

News in brief

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BRITISH ECONOMIC MEASURES

The 15% surcharge has been accepted in Switzerland with misgivings as exports to Great Britain are considerable. The watch and the machine industries are hit particularly hard.

At an extraordinary meeting on 26th November, the Federal Council empowered the Swiss National Bank to grant 160 million dollars (688 million Swiss francs) to Great Britain in order to support sterling within the framework of international action.

With this Switzerland continues her traditional support for the British Pound. At the last EFTA Conference she defended sterling resolutely.

[A.T.S.]

NEWS IN BRIEF

A Polish nobleman in exile, Count Anthony Patek, and a young French watchmaker by the name of Adrien Philippe founded the firm of Patek Philippe in Geneva in 1839. Among its clients the enterprise could soon proudly name Queen Victoria and some thirty other crowned heads and outstanding personalities. The 125th anniversary of this world famous Swiss watch factory was recently celebrated in Geneva.

* * *

The Association of Swiss Embroidery Exporters in St. Gall has just published a booklet illustrated by the photographer Herbert Maeder which contains valuable information on the careers offered by the embroidery industry. The attractive publication addresses the young, in particular, who here can learn about a number of interesting occupations ranging from a designer to the salesman.

* * *

The church of Zell in the Tösstal is witnessing rehearsals by 106 young villagers of Paul Burkart's sacred play "De Zäller Josef" (Joseph of Zell). This is the second play which the composer — known worldwide by the song "Oh mein Papa" from his musical "Der schwarze Hecht" — dedicated to the enthusiastic youth of this small village where he himself has found a home. Four years ago, he wrote "Zäller Wienacht" (Christmas at Zell) which is to be produced in a translation on TV in the U.S.A. next year.

* * *

The Arts and Crafts Museum in Basle is host to an exhibition of photographs by Lucien Clergue. On show in Zurich are works by the German Fritz Kühn who specialises in steel sculptures. The Gutenberg Museum in Berne has organized an exhibit of the "Outstanding Swiss Books of 1963" which have won recognition abroad. The painter Ferdinand Gehr is exhibiting his works in Marbach (St. Gall).

[S.N.T.O.]

SWISS APPLES FOR FOREIGN CHILDREN

Swiss apples from the Lake of Geneva Region have been flown by Air France to twenty different countries all over the world — a symbol of international friendship. Among the towns on the list is London.

[A.T.S.]

ROYAL GREETINGS TO SWISS CENTENARIAN

Seventy-five years ago, Mr. Dionigio Vanzetta left Biasca (Ticino) for Hepburn, Victoria, Australia, where he founded a bakery. On 27th November he reached his hundredth birthday. H.M. the Queen and the President of the Swiss Confederation sent messages of congratulations.

[A.T.S.]

ANOTHER SILVER MEDAL FROM TOKIO

On 19th November, Miss Lina Küng from Basle arrived back from Tokio where she won a silver medal in archery at the Para-Olympic Games for people suffering from spinal injuries.

From Japan, too, came instructors in Aikido, when the fourteenth course in self-defence for customs and police officials took place at the federal sports centre at Magglingen. It must have been a strange sight to see hefty policemen being thrown and downed by the gentle Miss Sakido Jonue! The art of Aikido is to use the forces set in motion by the attacker for his own defeat. The Japanese instructors were accompanied by a Swiss Mr. J. Bötschi who has been in the Far East for eighteen years and is himself an expert in this art of self-defence.

("Basler Nachrichten.")

DEATHS

We announce with deep regret the death of two great friends of the Swiss abroad and the Swiss Community in the U.K. in particular: Prof. A. Laett and National Councillor A. Meier-Ragg, General Secretary of the S.K.V. Obituaries will appear in the next issue.

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