

News from Switzerland

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The bride wore a white satin dress with a detachable train and a French lace bodice piped with white satin. Her short puffy veil was held on by a pearl and lace coronet. The attendants, Sylvia Hayward, Christine and Nicola Wilkinson and Maureen Pfenniger, wore turquoise satin dresses with white chantilly lace bodices. The best man was Chris Noser, also from Switzerland.

Among the guests who attended the wedding was Mr Karl Gottini, who is the new President of the Christchurch Swiss Club. Mr & Mrs H. Schmidli, of Christchurch, stood in for the groom's parents. —J.F.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ★ ★ ★ ★

Hamilton Swiss Club

There will be no evenings in January. Our Annual Picnic will be held on 16th February at the residence of Mr & Mrs Risi, in Ngaruawahia. Further particulars later.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND ★ ★ ★

ARRIVAL OF TIBETAN REFUGEES

At the invitation of the Association for the Creation of Tibetan Homes in Switzerland, a third and fourth group of Tibetan refugees arrived at Kloten-Zurich airport after flying from India on board two Swissair planes. The third group, totalling 24 persons, viz. a lama and 10 families, has been given a permanent home in a house purchased by the Swiss Red Cross in the canton of the Grisons. The fourth group of 23 refugees, has been housed in the mountainous region of Toggenbourg (canton of St. Gall), in a house belonging to the Association for the Creation of Tibetan Homes in Switzerland, and furnished by the Swiss Red Cross.

In both regions where the new-style colonists have been received, there exist sufficient possibilities of work for the heads of the families to be able to provide for their dependants.

BIG ORDER WITH SWISS INDUSTRY

A big British automobile manufacturer recently started up a new factory, producing a new type of mini-car, with an engine made entirely of aluminium. The whole of the pressure die-casting plant consisting of 15 machines, was supplied by a Swiss engineering works at Uzwil, which has for a long time carried out its own pressure die-casting of aluminium.

AUTOMOBILE AND CYCLE MUSEUM IN GENEVA

To portray the history of one hundred and ten years of individual and family means of locomotion (1818-1928) is the ambitious programme set itself by the Automobile, Motor-Cycle and Cycle Museum to be opened in Geneva this autumn. For several years now, Mr Charles Marcoux, the founder of this new museum, has been working hard to collect a representative selection of old cars and cycles as well as mechanical accessories of all kinds. He has repaired them himself, restoring and replacing the missing or badly damaged parts, so that the majority of the 120 vehicles in the collection are in good running order.

Chronologically, the collection starts with a "hobby-horse" with wooden wheels dating back to 1818; there will also be other historical models of bicycles, in particular three of the famous "penny-farthings" and numerous motor-cycles, the oldest of which date back to 1895 as well as a big collection of motor-cars which, while looking positively antediluvian to the younger generations, nevertheless awaken very distinct memories in the minds of everyone over fifty.

The decoration of the museum has been very carefully planned and ten large frescoes forming the background will depict the main steps and landmarks in mechanical research and the development of the motor-car, in particular in Geneva, which produced the famous Sigma and especially the Pic-Pic, a make of car that enjoyed considerable fame in its day.

MACHINE TOOL PRODUCTION

In Geneva the five firms specialising in the field of machine tools each year produce over 700 machines of different types, over 80% of which are exported to European and overseas markets. The value exported amounts to approximately 70 million Swiss francs a year. The fine achievement of these factories is all the more striking when it is considered that they are up against very keen foreign competition.

WATCHMAKING TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED

A Swiss Watchmaking Training Centre for the Disabled was founded a short while ago in Bienne. This step was taken with the backing of the governments of the watchmaking cantons, the Federal Social Insurance Office, various watchmaking organisations and the town of Bienne, which kindly donated a site of some 2,400 sq. yd. The Confederation and more especially the Federal Social Insurance Office (disablement insurance) have undertaken to bear a considerable part of the costs of construction and upkeep.

This new institution will aim each year, according to a carefully planned programme, to readapt a certain number of physically disabled persons in order to enable them to play a useful part in

society by doing an interesting and regular daily job in the watch-making industry. This industry and especially the watch finishing sector seem predestined almost for the training and professional reinstatement of physically disabled persons. The quiet clean work—requiring great patience but almost no physical effort—carried out in a calm peaceful atmosphere, offers the ideal solution for providing suitable employment for such persons.

This institution will train at the most 20 students at a time, divided into two classes of 10 each. Ten new students will be admitted every six months, so that every half year 10 students will pass out and be able to start a useful career in industry.

PRO JUVENTUTE 1963

As in previous years, this winter the Swiss Post Office will once again be issuing a series of "Pro Juventute" stamps sold with a surcharge. The Pro Juventute foundation for assistance to youth will receive 90% of the net proceeds, the remaining 10% being allotted to various tasks of national importance designed to assist the youth of the country.

The 5-cent stamp, sold for 10 centimes, reproduces the portrait of a child by the famous Swiss pointer Albert Anker, while the 10, 20, 30 and 50 cent issues each sold with a surcharge of 10 centimes continue the well-known "Flowers of the field and garden flowers" series. These stamps will be on sale in Switzerland during the months of December and January and will be valid from the time they are put on sale until the end of June, 1964.

JEWELLERS WIN COVETED FOREIGN AWARDS

This year 24 winners of the Diamond International Awards included two Swiss watchmaker-jewellers: Meister Ltd., of Zurich, and Gilbert Albert, in Geneva. In addition, three Swiss firms, viz. Patek Philippe in Geneva, Meister in Zurich and Gubelin in Lucerne, which had already won at least three prizes in previous competitions, have been nominated members of the Diamond International Academy.

3100 DIFFERENT FLAGS

A Basel flag manufacturer is already very busy with the production of the different flags of the 3100 political communities in Switzerland to be given a prominent place at the Lausanne Swiss National Exhibition (Expo 1964). Within the typical structure of Swiss democracy, the communities play a very definite role as the basic unit of political life and as such have retained considerable independence and individual character.