

# News from Switzerland

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### SWISS NATIONAL HYMN

(Tritt'st im Morgenrot daher)

With the sun's first golden beam  
Setting snow-capped peaks a-gleam,  
Yet another glorious morn thus is born,

As we stand in adoration,  
Proud of our land and nation,  
We pray God for maintenance  
Of this great inheritance.

When the ev'ning's shadows fall,  
Starry heavens us enthral,  
We are lifted high above, by God's love,

Whilst in silent contemplation,  
Filled with awe and admiration,  
Our grateful heart expand,  
Beating high for Switzerland.

And when storm-clouds stir the sky,  
Lightning flashes from on high,  
We implore, with one accord, Thee, oh Lord!

In our greatest tribulation  
He is our sure salvation,  
May His strong, protective hand  
Ever guard our native land.

(September 1938)

GALLUS.

### NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

#### FIRST SWISS COLD-STORAGE SHIP

At the end of last year, the Swiss St. Gothard Shipping Company launched the cold-storage ship "Calanca." This new vessel, with a displacement of 1500 tons, is the first of its type to be built for a Swiss company. The Swiss Overseas Co. Ltd., maritime agents and freighters in Geneva, will handle the freighting of this new addition to the Swiss maritime fleet.

#### ACHIEVEMENT IN TANGANYIKA

Last summer the Swiss Tropical Institute, in Basle, carried out a new educational project in Tanganyika, which recently became independent. The Basle Foundation for Aid to Countries in the Process of Development, backed mainly by the Basle chemical industry, built a group of buildings at Ifakara — accommodation for students, auditoriums, etc.— so that last July 38 African students were able to start a practical course for medical staff under the supervision of nine European doctors. It was recently announced that the Tropical Institute in Basle has decided to increase the size of its premises at Ifakara and is planning to organise new courses for medical staff, as well as for technical staff attached to the Ministry of Agriculture.

### THE VALAIS AND 1968 WINTER OLYMPICS

Sion, the picturesque capital of the Swiss canton of Valais, has ambitions to become the centre for the 1968 Winter Olympics. Bids for this honour are also likely to be made by three other Swiss resorts; namely, Davos, Interlaken and St. Moritz, where Winter Olympics were held in 1928 and 1948. Sion believes there are a number of weighty arguments in its favour. Compared with the two other winter sports regions—the Grisons and Bernese Oberland—the Valais has hitherto been somewhat neglected as a venue for important sports events. Although somewhat southern as regards climate and character, the capital is centrally situated within easy access of such splendid winter sports resorts as Crans and Montana in the north and Verbier and Vercorin in the south of the Rhone valley. There are five artificial ice-rinks within a comparatively short distance; Sion itself is said to be planning an ice stadium for speed-skating. Indeed, plans are in hand for the general development of this area for tourism. Further projects to open up new skiing slopes by the erection of mechanical transport systems are in active preparation. Two of the best known Valais resorts, Zermatt and Saas-Fee, have applied for the 1966 world skiing championships to be held there as part of their scheme to publicise the whole area as a winter sports centre.

### SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

The annual Swiss Industries Fair in Basel (March 31 to April 10, 1962) is the most important trade exhibition in Switzerland. It is also one of the oldest of its kind and has won a high international reputation as the show window of a highly industrialised country with trade relations extending all over the world. There will be 27 groups in all with 2300 exhibitors. In 1962 machine tools and tools for metal-working, heavy machinery and the metal industry, the watch industry and the textile and clothing industry will figure as the most important export groups.

### SUNNY JANUARY IN PONTRESINA

Records kept by a former village doctor in Pontresina, Dr Ludwig by name, show that a January holiday in the Engadine is quite unbeatable for weather besides being an attractive prospect on every other score. Between 1864 and 1873 Dr Ludwig watched the Engadine sky with inexhaustible patience and kept a record of the clouds. Taking number 10 to indicate a completely overcast sky, he worked out the following mean values for these ten years: December 4.6, January 4.5, February 4.6, March 5.3 and April 4.8. Besides being the least cloudy month of the winter, January also comes out best for the whole year because Dr Ludwig reckoned 4.85 to be the mean annual cloud cover.

GROWTH OF GRINDELWALD GLACIER

Fifty-one feet is the growth recorded for the Obere Grindelwald glacier in the Bernese Oberland during the past year. Annual measurements are taken of all the important Swiss glaciers and the increased length of the Grindelwald glacier may be a sign that the retreat of the Alpine ice observed over the past few decades is now at an end.

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW

The International Motor Show in Geneva ranks as the most complete and international of all exhibitions held by the automobile industry. A cross-section of vehicles from 16 countries will be on show there. Private cars, commercial vehicles, special machines for road building and maintenance, motor boats and their accessories are to be displayed on more than 600 stands. The next Motor Show will be held from March 15 to 25, 1962.

GREAT TRADITION UNDER NEW SYMBOL

Economic associations have to adapt themselves to changing conditions in the world. Those that cling to the past cease to serve a useful purpose and are superceded, for the protective barrier they set up yesterday is now an obstacle. For the Swiss Watchmaking Federation (FH) the new watchmaking statute, put to the public vote and approved by the whole Swiss people, represents the necessary overhaul and renewal. The new statute imposes on all manufacturers the absolute necessity of maintaining a high standard of quality. It also gives technical assistance to small manufacturers. Scientific research is the order of the day: for some time now, the Swiss Laboratory for Horological Research and today, the Electronic Watchmaking Centre, have been carrying out the initial groundwork which is of inestimable use to the whole industry. The forty million watches produced annually in Switzerland must bear witness throughout the world to the quality of Swiss workmanship. The Watchmaking Federation wished to celebrate the adoption of the new statute by introducing a new distinctive sign. The horizontal and vertical strokes of its initials "FH" very conveniently form a perfect Swiss cross. It is therefore under the auspices of this centuries-old sign that the Watchmaking Federation, which represents Swiss lever watch manufacturers and constitutes one of Switzerland's biggest export industries, proposes to continue its work.

AMONGST FINEST IN EUROPE

Forty-five miles of winding paths deep into the heart of the earth await speleologists who apply at the Hollgrotte Hotel in Muotatal-Hintertal near Schwyz to explore the Holloch caves. These caves, which can also be visited in winter, are amongst the finest in Europe in regard to length and natural rock formation.

PRAISE FOR SWISS HOTELS

Reviewing the travel season in 1961, the Paris newspaper "Figaro" recently interviewed some leading personalities and asked for their impressions of hotels in France and abroad. "Do you prefer foreign or French hotels?" was the query. In the replies Swiss hotels with their long tradition figured prominently. Edwige Feuillere, the celebrated actress, said: "I find that Swiss hotels have the maximum comfort to offer in regard to both accommodation and food, and this is true even of the smallest mountain hotel." Lucky, the president of the Association of Paris Mannequins, said: "I've always had a wonderful welcome in foreign hotels, especially in Switzerland." The French tennis champion, Pierre Darmon, thinks that the French hotel trade is one of the best in Europe but that pride of place goes indisputably to Switzerland, while comedian Jean Rigaux calls the Swiss hotel trade "an industry that never goes off the lines."

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