

News from Switzerland

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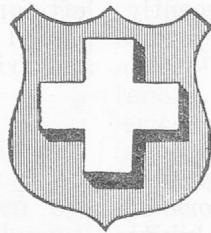
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AUCKLAND.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

A New Development in the Field of Motor Traction: The Gyrobus

In 1946, the Ateliers de construction Oerlikon in Zurich invented a new type of motor vehicle driven by a mechanism based on the gyroscope principle. This system has been considerably improved since then. Two of these Gyrobuses are already in use in Switzerland, and the Belgian Colonial Ministry has recently ordered twelve of them for the Transit Authority of Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo. The bus does not need any overhead transmission lines, the built-in gyroscope stores energy so that it works independently until it gets to the next station, where the gyroscope is put in motion again by an electric impulse.

Engineers also intend to use the gyroscope principle for mining locomotives in France, Belgium and South Africa.

Foreign Railway Experts in Switzerland

A group of 34 railway experts from the United Nations visited Switzerland at the beginning of November. It was a transport sub-committee of the Economic Commission for Asia, on an inspection tour of western Europe. They were, among others, the guests of the Swiss Federal Railways, and of the MATISA company in Lausanne, which has spread all over the world, on a large scale, the most modern methods of upkeep and renewal of railway tracks.

In the course of a demonstration arranged for them, the members of the sub-committee, belonging to thirteen different countries, were able to see at work the latest machinery of Swiss manufacture, such as automatic rams, machines for the removal and screening of ballast, track layers, bolting machines, fish-plating machines, rail borers, sleeper borers, etc.

"Sonirail"

A Swiss firm, specialized in the construction of railway equipment, has recently developed a new

ultrasonic testing apparatus for rails. This apparatus, called Sonirail, is used to determine hidden defects in the rails. It works on the resonance principle, creating ultrasonic waves in the rail itself. The instrument can be carried by one man and is extremely easy to handle.

Swiss Participation at the Exhibition of Medals in Rome

Switzerland is participating at the "International Exhibition of Contemporary Medals" in Rome. Much interest has already been shown in the artistic value and quality of Swiss work. Seventeen talented Swiss artists are showing their work at this exhibition, for this art is very popular in Switzerland. Medals are frequently used for commemorating national events.

A Swiss Film Awarded the "Golden Ear"

During the International Festival of Agricultural Films, which took place in Rome, the great distinction of the "Golden Ear" was awarded by the jury to the Swiss documentary film "The Fight Against the Maybugs." This film was produced by the Swiss Condor Film Company for the firm of Geigy in Basle.

Swiss Technics and Sea Diving Experiments

Prof. Picard's latest deep sea diving experiments with his bathyscope "Trieste" have aroused considerable interest throughout the world. It may be interesting to note that the Bathyscope was equipped with instruments produced by the Swiss firm Haenni & Co. at Jegensdorf, near Berne. This factory is specialized in the production of manometers, thermometers and hydrometers. Prof. Picard also used the firm's instruments for his first diving experiment in 1948. The instruments contributed considerable to his recent success.

A New Achievement in Watchmaking

A well-known Swiss watchmaking establishment has succeeded, after years of development,

in constructing a clock driven entirely by light. A prototype of the new invention was recently shown at the annual congress of American jewelers.

Swiss Watches as Quality Gifts

The Government of Geneva has recently presented two gold watches to foreign visitors of high rank. The Japanese Crown Prince Akihito received a gold wrist-watch and the Lord Mayor of London a gold pocket watch. Both watches were produced by the same firm; they are made 18 carat gold and have 18 jewels each.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Swiss-English Wedding

On January 22nd, 1954, the wedding of Mr. Ronald Alfred Miles and Miss Elizabeth Schlup took place in Tawa Flat, near Wellington. It was the first wedding held in the pretty, brand new Methodist Church, and, besides the invited guests, the service was attended by a good number of local church-goers. The flower decorations in white and pink were exquisite.

Both, bride and bridegroom had come to New Zealand only a few years ago, the bride from Switzerland and the bridegroom from England. Mrs. Miles was first employed by the well-known woman doctor, Dr. Doris Gordon in Stratford, before she worked her way round on the South Island. Three weeks before her wedding she had returned from a visit to her parents in Reichen-Basel, Switzerland.

Mr. Ronald Miles is as keen on mountaineering as his bride. He was mountain guide on the South Island before and after his military service in Malaya.

The wedding breakfast was given by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Schlup in their cosy home just opposite the church. The guests spent a few happy hours in a delightfully informal and cheerful atmosphere. Amongst them were a number of Swiss and New Zealanders of Swiss extraction. Mr. John Schlup who gave the bride away is her father's elder brother. He came to New Zealand about 55 years ago and the Schwyzerdutsch has become almost a foreign language for him. Miss Emmely Volz, the bridesmaid and cousin of Mrs. Miles, is the daughter of a German father and a Swiss mother. Her parents run a beautiful dairy farm in Patumahoe, near Auckland. The three sons of Mr. John Schlup, Jim, Bernie and Basel were born in New Zealand and speak only English, but, nevertheless they are proud of their Swiss origin. Another guest, Miss Irma Neusch from Reichen-Basel is a very old friend of the bride.

After the happy celebration the young couple left for their new home in Christchurch, accompanied by the sincere wishes of their relatives and friends.

I.N.

OUR FATHERLAND

[Continuation]

Canton of Vaud

The Vaudois is happy by nature and his slogan of old has always been "there is plenty of time." When it rains, he looks forward to good weather, but when the sun shines, he expects it to rain shortly. And an amusing story is told of the three men, one from Geneva, one from Berne and one from Vaud, who went looking for snails. The quick Genevese brought back twenty, the man from Berne, in spite of the fact that the Bernese are notoriously slow, appeared with ten, but the man from Vaud returned empty-handed. "What happened?" asked the others. "I did catch one," was the answer, "but he got away."

The Vaud is the principal wine producing Canton in Switzerland and it is only natural that the people love to drink their delicious and famous wine. In fact the drinking of a glass of wine is very important in the Vaud and no ceremony of any kind is complete without it. Along the whole length of the Lake of Geneva runs a belt of about 50 km., of well-protected slopes covered with well-kept vineyards. Dotted along this belt is a chain of fascinating waterside towns, large and small but all very lovely. The climate is uniformly mild and living, generally, is of course more agreeable than in the rugged Eastern or Central Cantons of Switzerland. West of Lausanne is Nyon with the ancient castle, where, from the broad terrace crowning a steep cliff, one looks across the old town's roofs over the shining blue of the lake to the French Alps. The small towns of Morges and Rolle are also very attractive, and East of Lausanne, we come to the "Riviera" of Switzerland, with Vevey, Montreux and Territet as the central part. Books and poems have been written of this pleasant countryside and history relates that already in the Roman epoch several colonies of wealthy, retired Romans, were formed in Nyon, Ouchy, Avenches, etc. The beauty of the lake and mountains is truly inspiring. Vevey, built along the peaceful shore, with its terraces of vineyards above, and behind the narrow belt of orchards, grass fields and grain. And then higher up the dense mass of many pine forests, broken by peaks of rocks and again above, the snow covered mountains.

Montreux is one of earth's favoured spots in a perfect setting and with an ideal climate, sheltered from northern winds, and it offers an abundance of delightful excursions. From Vevey