

News from Switzerland

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **25 (1962)**

Heft [12]

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

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● RECIPE

CHERRY DESSERT

Cherries are expensive in New Zealand, we know, but let it be a Christmas treat.

Make a vanilla custard from 1 pint of milk, 3 ozs sugar, 2/3 of an oz of cornflour or custard powder, 2 egg yolks. Stir this often whilst it cools to prevent a skin forming.

Line a dish with 10 to 12 sponge finger halves (Loeffelbiskuit), which have been sprinkled with 3-4 tablespoons full of rum or orange juice. From 2 lbs of cherries retain some nice ones for decorating. The remainder has to have stones removed and sprinkled with sugar. Place sweetened and stone cherries on top of sponge fingers. Whip stiffly $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of cream, mix with vanilla custard. Pour mixture over cherries in dish and decorate with remaining cherries.

—H.B.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND ★ ★ ★

The Transport Problems of Heavy Industry

The general public has little idea of the magnitude of the problems raised by the transport of the big parts manufactured by the Swiss engineering industry. Recently, for example, a big engineering works at Oerlikon near Zurich (Switzerland), had to arrange for the stator of a 157,000 kVA generator, the biggest ever built by the firm, to be transported to the Netherlands. When provided with all the accessories needed for the journey by rail, this mammoth piece of engineering measuring over 13 feet in diameter totalled the impressive weight of 150 metric tons, and had to be carried by a special waggon 130 feet long resting on 36 wheels, spread over 6 bogies. As the dimensions of this consignment greatly exceeded the maximum allowed on the line over which it would have to travel, a light full-scale mock-up had to be made and dispatched by the same route beforehand in order to see whether the real thing would pass everywhere. After this precaution had been taken, the actual transport could take place according to a special timetable and at a maximum speed of 20 miles an hour on Swiss territory. This was one of the biggest items ever to be manufactured by the Swiss engineering industry. (OSEC)

The Henry Dunant Monument Unveiled at Heiden

On October 28, a monument erected to the memory of Henry Dunant was unveiled in the Appenzell town of Heiden, where the illustrious Genevese philanthropist spent his old age and where he died. The statue is by Mrs Ch. Germann-Jahn. It was financed by a national subscription, part of which will be used to erect a second monument, in honour of the founder of the Red Cross, on the Promenade de la Treille in Geneva. The president of the Heiden

Historical Society, Mr Jakob Haug, received a large number of guests among whom, in addition to representatives of the federal, cantonal and communal authorities, were Mr Alfred Borel, national councillor and president of the Henry Dunant National Committee, Mr Hans Bachmann, a member of the ICRC, Mr Ambrosius von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross, Mr Nikolai Tchikalenko, Under Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and delegates from several of the National Societies.

Speeches were made and this was an opportunity to note that, hitherto, the memory of Henry Dunant, one of the best known Swiss in the world, had not yet been honoured in his country by a public monument. The President of the Swiss Red Cross, Mr von Albertini, drew attention to this regrettable situation, to which the Heiden monument has put an end. Another speaker, Professor G. Thurer, of Teufen, stressed the fact that Dunant opened up an avenue for Switzerland by showing it the possibility of extending its moral bounds throughout the world.

A show at Heiden church depicting episodes in the life of Henry Dunant followed the unveiling of the monument. It was enacted with great enthusiasm by an amateur group from the locality, where the memory of this great man remains very vivid.

Dispatch of Relief Supplies

The ICRC has sent the Greek Red Cross 10 tons of powdered milk and three tons of cheese to enable the Society to develop its assistance to political detainees and their needy families.

The First Entirely Electronic Clock in the World: A Swiss Achievement

Even though the Swiss watchmaking industry has not announced its remarkable achievements in the field of electronic watchmaking during the last few years in a great blare of publicity, this does not mean that it has remained inactive in this field—far from it. The Soltronic clock, invented, designed and made by Solvil and Titus in Geneva, after twelve years of research and extremely complex work and several million francs' worth of investments, constitutes the first wholly electronic timepiece in the world. This instrument is also the first clock in the world with no moving part to be put on the commercial market. In fact, Soltronic represents the first apparatus in which the only moving particles are electrons, which carry out all the functions of a watch, the hands themselves being replaced by small luminous apertures. The motive power for this revolutionary achievement is supplied by electricity, either from the mains or a battery. Frequency dividers break down the basic frequency into the divisions used for the hours, minutes and seconds. Without any moving part or electric contact, which does away with all friction and any danger of the contacts oxidizing, this clock is so extraordinarily reliable and precise that it can be described as the most accurate timepiece it is possible to make industrially. The Geneva workshops took three years to make the first prototypes to give complete satisfaction. The manufacturer hopes next spring to be able to put on the market a model one-third of the present size, i.e., about the size of an ordinary table clock, and in a year perhaps an entirely electronic wrist-watch at a price—once it is mass produced—not exceeding that of an ordinary high quality watch offered on the market today. (OSEC)

A Swiss Fish-Scaling Machine

Although extremely necessary, fish-scaling is not exactly one of the pleasantest jobs to perform. Fortunately therefore a Swiss manufacturer has just launched a very handy appliance greatly simplifying this chore. This welcome gadget is in the form of a rotary scraper, driven at high speed by a strong electric motor via a flexible shaft. Extremely simple to operate, working cleanly and quickly without any danger for the operator, the "Roto-Fix," as this ingenious device is called, is destined to render invaluable service, especially to restaurants, hotels, boarding houses, schools and all big catering establishments. (OSEC)

Preparations for a Swiss Expedition to the South Pole

The recently founded Swiss Polar Explorers Society is planning to send a Swiss expedition of some fifteen explorers to the South Pole in October, 1963. The team will consist of scientists, technicians and doctors, who will have a year in which to be equipped with 6 caterpillar track vehicles and 280 tons of equipment and supplies; they will have some 2,300 miles to cover starting from Adelie Land. (OSEC)

Trees for the Swiss National Exhibition, 1964

The Swiss National Exhibition, which is to take place in Lausanne in 1964, will be situated in a magnificent natural setting of greenery, on the shores of the Lake of Geneva. Last spring, the trees in this area were given very special attention, with a view to safeguarding and protecting them. Approximately five hundred of them, including numerous birches, poplars, hornbeams, maples and pine trees, were transplanted with every possible care. This difficult operation—several trees measuring 50 feet in height—was carried out with great success and very little loss. By the autumn of 1963, some thousand more full-grown trees and shrubs will be planted, which with the lawns and flower-beds will help to complete the perfect charm of the setting in which the National Exhibition is to be held and which experts already consider as one of the most beautiful in the world. (OSEC)

All matters regarding the Swiss Society . . . to—

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