

# News from Switzerland

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **21 (1958)**

Heft [9]

PDF erstellt am: **06.07.2024**

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party. In a very short time though, his natural ability to observe and grasp a chance when it came his way, did enable him to set himself up as a farmer on an unimproved section in Kaimata. By sheer perseverance and industriousness Ben made himself a name of being the best farmer in the district and an excellent judge of stock. His farming methods were stangely orthodox and ultra-modern, in particular he recognised the advantages of working with nature. In latter years he again saw the opportunity to improve his position and he sold the Kaimata property and moved into the very fertile district of Longburn, where his son Theo follows in his footsteps as a farmer par excellence.

Mr. Zurcher's death follows only a few months after the death of his wife whom he dearly loved and sadly missed. He contributed his success in life very largely to her credit. The marriage was actually a chance encounter, which happened on board ship, when he came back from Switzerland from a holiday, and proved to be a very happy one. Two sons and 3 daughters were the result of it of whom one son and one daughter died in younger years leaving Mr. Theo Zurcher, Longburn, Mrs. V. Wickham, Inglewood and Miss B. Zurcher, Longburn.

In the last few years Mr. Zurcher was very interested in the Taranaki Swiss Club movement. He patronised their functions regularly and donated a cup to be competed for annually in some Swiss sport. The Swiss people will miss this popular old man; the Swiss Society also is losing another one of its members since foundation time 21 years ago. We will cherish the memory of friendship. From a friend. —W.R.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

##### *Hamilton Swiss Club:*

The Hamilton Swiss Club is holding the regular monthly evening every third Sunday in the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton. Next evening: 21st September. All welcome.

Special Orchestra for this function and Spanferkel supper. Half price for ladies bringing a plate. Bring and Buy postponed.

##### *Auckland Swiss Club:*

Just a reminder to all our Swiss friends in Auckland.

Don't forget that the Auckland Swiss Club holds its monthly Social at the Epiphany Church Hall, Gundry St., Newton, on the first Tuesday in the month. Come along and spend an enjoyable evening among friends. Everybody is made most welcome.



## News from Switzerland

### THE SWISS MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

The Swiss Society of Machine Manufacturers recalled, on the occasion of its last General Assembly, the fact that it had been founded three-quarters of a century ago. In his report, the President drew attention to the fact that Swiss exports of machinery, vehicles and apparatuses had increased still further in 1957, and had surpassed the sum of two thousand million Swiss francs (USA \$466,200,000). For some months past, however, there has been a decline in new orders. There would not appear to be any reason for an exaggerated pessimism. The Swiss Society of Manufacturers and the Swiss Employers' Association of Machine Manufacturers and

of Metallurgical Industrialists, groups together, at the present time 550 firms employing 200,000 workers.

#### STATESMEN WITHOUT BODYGUARDS

Zurich, Switzerland: Five of the seven members of the Federal Council, Switzerland's highest authority, among whom the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Thomas Holenstein, recently walked down peacefully from Zurich Main Station, where they arrived in a special train from Berne, to the Fraumunster church in the centre of the city, heading an impressive procession of federal, cantonal and municipal dignitaries. This was part of the opening ceremonies of SAFFA, the Second National Exhibition "Women of Switzerland, Their Life, Their Work," which was inaugurated in Zurich on July 17 and will last till September 15. Many a visiting tourist was overwhelmed by the thoroughly democratic appearance of these leading Swiss statesmen walking through the streets of the city without bodyguards or police escort whatsoever. The President received a warm applause from the public, and flowers were showered on him and his cabinet members from the windows.

#### MOTOR CARS AT THE DISPOSAL OF SWISS

##### RAILWAY SEASON-TICKET HOLDERS

For some time past, the Swiss Federal Railways have arranged, in certain towns, for motor cars to be available for the use of travellers who have season tickets. These cars, which are of current makes, are hired out, without a chauffeur, at reduced rates by licensed garages and are kept at the disposal of would-be renters at the stations. At the present time, this arrangement is in force in Basle, Berne, Bienne, Geneva, Lucerne, St. Gall and Zurich.

#### NEW SUCCESS OF SWISS MOVING PICTURES PRODUCTION

Even if Switzerland produces only very few feature films, it makes up for this by shooting a great number of documentary and scientific pictures, of which several have received awards this year. Thus "Rendez-vous avec Svea," a film in colour devoted to the Loetschberg Line (which connects Berne with the big Simplon artery) obtained the First Prize awarded by the Congress of Publicity Films, which took place in Brussels.

#### THE SWISS TOPOGRAPHICAL SERVICE IN HONOUR

The United States have just asked the Swiss Topographical Service to plot a map of Mount McKinley, the highest point in North America. In an official communication, the Department of Commerce, in Washington, states that this work, in which the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research will also collaborate, has been entrusted to the Swiss institution, because of the great experience it possesses in regard to the topography of mountainous massifs. An exhibition which has just been opened in the capital of the United States shows the various degrees of technique developed and used in Switzerland. Prepared by experts from the Swiss Federal Military Department, one finds there the oldest national geographical map. Switzerland, which enjoys the reputation of being the country possessing the best topography in the world and of being the best mapped, has a cartographic history, which goes back to the 15th century.

## SWISS EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS NEXT AUTUMN

The 2nd International Exhibition of the peaceful utilisation of Nuclear Energy, "The Atom for Peace," is to be held in Geneva from the 1st to the 14th September, next. No fewer than 250 exhibitors, from the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Liechtenstein, the Argentine Republic, Hungary, Austria, Sweden and Switzerland, will show their latest achievements and discoveries in a domain from which much is expected. We would mention, in this connection, that the preparations for this exhibition are now advancing rapidly; a freight plane, from New York, has already brought over ten tons of material, among which was to be found one piece, which, alone, weighed more than five tons.

Turning to another field of activities the traditional Swiss national autumn Fair, the "Comptoir Suisse," will open its doors in Lausanne, from the 13th to the 28th September. As has been the case previously, it will provide a living reflection of the economic activities of this country. What will be particularly noteworthy, will be the sections reserved for agricultural machinery and for plastic goods, the Pavilion of the foreign guest of honour—this year China—as also those sections which are devoted to the industries manufacturing luxury articles and to "hobbies."

### A NEW SWISS POSTAGE STAMP

As from the 25th of August (and until the stock is exhausted) a special Swiss postage stamp at 40 centimes, i.e., the postage required to send an ordinary letter abroad, will be on sale at all the post-offices, instead of the usual stamp of the same value. This stamp, which is dedicated to the 2nd International Conference for the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy, which is to start in Geneva on the 1st of September next, will represent in three colours (blue, red and light yellow) the symbol of nuclear fusion. Printed in rotogravure, this special stamp comes from the presses of a specialised Swiss printing establishment at La Chaux-de-Fonds.

### EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND WATCHMAKING INDUSTRY

The representatives of the German, British, French and Swiss watchmaking industries, who are now meeting in Geneva, have proceeded with their first exchange of multi-lateral views regarding the problems arising out of the economic integration of Europe; they have given their full adherence to a formula of co-operation, which is as extensive and complete as it is possible to make it. After which, going on to deal with questions relating to their trade, they discussed a certain number of aims in common, based on the principle of a progressive and reciprocal liberalisation of trade in the various products of the watchmaking industry, in a broad spirit of economic and industrial co-operation.

### TWO COLOURED QUEENS VISIT SWISS WOMEN

The SAFFA, the exhibition devoted to the life and the activities of Swiss women, which recently opened its doors, in Zurich, has been honoured by the visit of the Queens of Bouganda and of Ankile and the Princess of Bonnyoro (East Africa). Dressed in their royal and national robes, Their Majesties showed a great interest in all that they saw during the course of their visit, and they warmly congratulated the feminine organisers of the exhibition on their achievement.

## SWISSAIR

### A Successful Year

The annual report of the Swissair Company for the year 1957 is an impressive document. It unfolds a story of continued progress and successful planning that will gladden the heart not only of the shareholders but of everyone who takes an interest in civil aviation in general or in Swiss enterprise in particular.

The year 1957 was for Swissair one of great expansion. New types of aircraft were added to the fleet, thereby increasing the range of the already extensive network and making possible the introduction of a new service—that operating a route to the Far East and one to Buenos Aires.

Technical and scientific research continue to hold an important place in the Company's activities. The existing complex system for maintaining safety in the air has been further overhauled and modernised to keep pace with the expansion. Airborne radar and radio equipment of the latest type have been installed and, as is usual in Swiss enterprise, attention to detail in every direction has not been neglected. For instance, in order to provide good quality meals on the Far East route the Company have opened a restaurant of their own in Karachi.

A problem causing some concern is the shortage of pilots. It is hoped that the Company's own flying courses will be supplemented by Government action for the recruiting and training of new personnel.

It is a matter for satisfaction that in 1957 Swissair have achieved the proud record of having carried close on a million passengers without a mishap. Unfortunately this bright picture is overshadowed by a tragic accident which occurred to one of the Company's planes in the course of a training flight. The aircraft, apparently out of control, crashed in the Lake of Constance, causing the death of the entire crew, nine young promising pilots and engineers.

Swissair also mourns the loss of its Chairman, Dr. Rudolf V. Heberlein, who died after a short illness in January this year. He was an outstanding personality whose services to the Company were of immense value and who will be greatly missed.

From a financial point of view, the results of the year's working are most satisfactory. In spite of the inevitable increase in overhead charges the net profit, at Swiss francs 3,175,450.—, is fcs.529,960 higher than in the previous year. After placing fcs.400,000.— to reserve and allotting fcs.200,000.— to the Employees' Welfare Fund, a sum of fcs.367,057.— is carried forward after paying out to shareholders a dividend of 6 per cent.

The foregoing represents a short summary of a report which runs to twenty-four foolscap pages.

The directors and staff of this great and well-organised undertaking are to be congratulated on a fine achievement. We offer them our best wishes for further progress and prosperity.

### GIFT OF A SWISS WATCH TO A QUEEN

During their recent stay in Switzerland, Their Majesties King Mahendra and Queen Lakshmi, who are the rulers of Nepal, visited a big Genevese watchmaking factory. On this occasion, a watch, bearing the arms of the Royal family on its dial, was presented to the Queen of Nepal, for whom it had been specially made.

*CATERING FOR VISITORS TO THE 1964  
SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION*

The problem which will arise, in 1964, in regard to the supply of food and drink to the visitors who will attend the Swiss National Exhibition, in Lausanne, is already being studied very carefully. It is estimated that about eighteen million persons will visit the Exhibition and that, during the peak periods, as many as 300,000 visitors will come each day; these will have to be supplied with food and drink, not only within the grounds of the Exhibition itself, but also in the hotels and other establishments in the Lausanne region. In order to be able, already now, to give the necessary information to the producers, in order to orient the local production and to take all the requisite measures of co-ordination, the agricultural organisations concerned have constituted a Group which will study all the problems connected with production, distribution and consumption, which may arise.

*LACK OF FEMALE STAFF IN THE SWISS  
ADMINISTRATION OF POSTS, TELEGRAPHS  
AND TELEPHONES*

It is the Swiss Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones which employs the largest feminine staff in this country. Indeed, no fewer than 7300 women, that is to say 21% of the total staff, are working at present for the official institution, which pays the greatest attention to the recruitment and to the training of its employees. It is in this order of ideas that the Swiss P.T.T. have just produced a propaganda film, entitled "The Unknown Helpers," which is devoted entirely to the multiple activities of the women telephone and telegraph operators.

*SWISS PARTICIPATION IN A NORWEGIAN  
ALUMINIUM PLANT*

An aluminium plant, possessing a capacity of production of 22,000 tons of metal per year (intended almost exclusively for export) was inaugurated recently at Moesjoen, in the extreme North of Norway, in the presence of the Norwegian Minister of Industry and of the Swiss Ambassador at Oslo. One third of the capital of this new plant has been subscribed by a big Swiss firm belonging to the aluminium branch, which has its head-quarters in Zurich.

*TV CONTINUES TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT  
SWITZERLAND*

The number of Swiss television licence-holders, which, at the end of May, amounted to 39,717, has now gone up to 41,159, of which total 36,500 are private licence-holders and 4,600 are licences in respect of TV sets in public establishments, hospitals, sanatoria, etc.

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