

News from Switzerland

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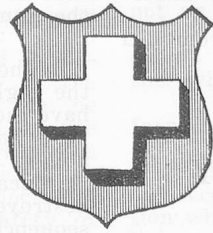
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MAY, 1951.

AUCKLAND.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

On April 25th, Anzac Day, the Swiss Consul, Mr. H. Blanchard, laid a wreath on the Citizens' War Memorial in Wellington, on behalf of the Swiss Confederation.

It has just been learned that there is to be a Swiss dance at Manaia on May 3rd. We hope that this function is a great success and that everyone has an enjoyable time.

We are happy to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Kaegi, Dr. sc. tech. and agricultural engineer, and to his family. Mr. Kaegi arrived in Wellington by the "Rangitane" on April 22nd, accompanied by his wife and three children. Mrs. Kaegi is a qualified dairy bacteriologist. Mr. Kaegi was with the Swiss Federal Research Station before coming to New Zealand. We wish them all every success in New Zealand.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

The Swiss national income in 1950 reached the total figure of Sfrs.17,400 millions. The revenue from work reached Sfrs.10,200 millions; revenue from sources other than salary or wages, Sfrs. 3,800 millions, and the revenue from invested capital, profits from Swiss firms abroad, etc., Sfrs.3,400 millions.

This summer the Swiss railways will organise cruising trains which will visit various countries.

After long research it has been succeeded in Switzerland to put on the market thin aluminium foils which replace the ordinary paper in photography. The pictures reproduced on the aluminium foils are very resistant to abrasion and climatic conditions. The pictures so reproduced are absolutely unalterable. These aluminium foils permit the most fine reproductions, even microscopic ones.

Professor Dr. Emile Staiger, of the Zurich University, has been called to Columbia University of New York. He will be the only European professor to teach in that school since the end of the war.

One of the largest spinning manufacturers in Australia has installed a new factory at Newcastle, equipped with Swiss machinery. This firm declares that their mill is one of the best in the world.

Two architects of Le Locle are building in Casablanca (French Morocco) 21 blocks of 1600 modern flats.

This new quarter will bear the name of the Swiss town of Le Locle. The contractors are from Lausanne.

The Swiss industries are investigating the possibility of producing tanks of the Centurion type on a large scale.

Switzerland is exclusively Continental and is nowhere bordered by the sea, from which she is separated by foreign lands. She possesses, nevertheless, a Merchant Navy which, at the present time, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. It was in 1941 that Switzerland thought it appropriate to constitute a fleet of ships to obviate the difficulties of provisioning during the war. At present the Fleet is composed of 19 ships totalling 160,000 tons. They all belong to private enterprises.

SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR, BASLE.

The success which accompanied the 35th Swiss Industries Fair, held in Basle from 7th to 17th April, 1951, was such as to exceed even the most optimistic expectations that could reasonably be entertained in view of the general economic boom conditions.

The available exhibition space of some 1,000,000 square feet was booked up to the last inch by the 2200 exhibitors, the leading Swiss export industries being prominent amongst them. It is intended to erect new exhibition halls in the next few years in order to provide space for the increasing number of applicants who apply for stands or to accommodate the existing exhibitors who demand more space.

This year more than 670,000 entrance tickets were issued and this exceeds all the records for previous fairs.

It can be assumed that more than 20,000 foreign visitors turned up in Basle, seeing that some 11,000 interested visitors from 67 countries were registered at the Foreign Visitors' Office, and there was an impression that these visitors represent an effectively larger foreign interest in Swiss goods than in the previous years when international trade was handicapped all round.

Taken generally, things were quite satisfactory both as regards home and foreign business. There was considerable foreign demand for watches, machine tools and accessories, and textile machinery. Fairly big orders were placed during the Fair in these lines, and, in addition, numerous other contacts were made for business at a later date.

Numerous Press reports from foreign countries confirmed that this year's Swiss Industries Fair, by acting