

# News from Switzerland

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this new institution, which it considers to be an indispensable complement to the European economic community. With the same idea in mind, Switzerland opened negotiations at the end of May on the basis of its new customs tariff with 19 GATT countries (General Agreement on Customs and Trade Tariffs). A thorough reform of European economy is in process of taking shape: Switzerland is alive to this and has not delayed her preparations for it.



## News from the Consulate

The death has been announced in Bern, on the evening of November 3rd, 1958, of Dr Markus Feldmann, Member of the Swiss Federal Council, who was Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police.

Dr Feldmann, who was born in 1897, hailed from Bern and Glarus. The late Dr Feldmann, who held a Degree of Doctor of Laws, practised in his early years as a lawyer, and was a prominent journalist, before becoming a Member of the local Government of the Canton of Bern, and a Member of the National Council for a number of years. He was elected to the Federal Government in 1951, and was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1956.



## News of the Colony

### OBITUARY

Last month we mourned the passing of a very well known and respected member of our Swiss community, Mrs Margaretha Kaegi, the beloved wife of Ferdi and mother of Rosemary, Andreas and Peter.

The Kaegi family came to New Zealand eight years ago, where they immediately settled in Palmerston North and afterwards started dairy-farming on a farm in Bombay, which must have reminded them very much of the homeland. Although in New Zealand only a comparatively short time, Mrs Kaegi won the hearts of everybody with her charming and warmhearted nature and it is hard to believe that we had to part with her always ready smile, and that the many visitors to Rockdale will find her no more. Our deepest sympathy goes to the bereaved family and the pleasant memory of her will live with us for many years to come. —W.R.

In Taranaki the Swiss people paid their last respects to Mrs Rosa Engelberger, whose death occurred suddenly at her daughter's residence in Kapuni. Her passing closed a chapter of fine pioneering history of this country, a life of hard work and enterprise. In her busy life, however, she always found time for social activities and in this field the Swiss people owe her a great debt of gratitude. Whenever there was a church function in need of funds, she was the prime organiser to stage a Swiss dance or social to give those needed funds a boost. She richly deserved the credit that as an organiser for well-attended and well-behaved functions she was second to none. She invariably knew how to keep the Swiss activities in the limelight without personal gain. As a wife and mother she reared a family of four daughters and one son, all of whom are married. To Arnold and the family we extend our heartfelt sympathy. —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 December. This will be our Christmas evening with a real Christmas tree. Bring your children. Ladies please bring a plate.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

A combined Picnic of the Auckland and Hamilton clubs will be held the same as last year in Mercer on Sunday, 31st January. Please keep this date free. —A.B.

### CABBAGE, SPINACH OR SILVERBEET "WAEHE"

Line a cake tin with pastry or short crust. Steam finely-chopped vegetable until all liquid has evaporated (for a 10in. tin we need about two cups of steamed vegetable). When cooled add three beaten eggs, together with  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 cup of cream. Add some spice (such as majoram and nutmeg). Spread over pastry. Over the top place small pieces of bacon and onion rings. Bake for about 45 minutes.

### STEWED APPLES VERY GLAMORIZED

Peel and core apples, slice finely. Soak a handful of raisins in some rum. Gently braise apples together with raisins in some butter until soft, add sugar to taste before cooking, also some grated lemon rind. When soft pour over some warmed rum and light it.

These two recipes have been picked at random from the "Nelly Kalender." This is a magazine published in Switzerland especially for women. It appears monthly. Amongst its pages are items of interest, such as fashion, homemaking, menu suggestions for the whole month and many excellent recipes. What is particularly nice is that in contrast to English women's magazines, the "Nelly Kalender" has our accustomed Swiss way of presenting things. Really excellent are the articles on health problems, such as may occur in any family, and the diets which will help overcome such problems. Thus over the past three months there have been articles with attached food suggestions on liver and gallstone complaints, on the very common complaint of flatulence (Blaehungen) and how to keep the blood stream pure. Space does not allow to enumerate further articles, but all are of interest. One year's subscription costs 18 Franken. Send order to: Nelly's Kalender, Kuesnacht Z H, Switzerland.



## News from Switzerland

### SWISS EXHIBITION OF AGRICULTURE MACHINERY AT BRUGG

After an interruption lasting for two years, the Swiss Association of Owners of Agricultural Machines, in collaboration with other groups which are directly interested in this matter, are once more organising, from the 3rd to the 7th April, 1959, a Swiss Exhibition of Agricultural Machinery. This show will group together about a hundred Swiss and foreign manufacturers, and will thus be the most important exhibition of this kind to have been organised in Switzerland.

### FRANKING MACHINES IN SWITZERLAND

After having first been authorised for use by the Swiss Postal Administration, in 1921, the use of the machine for the stamping of so-called "metered mail" has spread throughout private business, somewhat timidly at first, and then with greater assurance, during the last ten years. No fewer than 4716 such machines are now being used in Switzerland, most of them being of domestic manufacture. In 1957, these stamping machines, the meter of which is checked every month by the post office, had stamped prepaid mail to the value of 10,743 Swiss francs (U.S.A. \$2,500), on an average for each one, or to the value of 51 million Swiss francs (U.S.A. \$11.9 million) for all of them. This amount represents 19% of the total sum spent on postage in Switzerland during the past year.

### NEW PHYSICS INSTITUTE IN ZURICH

After lengthy studies and twenty-one months of work, the new Physics Institute, attached to the University of Zurich, has just been inaugurated officially. It possesses a big auditorium and a vast laboratory, equipped with a crane, having a capacity of fifteen metric tons. This laboratory can be sub-divided into sixteen laboratories of normal dimensions by means of movable partitions and floors. Surrounding the lecture-rooms are to be found 35 further normal laboratories, which can serve all purposes. As a result of wise precautions, this new building has only cost 4.5 million Swiss francs, that is to say just a little more than a million dollars.

### NEW CEMENT FACTORY IN SWISS ALPS

A new cement-making plant has recently been inaugurated at Untervaz, in the Grisons. Producing presently already 300 metric tons of cement, the raw material of which is supplied by a quarry excavated in a ridge of the Piz Calanca, it constitutes a very welcome source of employment in a region which is destitute of all industries. The greater portion of its output is absorbed by construction works of dams and roads in the Grisons.

### ROYAL VISITS AT THE SWISS PAVILION IN BRUSSELS

During the last few days before closing of the World Exhibition, in Brussels, the Swiss Pavilion was visited by several members of the Belgian Royal Family. Thus, His Majesty King Baudoin the First, King of the Belgians, his father, King Leopold, and Queen Elisabeth honoured the Swiss stands with their presence, as did also ex-King Umberto of Italy, uncle of King Baudoin.

### 100 YEARS OF SHOE-POLISH

A century ago, a factory was founded at Munchwilen, for the manufacture of blacking, shoe-polishes and similar preparations, which now furnishes 60 to 70 per cent of all the shoe-polishes used in Switzerland. This firm also makes other preparations of a similar nature and has contributed towards the development of skiing by taking an active part, some twenty-five years ago, in the spreading of the first liquid varnishes invented for the "waxing" of skis.

### SWISS SPINNING FRAMES FOR CEYLON

The Government of Ceylon has decided to go in for the development, on a large scale, of the textile industry on the island and, with this aim in view, to establish a big spinning mill at Avsyangoda. In spite of strong competition, it is the Swiss firm of Messrs J. J. Rieter & Company, Ltd., of Winterthur, which has been given the order for the delivery of spinning machinery, to the value of about 4 million Swiss francs (U.S.A. \$930,000). This order is all the more important as it is a trial order, and the equipment of the new mill will have to be doubled, already in two years' time.

### SWITZERLAND REPRESENTED AT FOOTWEAR EXHIBITION IN LONDON

Two Swiss factories were represented at the yearly Footwear Exhibition, which was held recently in London and at which a great many manufacturers, both from the United Kingdom and other countries, were showing their products. The Swiss firms in question were Messrs Walder of Brütisellen, near Zurich, who has been established for nearly a hundred years, and Messrs Bally of Schönenwerd, who were represented by their British subsidiary company in Norwich.

### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ELECTRIC STEEL FURNACE AT AARAU

It is just fifty years since the firm of Oehler & Company, Ltd., of Aarau, installed in that city its first electric furnace for melting steel. At that time, the setting up of an apparatus for melting by means of electricity was looked upon as being a very daring undertaking. The first electric furnace in Aarau used to consume one-quarter of the capacity of the electric plant which furnished the current for the local network. In order to commemorate this venturesome initiative, Messrs Oehler recently donated a statue to the city of Aarau, which has now been set up in a public park.

### A PIONEER OF THE SWISS EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY

The inauguration took place recently, at Gossau, near St. Gall, of a monument to the memory of Isaac Grobli, who was born in 1822 and died in 1917, and who was the inventor of the "Schiffli" embroidering-loom, the machine used for the manufacture of the greater portion of Swiss embroideries: guipure, eyelet embroidery, fine embroidered fabrics, etc.

### ELECTRICITY AND COMFORT IN THE HOME

The consumption of electric power in Swiss households is very great; indeed, it amounts to as much as 2,740 kwh per annum and per head of the population, thus exceeding the figure for all the other European countries. The most important users, after Switzerland, are Great Britain (1,613 kwh), Sweden (1,410 kwh), Holland (810 kwh), Austria (645 kwh) and West Germany (618 kwh).

In this connection it is interesting to note that out of every 100 Swiss households, on an average 53 possess an electric cooking stove, 61 have an electric boiler, equipped with an accumulator, 17 have a refrigerator and 11 a washing machine.

We would add, furthermore, that in Switzerland 99 per cent of the houses are connected with a network for the supply of electricity.



### UP TO DATE AND ALWAYS ON TIME

The Swiss watchmaking industry has always striven to create watches which will correspond to the exigencies of modern life, which grows more and more complicated. In this connection, we would like to mention the appearance, among its latest creations of a watch-bracelet which will prove extremely useful to motorists in the big cities, by measuring the length of time their cars have been parked, and reminding them of the fact. This is done by means of the ringing of an alarm device, which has been set at the required time, by moving the international sign "P" (parking), and which goes off at the end of 30, 60, 90 or 120 minutes, as desired.

Among other interesting novelties are to be found: a watch-bracelet supplied with a perpetual calendar, which indicates correctly the day of the month, without any manual intervention; another, of which the hour-finger is replaced by a mobile disc, bearing the names of twenty-four towns which represent the time-belt and, thus, show what time it is in all parts of the world; and, finally, the watch which makes it unnecessary for those who make long journeys by air to turn the minute finger right round, whenever the time changes; in this latest model, the hour-finger is independent and is controlled by two small push buttons, one to advance and the other to retard the movement.

### 40,000 DIFFERENT TYPES OF FILES

Vallorbe, a small town in the Jura Vaudois, is not only an important frontier station on the line which, via Lausanne, connects the Simplon with Paris. It possesses another characteristic, that of being the home of a very special industry, namely, the manufacture of files. One might almost say, the manufacture of files of every kind, as this production extends to nearly 40,000 different types, most of which are intended for manual work requiring great precision such as the finishing work on cutting-out tools, etc.

The Metallurgical Works of Vallorbe also make saws and burs for metal drilling, and export 70 per cent of their production to fifty-five countries.

### OLD SWISS BANK-NOTES RECALLED

New bank-notes, to the value of 1,000, 500 and 50 francs were put into circulation in Switzerland, in 1957. More than four-fifths of the old notes having been replaced by the new ones, the old bank-notes, which are still in circulation were recalled on the 1st October, 1958. From that date they have lost their validity as legal tender. Nevertheless, in conformity with the official regulations, they will be accepted at their nominal value, up to the 31st March, 1959, by the cashiers at all government bureaus. For its part, the National Bank is bound to exchange them at their nominal value for another twenty years, i.e. until the 30th September, 1978.

### SWITZERLAND, A HEAVY CONSUMER OF AMERICAN TOBACCO

Do you know that tobacco plays an important role in American-Swiss trade? Nearly three-quarters of the tobacco imported by Switzerland comes from the United States, 30% of the tobacco produced in Maryland being bought by Switzerland. Other varieties come from Virginia and Kentucky.

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