

News from Switzerland

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Forthcoming Events

★ HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Card Evening: Our next Card Evening will be held at Putaruru on Saturday, June 7th in the W.D.F.F. Garden of Memories Hall, Overdale Street.

Film Afternoon: At Morrinsville, on Sunday, June 15th at 1.30 p.m.

Our **National Day Celebration** will be held on Saturday, July 12th at the Riverlea.

Please keep these dates free.

★ TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB

Card Evenings.—Swiss Cards and Euchre: Mondays, June 16th, 23rd and 30th; July 7th and 14th; in St. Paul's Hall, Normanby. Lucky Number and Points Prizes.

Cabarets will be held in the Kapuni Memorial Hall at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 6th, and Friday, July 4th.

Shooting is held every third Sunday of the month at Ted Napflin's, commencing at 12 noon. The Club owns three target rifles and a large range of trophies to create keen competition amongst all the shooters, young and old.

★ WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Tessinerabend - Tessin Evening: 24th May, 8 p.m. in the Brooklyn Community Hall.

Film Afternoon: Sunday, June 29th; Lecture Hall, Dominion Museum.

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BRAIN DRAIN GOES INTO REVERSE

Every year the brain drain deprives the Swiss economy of a number of promising young scientists and technicians. In 1967, for example, 461 specialists went off to the United States and Canada. On the other hand, 294 young scientists and technicians who had emigrated several years before returned to Switzerland,

which corresponds to a return rate of 64%. While Switzerland has the highest percentage of loss through the brain drain of all European countries, in the long run, unlike other countries, she recuperates at least half of these emigrants. (osec)

SWISS WATCHES ON TRIP ROUND THE MOON

Among their items of personal equipment, the three American spacemen on the Apollo VIII flight wore wrist-watches of Swiss manufacture. These "Omega Speed Master" timepieces were not made specially to order for NASA but were ordinary mass-production models, on sale on the market, allowing readings to 1/5th of a second, a precision considered quite sufficient for the needs of the astronauts. (osec)

SECONDARY SECTOR PREDOMINATES

According to Swiss population statistics for 1965, the secondary sector (industry) employed 1,494,000 men and women, i.e. 52.5% of the working population. The tertiary sector, i.e. services, employed 1,129,300 people, or 38.5%, while the primary sector, that is to say agriculture, employed only 252,400 people, i.e. 9% of the working population.

The Swiss Review of Political Economy, in Berne, also estimated that by 1985 the secondary sector will employ 49.5% of the population, the tertiary 44% and the primary only 6.5%.

CREATION OF "INTERCORD" IN ZURICH

"Intercord" — short for the International Cordage Institute — was recently founded in Zurich by some 70 delegates and representatives of this industry from Europe, North and South America, Africa, Australia and the Philippines. The purpose of this new international association is to increase the opportunities for contacts between manufacturers and to defend the interests of this industry, which works with sisal, hemp and synthetic fibres.

The statutes of this institute, although approved in principal, still have to be ratified by the professional organisations in certain countries. The committee appointed comprises 11 members. It is presided over by a Mexican, Mr Miguel Olea. (osec)

SUCCESS OF SWISS FOOTWEAR EXPORTS

In 1968 the Swiss footwear industry exported over 3 million pairs of shoes, valued at 112.5 million francs. Compared with the previous year, this amount represents an increase of 16.9 million francs, or 18%. Exports of leather shoes totalled 2,394,700 pairs, i.e. an increase of 362,400 pairs over the figure for 1967. Sales abroad of other types of shoes on the other hand were lower by 40,600 pairs than in the previous year. The high quality products were particularly in demand. (osec)