

Swiss snippets : hie isch d'Schwyz

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Swiss Snippets

Hie isch d'Schwyz

These days, immigrating abroad is very easy compared to how it was in the old days. Even though we're on the other side of the world, modern communications allow us to readily stay in touch with family and friends back home. In the days before such technology was available, our Helvetia had a very different role to play. It was a magazine whose main focus was to inform the Swiss Society members about happenings and news from back home.

If you were lucky enough to have a radio, you could listen to the monthly and later daily program called "Hie isch d'Schwyz". A summary of the most important news would be in the following Helvetia. Here is a page from October, 1941 – a very interesting read indeed!

By Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg

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HIE ISCH D'SCHWYZ.
(This is Switzerland calling).

5th October, 1941: The reception was excellent from the beginning to the end. There is, however, not enough space at our disposal in this issue to give a detailed account of the programme.

GENERAL NEWS OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER: The people of the Canton of Zuerich approved of a bill for special Government assistance for indigent families; the Federal Government appropriated Frs.10.000.000.-- towards controlling of the bread price and Frs. 8.000.000.-- for a special fund for old age, orphans etc. relief: the general price index is now 30% higher than before the war; the price of the milk had to be raised from Frs.0.24 to Frs.0.26 per litre; a sales tax of 2%, not including dairy products, has been decreed; the amelioration of the St.Gall Rhine Valley from Buchs to St.Margrethen has been decided upon, which in due course will improve the food situation in Switzerland; the adoption of labour awards in the Federal law system was approved by Parliament; a trade treaty between Germany and Switzerland, with strictly neutral terms, was ratified by Parliament; Britain is blockading the supply of raw materials from overseas, destined for Switzerland; it is hoped that these measures will be suspended again in view of the fact that the Swiss Government are able to give full guarantee that no imported raw materials from overseas are allowed to leave the country; the "Comptoir Suisse", an annual exhibition of Swiss produce and manufactures, at Lausanne, attracted half a million visitors, and thus may be proclaimed as a great success; the well-known Swiss manufacturers of electrical machinery, Messrs. Brown, Boveri & Co.Ltd., Baden, commemorated their 50th anniversary; they employ 7000 working men at Baden, and 40.000 altogether, counting those in their employ in other countries. There were two railway accidents, one between Thun and Berne, entailing the loss of 10 lives, and the other being an explosion with which the Simplon Express met near Chateau Chillon. The people of Geneva and Vaud elected 4 Representatives for the Federal National Council (Lower House) to replace the 4 communistic socialists, who some time ago had been expelled from that body; Professor Rappard of the University of Geneva, a well-known name all over the world, is among the newly elected. Good weather conditions have favoured the potato and cereal crops. Goods traffic between Portugal and Switzerland will be greatly improved by the inauguration of a lorry service. The social conditions in general are said to be not bad at all. The army will remain partly mobilised as heretofore.

OTHER ITEMS OF THE PROGRAMME: Army songs and brass band music were very enjoyable. Of great interest was a report on the Convention of the "Swiss From Abroad", which had taken place on the 28th September, at Schwyz and on the Ruetli. Addresses of Professor Karl Burckhardt of Geneva and the Swiss Minister of Madrid, Monsieur Broye, marked the climax of the event.

A T T E N T I O N .

SPECIAL SWISS BROADCASTS FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND .

Due to the reverting in Switzerland to normal Central European Time, the special monthly broadcasts for Australia and New Zealand on every first Sunday in the month will from now on start again at 5.45 p.m., wavelength as usual 20.64 and 26.31. The next special broadcast for Australia and New Zealand will take place on the 2nd November, at 5.45 p.m.

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For full job description get in touch with
Eveline and Franz Müller
Phone 09 489-9737
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and advise with lodging the immigration papers.*