

The Federal Festival of the Yodellers in St. Gall

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Impact of the Customs Duty on Petrol.

Make of Car.	Petrol	Duty,
	consumption. 100 km. litres.	10,000 km. francs.
Volkswagen	8	149
Citroen II	11	205
Plymouth	15	279
Buick	16	298

Swiss Centre in New York

The opening in Manhattan of a Swiss Centre grouping the offices of Swissair, the National Tourist Office and the Mid-Town Branch of the Swiss Bank Corporation will serve a very useful purpose. Located in fashionable Rockefeller Centre, the new premises will enable any person interested in Switzerland to find out about Swiss airlines, tourism and banking facilities all at the one and same place. During the coming months Swissair will be the only airway company to have the modern DC-6B planes plying the North Atlantic route, and every wish will be made for the success of advertising Swiss reliability and Swiss comfort.

A Great Increase of the Output of the Swiss Watchmaking Industry.

Thirty-five per cent. more Swiss watches were exported in 1951 than in 1950. Thirty-three and a half million watches and clocks, whose value amounted to 1000 million francs, were exported last year. The increase in exports was due primarily to the improvement in technical methods which helped to speed up production. Progress has also been made in increasing the output of individual workers. While the number of workers and employees rose only 15 per cent. from 1950 to 1951, production went up 38 per cent. This means that each worker produced an average of 620 time-pieces a year or more than two a day. The results are especially significant for the Swiss watch industry, as its products are also of the highest quality.

A Swiss Invention: A New Security Apparatus for Those Who Work with Electric Lines.

A Swiss inventor has constructed a new universal voltage indicator. It will benefit mostly those who work with electrical lines. As it is known, this work always demands the greatest precautions, complex instructions, and awkward equipment. The new invention is a small, light, sturdy instrument which can be used outdoors and indoors. It is easily operated with one hand by any qualified worker. The voltage indicator will register voltage from 80 to 50,000 volts, warning the workman of live wires. It can be used for testing fuses and other electrical installations,

or as a phase meter for rotatory current up to 16,000 volts. The price of the instrument is so low that it will be possible for power plants to use it on most of their equipment.

The Swiss Trade with the West and the East of Europe.

The United Nations Economic Committee for Europe is now examining the economic condition of Europe in 1951. The head of the Swiss delegation, Dr. H. Hauswirth, commented among other things upon the Swiss liberal policies of economic trade. He said that Switzerland does not restrict the import of industrial products, but concluded that Switzerland could only continue this policy if her products were not discriminated against on the world market. Dr. Hauswirth is the vice-Director of the Department of the Swiss Federal Department of Economics.

In 1950 Switzerland's exports to Eastern Europe were valued at 260.5 million francs, and they rose to 261.3 million francs in 1951.

Treatment of Tuberculosis

The laboratories of F. Hoffmann La Roche & Cie., S.A., in Basle, are perfecting a new remedy for the treatment of tuberculosis. Switzerland contributes thus to a great extent to fight this plague.

Cantonal School of Aarau

The famous physicist, Albert Einstein, declared that the Cantonal School of Aarau is for him the best example of an educational institution of this kind.

Marine Diesel Motors

Twelve per cent. of the diesel motors propelling the ships of the whole world come from the factory Sulzer S.A., Winterthur, or have been constructed under the licences of Sulzer.

Swiss Geologist.

The Swiss polar pioneer, Dr. Hans Stauber, who for many years has done geological research work for the Danish Government, has just discovered a lode of lead in Greenland, representing a value of some 25 milliards of Swiss francs. In Switzerland, Dr. Stauber is known under the name of "the doctor of the mountains" since he prevented the village of Schuders from being buried under a landslide.

THE FEDERAL FESTIVAL OF THE YODELLERS IN ST. GALL

St. Gall is known all over the world as being the town of fine embroidery and beautiful textiles. But this venerable town of Eastern Switzerland, situated between the Saentis and the pleas-

ant borders of the Bodan, has also other attractions. For instance, this year the great Federal Festival of the Yodellers will take place there from the 11th to the 13th of July.

The yodel in Switzerland belongs to the folklore and the popular culture. It expresses the culture and tradition of the Confederation in the same way as the national costumes do. Yodeling, as well as national costumes, will be used abundantly in a harmonious way at the Federal Festival. Groups of choirs and people in national costumes will be going to St. Gall, even from the most remote corners of Switzerland. The ancient streets of the city will vibrate with sounds and colours and everyone will delight in the melodies and costumes of native tang.

Many foreign visitors will also be present to enjoy the charm of the great festival procession on July 12th and 13th. This parade will evoke all types of national costumes and will also show the different traditional customs as they occur in the course of a year during the various seasons. The foreign spectators will have the rare chance to see in a single glimpse this civilisation of peasants and shepherds as they live in the mountains today.

On July 13th, in the Court of the Abbey of St. Gall, a general performance of all choirs representing several thousand yodellers will be given. In the big festival hall a patriotic play will be staged, consisting of six acts portraying by song and music the homeland of the people.

A UNIQUE VILLAGE

On the outskirts of Trogen, pleasantly situated among the peaceful, smiling pastures of the Appenzell uplands, stands a pretty red-roofed village. In outward appearance it does not differ greatly from the usual type of Swiss village, except that the houses are all new, but it is unique in one respect: it bears the distinction of being the only village in the world inhabited entirely by children of different nations, under the supervision of a few adults qualified to care for and educate them.

These children, some 200 of them at present, are mostly war orphans from many parts of Europe, from France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, from Great Britain and even far-off Finland. They are housed in modern buildings, each nationality being kept separate, but allowed to mix at work and play and encouraged to fraternise. The British contingent, by the way, occupy two houses christened "Thames House" and "Stepping Stones."

The idea of creating a supra-national settlement for orphaned children from war-stricken countries germinated in the mind of Dr. W. R. Corti, Editor of the Swiss periodical "Du." He launched his first appeal in 1944; the offer of a

suitable site from the community of Trogen converted his dream into a practical proposition; by 1946 it became possible to start building, mostly by volunteer labour and under the direction, generously given, of a well-known architect. In 1947 the village was ready for occupation. It was given the name of Pestalozzi-Dorf and came under the management of the Swiss Pestalozzidorf Gemeinschaft and the British Pestalozzi Children's Village Association.

Finance was, of course, a difficult problem. It was solved through the generosity of the Swiss people. Contributions large and small came pouring in, the wealthy and the poor, and above all the children of Switzerland, gave freely; the "Don Suisse" and the "Pro Juventute" assisted. Gifts in money and kind were also received from abroad.

To alleviate the suffering of innocent war victims is, to the Swiss people, not a new impulse; it lies within their traditions and is made possible by their neutral status. Swiss neutrality, sometimes misunderstood, is by no means a self-centred isolation, and it may not be out of place here to recall the services Switzerland has rendered in 1870-71 to the inhabitants of Strasbourg and to the wretched remnants of the Bourbaki army, to the refugees of the first world war, and to mention that during the last war 200,000 children were taken into Swiss homes for a three months convalescence. Above all, is not the International Red Cross an abiding monument to Swiss initiative in the service of humanity?

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