

# News from Switzerland

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### Swiss Recipes

Zimt-Sterne (Christmas confection): 10 oz. almonds, 10 oz. sugar, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 3 egg whites. Beat egg whites very stiff, add sugar, cinnamon and almonds. Mix quickly and turn out on sugared board. Then roll lightly till dough is a quarter of an inch thick and cut out shapes of stars, which you place on greased tray and bake in low oven. When cold place one dot of thick icing on each star.

Tea Biscuits (Teeplatzchen): 1 lb. flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. butter, 5 oz. sugar, 2 eggs. Into flour rub butter and add sugar and eggs. Mix well, then turn out on floured board. From dough one-eighth of an inch thick cut small round shapes, which you place on a greased tray and bake in low oven. When light brown remove from oven and fill them with apricot jam immediately, placing one on top of the other and turning them into icing sugar.

MRS. E.A.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Instead of the monthly evening in January, the Hamilton Swiss Club will hold a combined picnic with the Auckland Swiss Club. (See advertisement elsewhere in this paper.)

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 Street, Newton, on the first Tuesday in the month. Come along and spend an enjoyable evening among friends. Everybody is made most welcome.

#### Taranaki Swiss Club

Remember date of Picnic—16th February.

#### Combined Picnic

Hamilton and Auckland Swiss Club, in the Mercer Sports Ground (near Mercer Railway Station), on the 26th of January, 1958, starting 10 a.m. Children's races, tug-o'-war, music, ringen, jodeln, steinstossen, dancing, bratwuerste, etc. Road will be flaged. Any alterations due to weather conditions will be broadcast from 1XH, 9 a.m., and 1ZB from 8 a.m. at half-hourly intervals. Everybody most welcome.

A.B.

### QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN

"Curious": Regarding the military tax—do I have to pay above tax also on the assets of my wife? In other words, are we in this matter subject to Swiss or New Zealand law?

Answer: It is the Swiss law which applies to the Swiss Military Service Exemption Tax and it results from the declaration forms and explanations which are sent every year to all

those subject to that tax, that all income of a wife has to be declared by her husband, but not her personal fortune.

### REMINDER

Swiss citizens do NOT have to renounce their Swiss citizenship in order to become naturalised in New Zealand.

## News from Switzerland

### Small Decline of the Swiss Emigration

Nine hundred and sixty-six Swiss citizens emigrated during the first six months of 1957, that is to say, 15 per cent. less than during the corresponding period of 1956. Emigration, in June alone, declined by 7 per cent., in comparison with the same month in 1956.

### Progress of the Swiss Television

The number of owners of television sets in Switzerland rose by 549 during the month of June, and has now attained a total of 27,001. The greatest number of receiving sets, namely 6677, is to be found in the Zurich postal district.

### Swiss Chocolate Appreciated all Over the World

In 1956, the production of chocolate in Switzerland attained a record figure. It amounted to more than thirty-five million kilos of chocolate in tablet form, thus exceeding by more than sixty thousand kilos the record figure achieved in 1915, and never equalled since then. From 1955 to 1956 the production of Swiss chocolate per head of the population is higher in Switzerland than in any other country, coming even before Great Britain and Belgium. As for exports, these also show a satisfactory development. Thus, in 1956, exports amounted in weight to almost 6,500,000 kilos, and in value to 35,500,000 Swiss francs; there was an increase of more than 10,000,000 francs in comparison with 1955. Last year Switzerland exported her chocolate to some ninety different countries.

### A Good Crop in View in Switzerland

In Switzerland the wheat harvest promises to be exceptionally good. Fine weather having favoured the harvesting, this crop will help to efface the memory of the double catastrophe that occurred last year, namely, the severe frost in winter and too much rain in the summer. Each year, from September to January, some two million metric quintals (one quintal equals 220.46 lb.) are taken over, at special delivery places, by the experts of the Swiss Wheat and Milling Administration, and stored in the Con-

federation's silos and in the mills, whilst more than a million metric quintals serves for the direct provisioning of the producers.

### Good News for Motorists

The Swiss authorities are now preparing plans which they expect to be introduced at the beginning of 1958.

It is understood that motorists from abroad will no longer be required to produce a "carnet de passage en douane" or a triptyque when entering or leaving Switzerland. This very important Customs concession will be operated during a trial period.

Further details will be published as soon as possible.

### A Swiss Watch Proves its Worth

The world Press kept the public well informed regarding the voyage across the Atlantic by the replica of the famous ship the "Mayflower," which, in 1620, carried the Pilgrim Fathers from Plymouth to America, where they formed the first English settlement. On the other hand, far less was heard about an extremely interesting experiment which was made on this occasion and which confirmed, once more, the high quality achieved by Swiss industry in the production of articles of precision. An automatic watch was fixed to the rudder of the "Mayflower II." In spite of the fact that there was a rough sea during most of the crossing, the watch never stopped during the fifty-one days of the voyage, and never ceased from showing the exact time. Moreover, not the least humidity could be found inside the watch. It may be of interest to know that this same watch had already proved its worth a year ago when a Swiss expedition climbed the Everest and the Lhotse. There, also, the results obtained were a great credit to Swiss watchmaking.

### Successful Swiss Actors in Foreign Countries

Zurich, Switzerland.—The Swiss film production is mainly destined for domestic performances, because of problems of language. Strips in dialect would first have to be synchronised in other countries, which renders them expensive, and it is not a popular proceeding anywhere, with the exception perhaps of Germany. It would have to be a film of outstanding quality to be performed internationally, as that was the case, for instance, with the "Heidi" films.

Instead of films, Switzerland, however, exports many actors, and just in recent years several of them were able to conquer first places in the sun. Especially in Germany and Austria Liselotte Pulver, Paul Hufschmid, Heinrich Gretler, Maximilian Schell and Bernhard Wicki enjoy great popularity. On the stage Maria Becker

has created for herself a brilliant name by her manifold talents, whilst her husband, Robert Freytag, the son of a Swiss-American opera singer, has met with successes as a film actor and stage director. As singers of popular songs, Lys Assia, and last but not least, Vico Torriani belong to the international elite.

As far as Hollywood flew so far Elisabeth Muller, who filmed there with Robert Taylor and who has sometimes been called the new Garbo. She has recently been joined by Annermarie Düringer.

At present Maria Schell is celebrating a great and well-earned success on Broadway, after that gifted Swiss actress gained first prizes at film festivals in Europe. In Kautner's film "The Last Bridge," which is running at present in the U.S.A., she met with full recognition and conquered in storm the hearts of the American public. The New York "Daily Mirror" writes that one would have to see Maria Schell to renew one's belief in the art of the film. The New York "Herald Tribune" even proposes its readers to celebrate a day's joy about the discovery of Miss Schell, and the New York "Times" speaks of a wonderfully genuine actress. Maria Schell's Hollywood film "The Brothers Karamanov" is now being expected with great interest. Another Swiss artist met with brilliant success in New York recently: At the Metropolitan Lisa della Casa confirmed her reputation as eminent singer also before an exacting public, and the Mozart-interpretess, Maria Stader, seems to want to equal her.

### The Traffic Through the St. Gothard Tunnel

The 75th anniversary of the famous St. Gothard tunnel is being celebrated this year. In connection with this anniversary, it is interesting to note that, in 1882, it was estimated that the number of passengers who would travel along this route would attain 250,000 per year. This was indeed a modest estimate, when one thinks that already in 1883 records of the traffic show more than three times as many passengers as had been originally estimated. Today approximately five million persons pass through the St. Gothard tunnel each year.

### A Swiss Postal Parcel Becomes an American Film Star

Visp, Switzerland.—An American TV film team of the Columbia Broadcasting System recently made an interesting picture on location in Switzerland. By order of the U.S.A. Postal Administration the entire journey of a postal parcel from Belalp in the Valais Alps to the Zurichberg, Zurich's smartest residential district, was filmed to show American TV viewers the efficiency of the Swiss Postal Service. Special emphasis was given to the great technical difficulties to be

overcome in a country perched on the very roof of Europe. The parcel was first taken by a mule from the "Alp" to a mountain station of the funicular railway and by this to the valley. Here a postal car forwarded the consignment to the railway, which then took it through the Lotschberg tunnel to Berne. There a fast train took over the "movie star," whisking it to Zurich, where it was dispatched at the main post office and again by car delivered to the addressee. The film was shown on Ed. Murrow's "See It Now" program, procuring good testimony to the organisation of the Swiss post and also to the scenic beauty of Switzerland.

#### New-fangled Time Tables with Film Projection in Switzerland

Zurich, Switzerland.—An inventive engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways has constructed a time table which has gained the favour of the public immediately. At the Central Station in Zurich two such tables have just been put up, which, through their handiness are enjoying very lively interest. Each of these tables contains all inland time tables photographed on films which are projected on to a screen disc by a special projector. In order to get the desired part of the film, i.e., the required page of the time table, on to the disc, you move a starter ring on to the number given on the map of the line in question. Finally a red reading ruler may be moved up or down on the disc, by which any line or station wanted is underlined. As the new time tables are not only beautiful in form but also very handy, it is very probable that after their trial in Zurich they will soon also be found at other Swiss railway stations.

The Swiss Parliament costs per head of the population 46 Swiss centimes, based on expenditures for the year 1955. France puts its Parliamentary expenses at Swiss francs 1.10 per capita. Solely Italy, with 84 cts., Britain with 50 and Holland with 31 cts., spend less than one Swiss franc for their Parliaments. Therefore nobody can blame the Swiss for being spendthrifts.

#### American Exports to Switzerland

Since 1936, when the law of trade relations between Switzerland and the United States came into force, American exports to Switzerland have increased, during these twenty years, from 7,000,000 dollars to 215,000,000 dollars; on the other hand, in 1956 the United States purchased goods from Switzerland to the value of 185,000,000 dollars.

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