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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Our next evening will be held on Sunday, February 21st, in the Riverlea. Once again we have engaged the full Dutch Orchestra. Please bring your partners.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

A Picnic will be held on March 13th. We will meet at 10 a.m. at the Cenotaph (corner Bowen Street). Please keep this date free and have an enjoyable day with us.

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

Owing to the Picnic in Mercer on the last Sunday in January, there will be no club evening in February. The next meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in March and we will have some big surprises for you. There is also to be a farewell party for the retiring President, who is leaving for Switzerland and the Olympic Games—isn't he lucky?

**NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND***THE NEW FEDERAL COUNCIL*

*Petitpierre*, Federal President and Minister of Politic and External Affairs.

*Tschudi*, Minister of Internal Affairs.

*Von Moos*, Minister of Justice and Police.

*Chaudet*, Minister of Defence.

*Bourgnerecht*, Minister of Finance and Customs.

*Wahlen*, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

*Spuhler*, Minister of Post and Railways.

From this seven councillors no fewer than four have been elected to the head of our Government as a result of the recent general elections. These are Messrs Tschudi, Von Moos, Bourgnerecht and Spuhler. In the next issue of the *Helvetia* we will give you a few details of their activities before they came to this high post.

*SWISS MACHINE FOR SAUDI ARABIA*

A big gas turbine—one of the most powerful in the Middle East—is to be inaugurated by the Aramco, in 1961. This turbine will render possible a better utilisation of the resources in oil of Saudi Arabia. Manufactured in Switzerland by a firm in Winterthur, it will have a dimension of 19.4 yards by 8.3 yards and will be capable of developing a capacity of 14,500 HP. It will serve to run three compressors, which will be able to compress about 60 million cubic feet of gas per day. These gasses, either in a compressed or liquid form, will be re-injected into the oil-fields in order to preserve the pressure necessary for the extraction of a larger quantity of crude oil.

*SWISS DELIVERY TO AUSTRALIA*

On the 13th November, 1959, the imposing Narrows Bridge in Perth, Western Australia, was solemnly inaugurated and handed over for public use. This bridge which spans the Swan River is equipped with about fifty light-metal Light Standards, 33-39 feet high, which carry big fluorescent lamps. The powerful illumination gives the bridge a very special and highly modern look. These Light Standards (except for the electrical parts) have been manufactured specially for the said bridge by the Swiss firm ALUMINIUM S.A., of Menziken.

*THE PROGRESS OF TELEVISION  
IN SWITZERLAND*

Since the 1st of January, 1959, the number of subscribers to television in Switzerland has increased from 50,300 to 78,700 in round figures, thus going up by 28,400 new sets. The previous year, there had only been 18,930 subscribers. Thus, at the end of 1959, there was, on an average, one TV set per every 66 inhabitants. At this rate, it may be anticipated that the number of TV licence holders will have attained the figure of 100,000 in 1960.

Out of the 78,700 subscribers to television, about 72,600 are private persons and 6000 are collective licence holders (restaurants, hospitals, sanatoria, etc.). There are 55,700 subscribers in German-speaking Switzerland, 17,000 in the French speaking parts and nearly 6,000 in the Tessin.

*PEASANT CRAFTWORK STILL  
THRIVING IN SWITZERLAND*

Wood carving, which still brings in an appreciable income to the populations of certain mountainous regions in Switzerland, such as the Bernese Oberland, for example, is maintaining its position pretty well. According to the most recent statistics, it provides employment for 435 persons, of which number 200 are independent master wood-carvers, 158 workmen and 40 workers who do the carving at home. Care is being taken to find new models, which are more adapted to the taste of the customers of today. But, certain of the classical souvenirs continue to be greatly appreciated, more particularly by the foreign visitors. Another rustic branch of craftsmanship which continues to exist in the Canton of Appenzell, is that of the cutting out of brass ornaments, which are intended principally for the decoration of the leather collars to which cow-bells are attached, and which are also used to decorate the herdsmen's leather braces. It is true, however, that this rustic art, which demands a great deal of taste, as well as skill, is now only being practised by a single craftsman, the heir to a tradition which has been preserved and fostered in the same family for 130 years.

*NEW RADIOTELEPHONIC NETWORK  
FOR THE POLICE OF BERNE*

The police of the Canton of Berne (Switzerland) have just become the possessors of a new radiotelephonic network, of a very modern conception and very high efficacy, which has been produced by the firm of "Autophone," of Soleure. In

order to be able to cover the whole of the territory of this Canton, which is very extensive and possesses a markedly hilly terrain, it has been necessary to establish four relay stations, which are connected with the central station in Berne by 25.5 inch wave lengths. Each relay station re-transmits the messages received to the police cars by means of 71 inch waves. Every car which is equipped with a radio telephone can receive the messages sent by the central station or communicate, via this station, with any other car, or with any other station on the network of the Swiss PTT, the central station always being able to take part in the conversation. Moreover, every car can receive the police information network and can talk directly with any other car or with the small portable police wireless sets. A still further possibility consists in each car being able to receive the broadcasts on the wave-lengths common to all the Swiss police. At present, this new network comprises 23 cars, but it can be extended to 90 cars. It will make better collaboration possible between the police forces belonging to the different Cantons, more especially in so far as the road police are concerned.

#### SWISS CLOCKS FOR AMERICAN MILITARY PLANE

A Swiss watchmaking factory has just made a control-panel clock for motor cars and aircraft, which in addition to possessing a very high-degree of precision, has a very simple construction, so that it can be kept in good order very easily. This modern control-panel clock is being used very successfully and on a large scale on the aircraft belonging to the American Air Force.

#### NEW SWISS CUSTOMS TARIFF

The new Swiss Customs Tariff came into force on January 1st. This decision was taken by the Federal Government at its session on December 1st, 1959.

#### A SWISS TECHNICAL ADVISER FOR THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

A Swiss government officer, Mr. Robert Bornoz, who is an Inspector in the Financial Section of the General Direction of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones, in Berne, has just left for Syria, the Northern Province of the United Arab Republic. He Will remain for some time in this country, in the capacity of a technical assistant at the United Nations and will proceed, at the request of the authorities, to reorganise the Accountant's Department of the Syrian General Post Office.

#### SWITZERLAND CARRIES OUT A BIG ORDER FOR NORWAY

In the new Palace of the Norwegian Government—a building which is sixteen stories high—the premises have been covered with Swiss linoleum, from Giubiasco. 13,150 square yards cover the floors and 19,130 square yards the walls. As for the partitions used for dividing the rooms, the covering linoleum has been glued onto pre-fabricated parts.

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