nazi Government and its Press organs, which continued throughout the war. It makes plain Nazi intentions to prepare for the invasion of Switzerland by undermining the determination of the Swiss to maintain their neutrality under arms.

During the war the German Legation in Berne made representations on Press matters to the Federal Government on 169 occasions. The report says that the British Legation in Berne conducted a Press service but this differed from that of the Germans, in that it was mainly informative and designed to take the place of English newspapers when Switzerland was cut off.

The authorities refrained from intervening against it, partly for reasons of equality of treatment, and partly because it acted as a counterweight to German and Italian propaganda. "The Legation bulletins in fact were equivalent to the war-time publication of an English newspaper, a case without precedent in Press relationships."

According to informed quarters Switzerland recently declined to grant additional credits to Spain and insisted that future sales to Spain be made on a cash and carry basis. They said the outstanding Spanish debt to Switzerland was 50,000,000 Swiss francs. Switzerland, they added, had adopted the position that no further credits will be granted until this debt is liquidated.

Alles elektrisch

S'ist wörkli zom stuune, wenn me g'sieht,
wie wiit dass mer sind of em elektrische Gebiet
röste, choche, bache,
alles cha mer elektrisch mache,
chast elektrisch Eier schwinge,
ond s'Wasser im Hafe zom choche bringe,
chast d'Stobe wärme, wenn's dii frürt,
ond d'Milch abhüele, bis sie g'frürt.
Wüsche tuet mer nüme i me moderne Huus,
me niimt alles met em Stauhsuuger uuf.
Das zeigt üüs dütlech, wie wiit dass mer sind,
es Maschinli, wo de Staub ond d'Flöh uufnimt,
ond wenn mer flingg ist, ond mag g'lange,
cha mer met em sebe au Flüüge fange.
D'Lüüt händs doch äfängä guete,
sie chönd elektrisch Eier uusbruete,
ond im Kino g'siehist för wenig Geld,
was alles lauft ond goht i de Welt.
S'Elektrisch hät aber au scho zo Ooglöck g'fühert,
wenn mer am lätze Ort Dröht aarüehrt,
ond es hät ä mol so en guete Frönd,
sogär elektrisch s'Huus aazönnt,
es hät halt Lüüt, wens glette tüend,
vergessets, dass wieder uusschalte müend.
Met de Isebahne sind mer au nöd dehinne blebe,
die wäret jetz au elektrisch trebe,
do chast omefahre, bruuchst schier ä kei Schueh,
chast no elektrisch of d'Jungfrau ue.
Of de Säntis ufe laufe, bruuchts mänge Stond,
ond wenn d'ufe chonnst bist müed wie en Hond,
jetz händs dort ufe ä Schwerebah,
so das mer elektrisch ufe chaa,
das goht g'schwind, me chaas fast nöd g'lobä,
i ne paar Minute ist mer dokä.
Jetz, wenn eine hüüt of de Säntis goht,
chá's voorchoh, dass me ne elektrisch am Seil abelöht.

A. Moosberger.

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Government has lodged a strong protest with the Bulgarian Government concerning recent happenings in connection with the exchange of Bulgarian banknotes.

Contrary to diplomatic etiquette, Bulgarian officials demanded the right to inspect the accounts of the Swiss Legation in Sofia; when this was refused, the Legation was put under police supervision, and in-and-out-going visitors had to undergo police inspection.

The Swiss Minister in Sofia, Monsieur Charles de Jenner, who is well-known in the London Colony, at once protested vigorously against such unseemly proceedings to the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, with the result that the control was lifted.

The Swiss Foreign Minister has informed the Bulgarian Minister in Berne that his government takes a serious view about the way in which their officials were treated.

Lieut-Colonel Anton Gwerder, Manager of the "Kantonal Bank" Schwyz, has

been elected a member of the Federal Parliament (National Council) in succession to the late Dr. A. Seiler.

Gottfried Odermatt, since 1934 a member of the Government of Schwyz, has died at Stans at the age of 67. He was from 1936-1943 a member of the Federal Parliament (National Council).

Professor Dr. E. Abderhalden, Ordinarius for physiological chemistry and director of the physiological institute of the University of Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary; Professor Abderhalden is an honorary member of the Swiss Academy for medical science.

For having called "Landrat" Seb. Jenny in Ennenda a "Sklavenhändler" and "Arbeiterfresser," Daniel Hösli, secretary of the Textile Workers Union, was fined 100 frs.

Ernest Vuille, a former National-Councillor, and President of the cantonal Socialist party has died at Tramelan at the age of 68.

Theodor Zurcher, who in the nineties was one of the best gymnasts in Switzerland has died at St. Gall, at the age of 86.

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NEW MEMBERS.

We are pleased to announce the enrolment of:-

- Mr. George Meuli, Wellington
- and
- Mr. Joe Niderost, Kaponga.

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AUCKLAND SOCIAL CLUB COMMITTEE.

Auckland's Annual Social will be held on August 2nd, 1947, at the Overseas League Rooms, 3rd Floor, Queen's Arcade, Auckland.

Friends please note that owing to the Electricity cuts the Social will commence at 7 o'clock and lights out at 11 p.m.

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MEMBERSHIP FEE.

A number of our members have not yet paid their annual subscription and we wish to remind these friends to remit either direct to the Secretary, or to their respective district-collector. The financial year is soon closing and prompt settlement would be much appreciated.

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