

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

On the occasion of the signing of the Austrian Treaty, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Monsieur M. Petitpierre, has sent the following telegram to the Austrian "Bundespraesident":

"Anlässlich der Unterzeichnung des Staatsvertrages der Oesterreich die ersehnte Unabhängigkeit zurückgibt, sende ich Ihnen die herzlichsten Glückswünsche des schweizerischen Bundesrates. Das ganze Schweizervolk nimmt an der Freude des österreichischen Volkes an diesem historischen Tage freundschaftlichen Anteil und wünscht ihm aufrichtig Wohlfahrt und Gedeihen."

The Federal Council has decided to make a donation of 100,000.—frs. to the needy population of North Korea.

Mr. Ernst Widmer, director-general of the Swiss Customs (Oberzolldirektor), has been placed under arrest after police investigations into alleged irregular activities.

The Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia, Monsieur William R. Tolbert, has paid a courtesy visit to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

#### Cantonal

The well-known English author, Archibald J. Cronin, has bought a large estate in Kastanienbaum (commune of Horw, Lucerne), where he intends to settle down.

Dr. Theodor Trüeb, President of the Superior Court of the canton of Lucerne for the last 25 years, has tendered his resignation, he is 70 years of age.

In the canton of Zug, in 1954, 408 traffic accidents were reported (1953: 378). Eleven persons were killed, whilst 289 received injuries. [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Berne has given a reception to the Diplomatic Corps at the Town Hall. Apart from the accredited Diplomats there were present, Federal Councillors Feldmann and Chaudet, members of the cantonal Government, the Mayor of the town of Berne, and representatives of the Grand Council. [A.T.S.]

The "Militär-Sanitätsverein", Berne, a voluntary organisation, founded by Sergeant-major Ernst Möckli in 1880, has celebrated its 75th Jubilee in Berne. [A.T.S.]

In the year 1954, traffic accidents in the canton of Aargau numbered 1,889 (1953: 1,623), 85 persons were killed and, 1,526 injured (1953: 1,317). [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Ticino has given a reception at the Government House in Bellinzona, in honour of the newly appointed Italian Ambassador, Monsieur Maurilio Coppini. [A.T.S.]

First record of no rain during April has been made in the canton of Ticino. [A.T.S.]

Basle Zoo, one of the best in the world, now has 2,281 animals of 500 species. A total of 66,556 visitors paid 909,618 francs in entry money last year. [A.T.S.]

### CITY SWISS CLUB

We have pleasure in advising Members that a

### MUSICAL EVENING

at which Ladies will be heartily welcome has been arranged for the **Tuesday, 14th June, 1955**, at the Dorchester Hotel, W.1 (6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.).

After dinner, we shall enjoy a

### RECITAL

by **Mr. Albert Ferber**, the noted pianist whose performances are always so much appreciated.

THE COMMITTEE.

M. Silvo Nino, sub-manager of the Casino in Montreux, has been appointed Manager. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The inauguration of a monument to Marshal Mannerheim, commander-in-chief of the Finnish army during the second world war, took place in Territet. The monument is the work of Franz Fischer, sculptor of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

National-Councillor Tell Perrin has announced that he will not be a candidate at the October parliamentary elections. The La Chaux-de-Fonds section of the Radical Party has decided to put forward the candidature of Adrien Favre-Bulle, of La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Flight Sergeant Roland Wildi (25) of Zurich was killed during a practice flight, when his Venom jet machine crashed near La Tourne (Neuchâtel). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two young men, Karl Eichholz (22) and Ulrich Russenberg (22) of Yverdon, were drowned when their boat capsized near Bevaix. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Otto Hänni, Industrialist in Jegenstorf, near Berne, at the age of 69.

The deceased was the founder and partner of the "Messinstrumente-und Armaturenfabrik, Hänni & Cie.", Jegenstorf.

National-Councillor Samuel Roulet, in Berne, aged 78. He was born in 1877 at Missy (Ct. Vaud), and from 1905-1921 was a member, and later on President of the commune of Missy. He entered Parliament (National Council) in 1928. National-Councillor Roulet was President of the Vaudois Peasant Party and Vice-President of the Swiss Peasant, Trade and Bourgeois Party. In the army he had held at one time the rank of Colonel (Cavalry).

Theodor Wyss-Ineichen, President of the Board of the "Brauerei Hochdorf, A.G.", Hochdorf, in Italy whilst on holiday, at the age of 53.

Carl Dosenbach-Waser, Head of the "Schuhmagazin Dosenbach", Zug, in Zug, aged 85.

Ernst Hodel, well-known painter, in Lucerne, at the age of 74.

Georges Brandt, Manufacturer in Bienne, aged 63.

Gustav Koerber, from 1905-1946, a teacher at the "Bezirksschule" Liestal, and from 1932-1946 rector of this school, in Liestal at the age of 76.

The deceased was for nearly 40 years closely connected with the "Berufsschule des Kaufmännischen Vereins", Liestal, and was a Honorary Member of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischen Vereins".

Louis Salzmann, landscape-painter, in Geneva, aged 68.

Dr. h.c. Gottfried Bosshard, in Winterthur, at the age of 88. The deceased was formerly General Manager of the "Schweizerischen Unfallversicherungs Gesellschaft", Winterthur. He retired in 1944 from his post, when he was nominated Honorary President of this concern. In 1929, the University of Zurich conferred on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

[A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Fritz Zaugg (70) of Aarau, from 1929-1952 a member of the Government of the canton of Aargau. In 1951, he occupied the post of "Landammann" of the canton of Aargau.

Louis Rivier (70) of Yverdon, eminent portrait and landscape painter. He is a corresponding member of the "Institut de France".

Dr. h. c. Karl Bretscher (70) of Berne, Director of the "Hasler, A.G.", Berne. [A.T.S.]

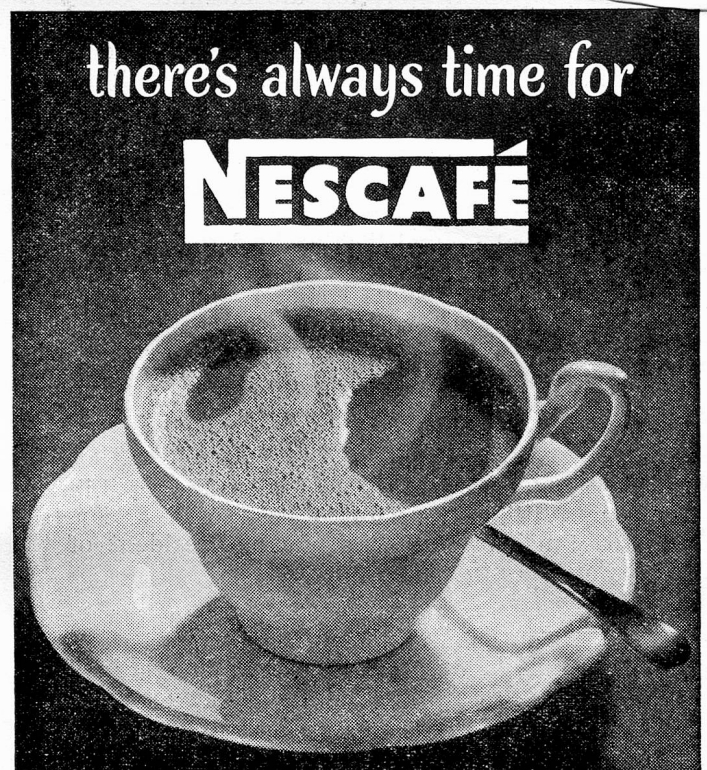
\* \* \*

#### LEGACIES.

In the first quarter of the current year various large legacies have been given in the canton of St. Gall. The late Henri Debrunner of St. Gall has left 200,000.—frs. to various charitable and cultural institutions. Mme Berta Rietmann, who died in Rorschach has donated an amount of 50,000.—frs. to a number of charitable organisations in Rorschach and St. Gall. The sum of 29,480.—frs. has been donated by the late Mme. B. Bernhard-Hobi for the renovation of the Catholic church of Berschis, and the late Otto Wilhelm Schweizer-Helbling left the sum of 20,000.—frs. to the commune of Rapperswil to be used for helping the poor.

The recently deceased cantonal-councillor Emil Steiner of Schwyz, Printer and Publisher of the "Schwyzer Zeitung" has left 10,000.—frs. to the "Gewerbeverein" Schwyz, and 10,000.—frs. to the "Bürgerheim", Schwyz.

The American, Mr. W. M. Measey, formerly proprietor of the Castle of Oberhofen, on the lake of



pure coffee made right in the cup  
ANOTHER OF NESTLÉ'S GOOD THINGS



Thun, has donated five bells for the newly built church at Uetendorf (Ct. Berne).

An inhabitant of the commune of Wikon, near Willisau, who at one time received assistance from the authorities, has left her entire fortune, amounting to 25,000—frs. to the above commune. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The committee of the "Schweizer Europahilfe" which is presided over by Professor, Dr. C. Ludwig (Berne) has decided to make available another amount of 850,000.—frs. for helping the following countries: 235,000.—frs. to Italy, 322,000.—frs. to Greece, 98,000.—frs. to Austria, 44,000.—frs. to Yugoslavia, and 38,000.—frs. to Palestine. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

An unprecedented case has just come before the criminal court of Canton Glaris in connection with a climbing accident last Whitsuntide in the Clariden range.

A married couple of Zollikon, in Canton Zurich, went climbing in bad weather and lost their way while trying to ascend the Kammlilucke peak (8,556ft.). The husband's shouts for help were heard at the Planura hut (9,580ft.), and a keeper and two climbers went to the rescue, but when they reached a point within 300 yards of them the couple moved off in another direction and were lost again in the rock walls overhanging the Sandalp. After wandering for some time they decided to bivouac on the mountain top. Next morning, the weather having cleared a little, the husband went alone to the Clariden hut, but this

second rescue squad summoned by him was misled by his inaccurate indications and by the time they found the bivouac the man's wife was dead.

The court shared the Attorney-General's view that the husband was guilty of manslaughter by carelessness. He is an excellent climber and underwent several Alpine and skiing training courses in the Swiss Army, so that he should have known what was needed for such an ascent. The couple's equipment was in fact wholly insufficient. They had no rope, no extra clothing, and little food, and the bivouac was badly installed. These circumstances, which the husband could not deny, were held to have caused his wife's death, and he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

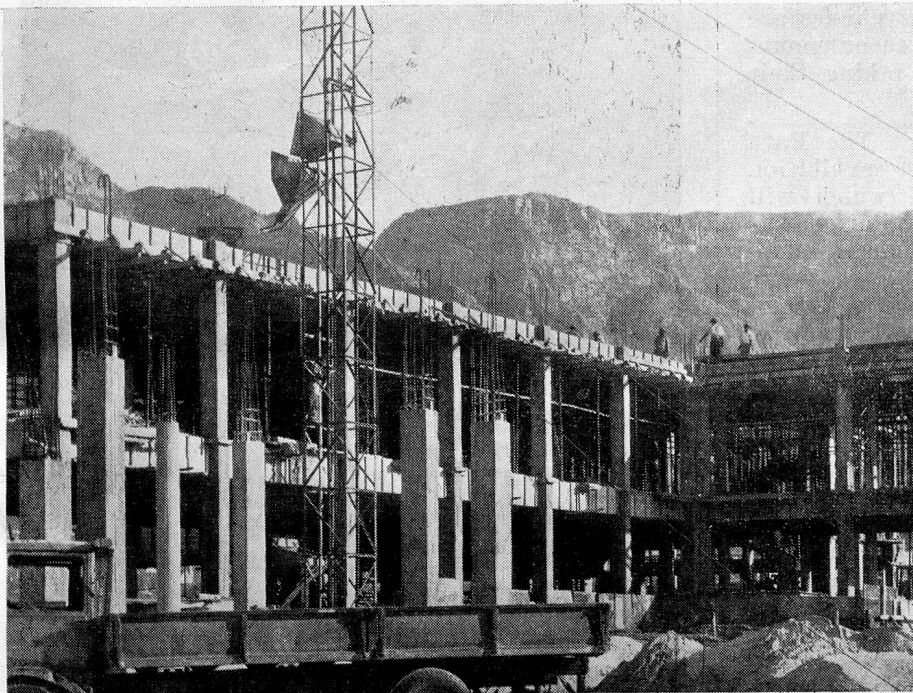
This case, the first in Switzerland in which a mountaineer has been sentenced for imprudence and neglect, may be a lesson to all who wander in the mountains without proper equipment and a sufficient knowledge of mountaineering, and to those who, though experienced, do not take necessary precautions when setting out on a climb.

\* \* \*

Raymond Lambert, the Swiss Alpinist, reached the summit of a 22,200ft. unnamed virgin peak in the Langtang Range of the Himalayas on May 14, according to a report which reached New Delhi.

Lambert, with a Belgian monk, Jules Detry, is exploring the range in preparation for a full-scale expedition in the autumn.

# ACROW *in South Africa*



The Acrow Organisation has many ramifications. Chief among them is the service it renders to building contractors in all parts of the world.

Against the impressive backcloth of Cape Town's famous Table Mountain, this new £500,000 building for South African Railways is being erected with the aid of Acrow Props, Floor-Centres and Steel Formwork.

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The first six of 100 British Centurion tanks ordered by Switzerland were unloaded at Basle.

\* \* \*

A new Swiss automatic rifle, the Sig-am-55, has been demonstrated to military experts. It is said to be better and lighter than the FN weapon used by NATO troops.

\* \* \*

Cancer, heart disease, and arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), caused more than half of the 49,051 deaths in Switzerland last year, according to the Swiss public health authorities. About 1,092 people committed suicide.

\* \* \*

*Intra-European Bus Services.* The Swiss lines forming part of the Europabus services will be amalgamated this summer with the Swiss Alpine Postal Motor Coaches. The Lucerne-Goeschenen-Andermatt-Furka (Rhone Glacier)-Grimsel-Interlaken, and Lucerne-Brunig-Interlaken-Col du Pillon-Montreux lines will run in both directions, the first from June 15th to September 30th, and the second from July 1st to September 15th for the Lucerne-Interlaken part of the journey, and from June 15th to September 15th from Interlaken to Montreux. Services are also planned between Stresa and Lugano (May 22nd-October 15th), Lugano and St. Moritz (May 22nd-October 1st) and St. Moritz-Bolzano, via Stelvio (July 1st to September 15th).

*Caravans.* Caravans are only permitted in Switzerland if they conform to the following specifications: maximum width 2 metres (6½ft.) for motor-cars less than this width; in the case of motor-cars exceeding this width, however, the caravan may have the same width as the towing vehicle. The length, including the tow-bar, must not exceed 5½ metres (approx. 18ft.). The speed limit for caravans is 31 m.p.h. in open country and 18 m.p.h. in built-up areas. Passengers may not remain in the caravan while it is in motion. Finally, as these vehicles are difficult and even dangerous to manoeuvre on mountain roads, drivers are advised against taking their caravans over mountain passes.

*"History of Science" at Geneva.* The Rath Museum in Geneva has organised an exhibition devoted to the "History of Science", which will remain open until June 30th. This exhibition has assembled instruments, pictures and manuscripts relating to the discoveries of the last few centuries and the work of Geneva scientists. Several objects of outstanding interest will attract the attention of visitors, such as Deluc's thermometer tubes, for example. It is not generally known that this scientist was the first to replace the alcohol used in the old thermometers by mercury. The visitor will also be able to see precise and elegant physics' instruments of the 18th century, invented by Horace Benedict de Saussure. There are not only old objects however. There are also the arc lamps of Argand, the first dynamos of Thury, the tubes used by C. E. Guye for verifying Lorentz's formula concerning the relationship between the mass of electrons and their speed. Among the manuscripts will be found Condorcet's praise of Doctor Tronchin, letters from French scientists to their colleagues in Geneva, etc.

*Montreux-Vevey: 1955 September Music Festival.* Music lovers will be glad to hear that the Paris National Orchestra (French Broadcasting and Television Company) consisting of 107 musicians, will be playing at this year's Montreux Festival, due to begin on September 7th, 1955.

*The National Horse Show and Market at Saignelegier* will be held in the Bernese Jura on August 6th and 7th next. Each year this events draws crowds of racing enthusiasts and takes place amid great popular festivities.

*Mountaineering, a Sport within the reach of all.* A week's course at the Swiss Alpine School at Rosenlauri (Bernese Oberland) is sufficient to enable anyone to go mountaineering in perfect safety. The time-table of this school, run by Arnold Glatthard, is very varied. In addition to the actual courses, which last a week and are organised between June 19th and September 17th, numerous excursions are planned which enable pupils to put into practice the knowledge they have acquired at the school. It should be remembered that in 1954 A. Glatthard trained Major Jayal, Sirdar Tensing Norgay and six of the remarkable Himalayan Sherpas for the profession of guides.

*Tennis.* The official programme for the tournaments organised in 1955 has just come out. We call attention to the International Championships of Switzerland, to be held at Gstaad from July 11th to



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17th, the National Challenge Cup at Zurich, from July 21st to 24th, and the Swiss National Championships at Berne from August 23rd to 28th.

*Holiday Accommodation.* The Publicity Department of the Loetschberg Railways has published a list of chalets and apartments in the Bernese Oberland and the Valais that may be rented during the holiday period. This 122 page booklet gives detailed information concerning more than 1,500 chalets and apartments situated in 188 localities. Copies (price 3/-) may be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458, Strand, London, W.C.2.

*Famous Library re-opened at St. Gall.* The doors of the St. Gall Abbey Library are once again open to visitors. Some 100,000 rare books, including 2,000 manuscripts are on show in the beautiful Baroque room.

*Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera, Aerial Cableway.* A company has recently been formed for the purpose of building and operating an aerial cableway between Scuol and Motta Naluns, a favourite view point 2,755 ft. above the proposed site for the starting-point. Two-passenger cabins will be used for the 15 minutes journey. Building will be started soon and the inauguration should take place before next winter.

\* \* \*

According to figures just published there are at present 166,210 foreign workers employed in Switzerland (70,542 males and 95,668 females). [A.T.S.]

Please let your English friends know that

# SWITZERLAND

OFFERS BEST VALUE FOR MONEY



Swiss National Tourist Office,  
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The general decrease in tuberculosis has forced the main Swiss heliotherapeutic station at Leysin to reconsider its future. Over fifty years ago Dr. Auguste Rollier opened his first sanatorium there. Since 1931 the number of medical establishments has not been increased but five hundred new beds have been added. Last year 2,229 beds were occupied and 1,050 remained vacant.

Now M. Frédérick Tissot, the director of the station, suggests that some of the sanatoriums could be used for the treatment of diseases other than tuberculosis, but in that case the medical authorities insisted that the name of the place must be changed because of its previous "tuberculosis label". Alternatively M. Tissot suggests that Leysin should become a winter and summer sports resort. Again the name would have to be changed.

\* \* \*

Sales of British motor vehicles to Switzerland during the first quarter of this year totalled 1,857, a 20 per cent increase over the corresponding period of 1954. During the same time German sales increased by over 30 per cent, to 8,695.

\* \* \*

The Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research has given 20,000 francs (about £1,600) to Professor Auguste Picard and his son Jacques for the continuation of experiments with their deep-sea bathyscaphe diving-machine Trieste, which they have used successfully in the Gulf of Naples.

\* \* \*

*The Centenary of the Seiler Chain of Hotels.*

In 1855, a young man by the name of Alexander Seiler came to settle in Zermatt where he took over a modest inn with only six beds. His ability, his far-sightedness and, above all, his innate flair for hotel-keeping enabled him to develop his business very rapidly. When he died in 1891, Alexander Seiler was at the head of an enormous chain of hotels, which his successors continued to expand. To-day, a hundred years later, the name of Seiler, like that of Ritz, is synonymous all over the world with high quality hotel-keeping.

## Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

### OPEN MEETING

Tuesday, June 28th, 1955, at 7 p.m.  
at the Swiss Club, Schweizerbund, 74,  
Charlotte Street, London, W.1.

AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION  
on the forthcoming  
AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAGUNG  
AND OUR COLONY  
introduced by DR. H. W. EGLI.

All Swiss are cordially invited.  
Informal Dinner at 6 p.m.



The future of television in Switzerland is to be decided by a referendum of the all-male electorate.

But the voters have until the end of 1957 to make up their minds whether or not television should be continued, and whether the state should carry the estimated annual deficit of more than 10,000,000 francs (about £833,000).

The Swiss Government will shortly submit a White Paper to Parliament proposing that the present so-called provisional television programmes be continued for two more years. This proposal will be discussed by both Upper and Lower Swiss Chambers during the summer session next June.

\* \* \*

*The Winegrowers Festival, August 1st—4th, 1955.*

The large elliptical amphitheatre that will be constructed in the Market Place at Vevey will be 460 feet long by 360 feet wide. The metal framework of the stands will require 295,000 feet of tubing, 220,000 bolts and will weigh 450 tons. More than 161,000 square feet of wood, weighing 300 tons, will be required for the flooring and walls.

In addition to the actual performances at the Winegrowers Festival, the organisers have arranged three processions which will parade through the streets of Vevey on August 1st, 7th and 14th. Stands holding some twenty thousand spectators will be put up along the whole of the route, which will be over three miles long. The picturesque and colourful processions will consist of the 4,000 singers, dancers and performers taking part in the Winegrowers Festival accompanied by fifteen bands.

During the first two weeks of booking, 600,000 francs worth of tickets were sold, which is equivalent to two performances completely booked up. Orders for admission tickets to most performances are now accepted by the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458, Strand, London, W.C.2.

\* \* \*

Petrol will be about a penny a gallon dearer in Switzerland. The increase is intended to cover the cost of building underground reservoirs in the Alps to store petrol for the Army.

\* \* \*

Swiss Federal Railways have announced that the route from Basle to St. Louis, France, and Strasbourg will be electrified by the summer of 1957.

\* \* \*

Last year 2,009 dogs worth about £22,000 were imported into Switzerland by dog-lovers.

There are no restrictions on the import of dogs. All that is needed is a certificate stating that the dog is free from sickness of any kind.

\* \* \*

A retrospective Air Exhibition at Geneva. The Society of Swiss Airforce Officers (AVIA) and the Geneva section of the Swiss Aero-Club have decided to organise an exhibition entitled "50 years of Aviation" at the airport of Cointrin-Geneva during the month of June. An airshow will also be held on this occasion.

A jury composed of 51 members for the 11th International Music Competition in Geneva. Under the presidency of Mr. Henri Gagnebin, the jury for the 1955 competition, which will be held at the Geneva Conservatory from September 17th to October 1st,

will consist of 51 musicians, 11 of whom are French, 6 Austrian, 5 Italian, 4 German, 3 Belgian, 2 American, 1 English, 1 Spanish, 1 Greek and 1 Israeli. The secretariat of the competition has already answered more than 800 enquiries and received a certain number of entries from many different countries. This shows the great interest taken in this composition by young musicians all over the world. The closing date for entries is July 15th.

*Schiller's "William Tell" at Interlaken.* The Interlaken open-air theatre is continuing this year with its performances of Schiller's great drama "William Tell". The 250 actors and performers are all recruited from among the people of the district. They act in all weather on the stage erected in the middle of the natural setting of the Rugenpark. The spectators however are under shelter in the covered stand capable of seating 2,000. During the past years, 400,000 spectators have attended the 250 performances. Matinee performances of the play will be given every Sunday this year from July 10th to August 28th, and evening performances every Thursday from July 21st to August 18th.

*The National Festival of Costumes and Shepherds at Unspunnen.* In 1805, Frederic de Mulinen, a Bernese lawyer, organised Alpine games in the little hamlet of Unspunnen near Interlaken. After a procession by the marksmen, trumpet players and singers, the traditional games began: wrestling, throwing the stone, shooting with cross-bows, etc.

The festival, which will be held on the same site this year from September 3rd to 5th (possibly from September 10th to 12th) will commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of this event. Madame de Stael, who attended once with Madame Vigée Le Brun, recorded the vicissitudes of the festival of 1808 in her book *De l'Allemagne* and Madame Vigée Le Brun in a picture which is hung in the Louvre Museum.

The principles of these mountain "Olympics", as defined in the programme of the 1805 Games, still

## Summer Programme

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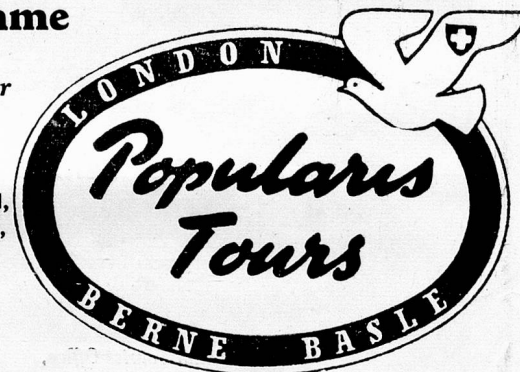
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hold good to-day: "To create better relations between the classes, stimulate understanding, revive the national games and the old ways and customs, and restore interest in popular songs".

*International Horse Show at Geneva.* The International Equestrian Federation has decided that the next International Horse Show in Geneva will take place from November 12th to 20th, 1955.

*An Exceptional month of June in Zurich.* The word "exceptional" is not too strong to use in connection with the coming June Festival to be held in Zurich (which will in fact last from June 4th to July 5th). There is not nearly room enough for us to give details of the programmes. Here, however, are some of the main features: A Gala of Italian operas; the "Gojo" Japanese ballet from Tokio, and the "New York City Ballet"; plays in French (Claudel's "Le Père Humilié", by the G. Herbert Productions), in Italian (Goldoni's "Arlecchino, Servitore di Due Padroni", by the Piccolo Teatro della Citta di Milano), in English (two of Shakespeare's plays by the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company from Stratford-on-Avon), in German (Goethe's "Iphigenie auf Tauris", by the actors of the Zurich Schauspielhaus); concerts conducted by E. Schmid, Bruno Walter, Ferenc Fricisay, Hans Rosbaud; exhibitions: "Le Corbusier, architect and artist", "The Theatre throughout the World", "Popular Art of the Grison", etc.; an interesting series of films: "Fifty years of Italian Cinema". Detailed programmes may be obtained from the Official Enquiry Office in Zurich.

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*Hotel Camp at Interlaken.* A hotel with 70 beds is now being built for motorists at Interlaken. The site is on the shores of the River Aare, opposite Interlaken/Ost Station. The "Motel" which will be constructed on American lines, will have 21 self-contained living quarters (with running hot and cold water, spray and W.C.), a restaurant, a kiosk and a petrol pump. Cars are parked immediately in front of the entrances to the accommodation used by their owners. It is hoped to open the "Hotel" shortly after Whitsun.

*Two new Aerial Cableways in North-Eastern Switzerland.* In June 1955, the new aerial cableway Wasserauen-Ebenalp will be inaugurated. The cabins holding 21 passengers will carry these in 7 minutes from Wasserauen (2,847 ft. a.s.l.) to Ebenalp 5,264 ft. a.s.l.), a well-known tourist district with a "Gasthaus".

Tannenbodenalp above Flums on Lake Wallenstadt can now also be reached by aerial cableway from Unterterzen. Tannenbodenalp in the Flums mountains is a popular excursion point for tourists not only in the summer, but its ideal slopes attract skiers in the winter.

### GUIDE TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AFFECTING REPATRIATES AND EMIGRANTS.

The Swiss Bank Corporation have brought up to date their booklet entitled "Guide to the Financial Regulations Affecting Repatriates and Emigrants". Copies can now be obtained upon application to the Bank at 99, Gresham Street, London, E.C.2. The booklet explains in detail the facilities for the transfer of money available to persons leaving the United Kingdom to take up residence outside the Sterling Area. The booklet is of particular interest to Swiss nationals who contemplate returning to Switzerland to reside there permanently.

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