

International aspect of the "Comptoir suisse"

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In spring, the new large cement factory at **Cornaux** became operational; its name is Juracime s.a.; it was officially opened early in July and is the most modern in Europe with a production capacity of 200,000 metric tons p.a. which, however, can be stepped up to 600,000 tons.

The referendum was used at **Fleurier** to defeat the building of a regional school in a public park. A Swiss woman living in USA has given the Commune Fr.40,000.— for the renovation of the church which was partly destroyed a few months ago. There is great indignation at **Le Locle** against the proposed closing down of the Le Locle-Besancon line. In June, the new building of the watch manufacturers "Zodiac" was opened. The Castle of **Motiers** in the Val de Travers, which is being renovated and altered at the moment, is to become a cultural centre.

Every year, the traditional festival commemorating the last bear hunters of the Jura, is held at la Ferme-Robert near **Noiraigue**. It was towards the end of the eighteenth century that the last bear was shot in the district. For the first time in the Val de Travers, a woman has been elected Commune President in the person of Berthe Vaucher-de la Croix at **Travers**; she is a nurse and 59 years of age.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Miss Rosa Zoellig (100), the oldest inhabitant of St. Gall.

Louis Lonfat (67), Charrat (Valais), for 30 years in the Cantonal Parliament; President of the Catholic/Conservative Party of Charrat.

Anton Hensler (58), Einsiedeln, well-known actor in the *Welttheater* where he played the part of the beggar for 36 years and assisted the producer.

Prof. Dr. Maurice Jaccottet (72), Lausanne, from 1928 to 1964 at Lausanne University as expert in child medical science.

Dr. Rudolf Niederhauser (84), lawyer, editor of the "Basler Volksblatt"; elected *Regierungsrat* in 1919; for many years in the National Council.

Alfred Grunwald (37), Brig, well-known, mainly religious, painter.

Hermann Tobler (86), Panisnières/Loire, citizen of Thal and connected with his place of origin although in France for 55 years; in 1961, he gave the land and financed the building of a home for old people at Thal.

[A.T.S.]

DOG SHOW

Berne's International Dog Show (10th-11th September), third largest event of its kind in Europe after Cruft's Dog Show in London and the Dog Breeding Show in Frankfurt, is the year's major canine event in Switzerland. It is expected that more than 1,500 dogs of 110 different breeds will participate, with major West European and Swiss breeders displaying their finest animals. The many events of the show, including special training exhibitions featuring more than 100 watchdogs, will be held in the Wankdorf Stadium, whose grandstands can hold more than 60,000 viewers.

AT RANDOM NEWS

The Swiss painter Alois Carigiet has been awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Medal of the International Curatorium for Children's Books.

Fritz Rindlisbacher from Liebefeld (Berne) has won the first prize at the international photographic competition "Cambarogno Lago Maggiore 1966"; his photo is called "Bähnler-Bahnen".

A DC-4 freight machine of "Balair" transported the electronic equipment for the rocket training ground of the European space research organisation at Kiruna-Esrange in Sweden. Several Swiss firms contributed towards the most modern technical equipment which was produced in record time. Four Swiss specialists accompanied the transport.

The Swiss Aero Club has again organised an exchange of young pilots. Whilst Swiss aviators went to Canada, Portugal and Great Britain, young pilots from those three countries have been able to spend three weeks in Switzerland.

The Commune of Farnern, Canton of Berne, has elected unanimously Dr. Ernst F. Aleman as Honorary Citizen. Dr. Aleman is an *Auslandschweizer* of the third generation; his family has been resident in Buenos Aires where his grandfather founded the largest German-speaking daily paper in 1889.

The Volkart Foundation has given a further Fr.17,000.— to the World Wildlife Fund at Morges. A similar sum had been given by the Foundation for nature protection projects in India, and the new donation is to go to Pakistan.

The Director of the Zurich Zoo, Prof. Hediger, has been asked to go to Sao Paulo to help in the extension of of the Zoological Gardens there; he had already been of considerable assistance when the zoo was created a few years ago.

A nine-year old boy slipped when diving at the Zurich indoor swimming pool. He knocked his face on the diving board and lost his two upper front teeth, roots and all. Members of the Cantonal Lake Police, who were training at the time, dived for the two teeth, recovered them, and they have been re-fitted. [A.T.S.]

INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE "COMPTOIR SUISSE"

Lausanne Fair from 10th to 25th September

The 47th Lausanne National Swiss Fair, the "Comptoir Suisse", opens its gates on 10th September. It is the country's most important economic autumn event. What distinguishes it from other official Swiss fairs is the pavilion of honour allocated every year to a different foreign country. This custom was introduced after the second world war, when France was invited to take part in the 1945 Lausanne Fair. The idea was successful and soon aroused the greatest interest among Switzerland's trade partners.

Not only European countries, but nations from all continents have been exhibiting during the past twenty years.

This custom has just benefited from a new concession on the part of the Federal Government: the Fair has been authorised to invite two guests of honour each year instead of one as previously. Consequently, this year, the pavilions of Finland and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will be open to visitors. 2,400 Swiss exhibitors will be represented in agriculture, industry and crafts.