

News from Switzerland

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NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

We have been informed by the Embassy that our Charge d'Affaires, Dr J. P. Weber, and Mrs Weber, are leaving on June 19th, for home leave in Switzerland. They expect to be away for approximately three months.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Auckland Swiss Club

"TESSINERABIG" EVENING

This Social Evening has always been one of the most popular of the year and we hope that many members will bring their friends!

It will be held on the 26th June, 1965, in the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Road, Auckland, at 8 p.m. —M.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Hamilton Swiss Club's next evening will be held in the Old Boys' Rugby Hall on Sunday, 4th July. Preis-Jassen, Special Supper: Hungarian Gulash. Record parade for non-cardplayers. Please come along and enjoy our nice new and warm hall.

Committee I.

The 1st August celebration will be held on 1st August at our new clubrooms also, the Old Boys Rugby Hall.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

Our next Social Evening will be held on Thursday, 24th June, and the 1st August celebration will be held on 26th July.

Wellington Swiss Club

On July 4th, there will be a "Preisjassen" at the "Matterhorn" Coffee Lounge. Please keep this date free and come along for some fun and entertainment. —The Committee.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

BIGGEST PEARL MARKET IN EUROPE

Japan despatches nearly 20% of its pearl production to Switzerland; thus, in 1964, it despatched S.Fr. 41,800,000 worth of pearls to Switzerland, although this country actually absorbed only S.Fr. 5,200,000 worth. The difference is explained by the fact that Zurich-Kloten and Geneva-Cointrin airports have become the biggest pearl markets in Europe. Ninety-five per cent of the pearls delivered to the bonded warehouses at Swiss airports are sold again in other countries.

FIRST ASCENT OF THE MATTERHORN, ON JULY 14th, 1865:

The mighty Matterhorn defeated all attempts to scale it long after most other Alpine peaks had been climbed. Its final conquest in 1865 marks the end of the "heroic epoch" of mountain-climbing and the beginning of an era in which ever-growing numbers of people came to admire the beauty of Alpine scenery and taste the thrills of mountaineering.

Edward Whymper was the first man to set foot on the Matterhorn's pinnacle — fulfilling the vow he had made to himself when he first saw it five years earlier. Having been sent to Switzerland in 1860 to make illustrations for travel books, he was fascinated by the mountain and the many unsuccessful efforts to conquer it. In 1865, Whymper succeeded, together with three other Englishmen and two Swiss guides.

When, after an uncomfortable camp at 11,000 feet and several hours of climbing up the East face, Whymper's party tackled the last and most difficult part of the ascent they noticed a competing Italian group — also on the way up. But the Italians had missed the right approach and had to accept defeat, while Whymper and his friends enjoyed their glorious victory. But on their way down, tragedy struck. One climber slipped and fell. The rope snapped, and four men lost their lives. But undaunted, others have since continued to climb "the magnificent rock," which still maintains its irresistible appeal.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT THE 49th SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

Like its predecessors, the 49th Swiss Industries Fair, where 2611 exhibitors divided into 27 trade groups occupied an exhibition area of nearly 41 acres, proved a very great attraction during the 11 days it was held in Basle from April 24 to May 4. There were 935,000 admissions (as against 865,000 last year) and this figure beat the previous record set up in 1963 by 60,000. The number of visitors from abroad, totalling nearly 1,000,000 and representing 99 countries, was very gratifying.

Confidence was the keynote of the general business atmosphere and the consensus of opinion in all departments of the Fair was that the high level of business activity on the domestic and export market, which has now lasted for some years, is likely to continue. Only in building and boiler and radiator construction was there a more restrained attitude on the part of manufacturers as regards long-term commitments, whereas the demand for immediate supplies was very brisk in both fields.

Once again the interest of foreign visitors was centred particularly on the Watch Fair, which was being held for the 35th time and long ago achieved recognition as the premier buying centre for the world watch trade. Leading firms in the business especially reported orders which were a substantial improvement

even on the excellent results attained in the preceding year. Foreign visitors also showed a lively interest in other groups, more particularly heavy engineering and the metal industry, technical supplies for industry, textiles and clothing, office supplies and plastics.

The 50th Swiss Industries Fair will be held from April 16 to 26, 1966 and, to mark the jubilee year, will be marked by some particularly striking features.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss National Insurance Fund in Case of Accidents, in Lucerne, has decided to create a Swiss Accident Prevention Institute, on a private basis, for the purpose of co-ordinating and intensifying the efforts already being made by different institutions with a view to the prevention of accidents of all kinds as well as occupational diseases.

SWISS INDUSTRY AT WORK IN PAKISTAN

The West Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation has entrusted the planning and construction of the manufacturing and production plant of a machine tool factory to be built in Karachi to the Swiss Machine Tool Works of Buhle & Co. in Zurich. This well-known Zurich firm has already carried out similar projects in India and South America.

SWITZERLAND CALLING AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND:

Frequencies: 25.28 m (11,865 kc/s), 31.43 m (9545 kc/s).

GMT 21.00 equals Local Standard Time: 09.00 New Zealand.

Monday, GMT 21.00, Time Signal. News. Political Commentary.

21.20, "Echoes from Switzerland." 21.30, Anthology of Swiss Music. 22.00, Reflets suisses (in French). 22.30, Close Down.

Tuesday, GMT 21.00, Time Signal. News. Political Commentary.

21.20, "Echoes from Switzerland." 21.30, Swiss Gazette. 22.00, Schwizerspiegel (in Swiss-German).

Wednesday, GMT, 21.00, Time Signal. News. Political Commentary.

21.20, "Echoes from Switzerland." 21.30, Melody Train. 22.00, Prisma svizzero (in Italian).

Thursday, GMT 21.00, Time Signal. News. Political Commentary.

21.20, "Echoes from Switzerland." 21.30, Jazz Panorama. 22.00, Reflets suisses (in French).

Friday, GMT 21.00, Time Signal. News. Political Commentary.

21.20, "Echoes from Switzerland." 21.30, The Years of the Alps. 22.0, Schwizerspiegel (in Swiss-German).

Saturday, GMT, 21.00, Time Signal. News. The Week in Switzerland.

21.20, "Echoes from Switzerland." 21.30, Swiss Short-wave Merry-go-round. 22.00, Prisma svizzero (in Italian).

Sunday, GMT, 21.00, Time Signal. News. 21.20, Swiss Sunday Special.