

Business in Switzerland

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BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND

Jubilee of the Swiss Civil Code

This year was the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Civil Code, which came into force on 1st January 1912. It is interesting to note that this important legislative document, drawn up by the eminent Swiss jurist, Eugene Huber, has been used as a model by various countries wishing to modernize their national legislation. Before the introduction of the S.C.C., each Swiss canton had its own code of laws, a state of affairs which had become intolerable on the eve of the big social and economic upheavals that have transformed the world during the last half century. (OSEC)

Bold Architectural Project for Lausanne

In the spring of 1961, the Swiss Comptoir — or Lausanne National Autumn Fair, as it is more widely known — made public the project it was studying for the building of a reinforced concrete tower over a thousand feet high, intended to serve as a tourist attraction and at the same time house congress halls and auditoriums for an International Institute of Economic, Political and Social Sciences attached to the University of Lausanne. The famous architect, the late Jean Tschumi, had been entrusted with the architectural plans for the project worked out by the engineer, Sarrasin. The new Tschumi project shows the spiral tower, with a narrower section in the middle, the main body being some 740 feet high topped by a spire 330 feet high making the total height 1,070 feet. The body of the tower would be made of concrete while the spire would be entirely of aluminium and glass. The cost is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 12 million S.Fr., an amount which would normally be covered by admission fees and rentals from the restaurants and premises on the ten floors situated in the base of the tower. (OSEC)

The Swiss Potato Harvest

The Swiss annual potato harvest amounts to 1,500,000 tons, approximately one-quarter of which is used for table consumption, i.e., 145 lb. per head of the total population. This output represents an invaluable contribution to the country's food supply, provided, of course, it is properly used. Big efforts are being made by those concerned to prevent any falling-off in consumption. Thus, for example, fresh potatoes are sold in small sacks designed especially for ease of handling by the consumer. Big efforts have also been made to simplify the housewife's task by offering products ready for consumption or quickly and easily prepared. For example, one industrial firm at Cressier (near Neuchâtel) has just put on the market, through one of the country's biggest sales organisations, potato flakes for preparing excellent mashed potatoes extremely simply and very quickly. This firm, which has been manufacturing powdered fodder for many years now, handles on an average some 30,000 to 40,000 tons of potatoes annually. It possesses the biggest storage depots in Europe with a total capacity of about 13,000 metric tons. (OSEC)

Swiss Experts for Countries in Process of Development

The UN recently appointed a number of Swiss experts to carry out missions in various countries in the process of development, viz., a hydrological expert, who will work in Nepal for two years, a geologist sent to Iran for

one year, a woman specialist in domestic economy and social work, put in charge of a team of experts in Brazzaville by F.A.O., as well as an hotel-keeper who will train teaching staff for a hotel-keeping school in Yugoslavia. In addition, a Swiss cheese expert, who has already done work of this kind in Nepal, will be sent to Greece for a period of ten months. (OSEC)

PERSONAL

On going to Press we hear that Mr. Adolf Bossert of 73 Munster Square, N.W.1, has passed away. An obituary will appear in our next issue.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and

ANNUAL DINNER

on **TUESDAY, 20th MARCH, 1962**
at the **SWISS HOSTEL FOR GIRLS,**
9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

6.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting.

7.30 p.m. Reception.

8.00 p.m. Dinner dress informal.

Members wishing to take part at the Dinner (25/- incl. wine, coffee and gratuities, 15/- excl. wine) are requested to send their application by letter and remittance to Mr. L. S. R. Asch, c/o Bruce, Dawson and Co. (London) Ltd., 69 Old Broad Street, E.C.2. (Tel. London Wall 6861) not later than Friday, March 16th 1962. (Limited to 70 guests and members.)

CITY SWISS CLUB

MONTHLY MEETING AND DINNER

ON
March 27th, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.

AT
The Dorchester Hotel,
Park Lane, W.1.

LORD BALNIEL, M.P.,
will address the Members.

American-Swiss Technical Co-operation Agreement

The Charmilles Engineering Works in Geneva has just signed a technical co-operation agreement with a big Chicago firm. The Geneva group, which consists of several factories and employs a labour force of about 2,000 men and women, is well known for its activity in several industrial fields, in particular electrical machining by means of the electro-erosion process and electrolytical grinding; and it is in this field of electrical machining that the Charmilles Engineering Works has concluded an agreement with the American company, under which the latter, in addition to close technical co-operation, grants the Swiss firm full use of its own machining patents in all countries except North America. It is worth pointing out that this agreement is very much in line with present economic and industrial trends. Furthermore, it shows the efforts being made by Swiss industry to adapt to evolving conditions.

(OSEC)



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