

Business in Switzerland

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BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND

Rationalization of Swiss Agriculture

Following a foreign example, the first agricultural machinery pool has just been created in Switzerland. It is not an organization for the joint purchasing of machinery but intended to ensure the rational and intensive use of existing machinery, which would represent much too big an investment if it were to be used exclusively by the owner. The pool, therefore, shares out the available machine hours among the various members according to their requirements; the machines, however, continue to remain the property of their original owners, who are responsible for servicing and maintenance. It is to be hoped that this form of rationalization based on a voluntary system of mutual assistance among farmers will meet with the success it deserves. (OSEC)

New Swiss Postage Stamps

As usual at this time of year, the Swiss Postal Authorities are issuing a series of surcharged postage stamps on the occasion of the National Commemoration Day on 1st August. The proceeds of the surcharge will be devoted mainly to homes for the aged and rest homes, while 10 per cent will be used for various cultural projects. The "Pro Patria" series consists of five values, viz. 15-cent stamp, representing Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), whose 250th anniversary is being celebrated this year, while the other four values, 10, 20, 30 and 50 cents, show old Swiss coins. These new issues will be on sale from 1st June this year and will be valid for the postage of all postal packets from this date until 31st December 1962. (OSEC)

Swiss Contribution to Public Health

Public health depends not only on medicine but also on hygiene and, in particular, the disinfection of the body and the hands, especially when the danger of infection is high: manual work, unavoidable repeated contacts with persons who may be infected, periods spent in areas where endemic or epidemic diseases are rife, etc. Frequently, ordinary soap is not sufficient to disinfect the hands, but people are sometimes rather loath to use disinfectant soaps partly because of their smell. An independent Swiss soap factory recently produced a disinfectant soap which has given extremely good results. Made with antiseptics of Swiss origin, "Sano-Septic" possesses a high bactericidal effect, as scientific tests have conclusively proved, and also acts as a deodorant; its detergent power is in no way decreased and it is not at

all harsh. This new Swiss product, which has a pleasant and subtle odour, will render invaluable service wherever disinfection has to be carried out on a large scale and be extended, so to speak, to all spheres of everyday life. (OSEC)

Swiss Supplies for the New Liner "France"

The liner "France", which made her maiden voyage earlier this year, is the longest in the world with her 1,036 feet overall length; she can carry 2,000 passengers and has a crew of 1,000. It is interesting to note that the thermostatic mixers installed for the automatic regulation of the temperature of the water in all bathrooms and showers in the first class cabins are Simix appliances, made by a Geneva brass foundry. This is a fine achievement for Swiss industry in the face of keen international competition. (OSEC)

Fruit Consumption in Switzerland

The consumption of fresh fruit in Switzerland is very high compared with that in other European countries, both proportionally and in absolute figures. For the years 1956 to 1960 it averaged 191 lb. annually per head of the population, whereas the corresponding figure for the rest of Europe was approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ less. The bulk of this consumption concerned stone-fruit and fruit with pips (147 lb. per year); supplies of fruit from the South, although increasing, meet only a small part of the demand. (OSEC)

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