

Swiss news

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The attitude is similar towards the Common Market. The Common Market has a philosophy which is contrary to the Swiss principles of foreign policy as they now stand. Switzerland considers that the time is not yet ripe for a united and supranational Europe. She is not prepared to join a community which works both imperfectly and heedless of immediate Swiss interests.

In all this one senses the guarded attitude of the small country afraid to be down-trodden by bigger and more influential partners in a collective organisation. It is true that small countries put more at stake than big powers when they join such an organisation. The latter still manage to remain independent and keep matters in their own hands, thanks to their sheer importance.

Probably the most valid reasons for a continuation of integral neutrality are the fruits which it has brought both to the world and Switzerland. Thanks to her staunch neutrality, Switzerland has been entrusted with an important rôle in the job of maintaining peace. She represents the interests of countless states and harbours innumerable peace conferences and international welfare institutions. She has gained stability and the financial confidence of other countries as a highly appreciated by-product. Switzerland can arguably play a more effective rôle in the fight for world peace by sticking to her special and unique neutrality. According to international law, the general behaviour of the neutral state is governed by the rule: "That it shall avoid any action which might undermine the confidence of other states in its will to remain neutral should war break out, and shall, on the other hand, do everything in its power to strengthen that confidence". Switzerland has strictly abided to this rule and other countries know it. Should this confidence in her neutrality be shaken, then it is her whole position in the world which is at stake and it explains why the heads of Swiss foreign policy

have always been loathe to tamper with neutrality in any way.

Still, the world is evolving towards a situation where every nation will be a member of a large *family*. No member of a family can remain inactive in a strife which may destroy it; if family life is something worth struggling for, then the would-be members must actively strive to create it. This is why, with the world changing, the question of a renewed interpretation of neutrality will seriously come to a head.

(PMB)

SWISS NEWS

CHRISTIE'S IN GENEVA

At the beginning of the month, Christie's held its first auction at Geneva, it took place at the Richmond Hotel and was attended by a wealthy clientèle that had come from all over the world. Total proceeds amounted to a total of 9 million francs, a Swiss record. Among the works which fetched particularly high prices, a work by Gauguin and another by Matisse held prominent positions. Works by Bonnard, Monet, Picasso, Chagall, Vlaminck, Braque, Giacometti and Kirchner were also on the catalogue. A good number of works were retracted from the auction because they did not fetch the price intended by their owners, in some cases with good reason, in some others less.

THE LITTLE RED BOOK

The little red civil defence handbook intended to find a place in every Swiss household has been causing some upstir among those who have had a chance to study it. The book gives all kinds of perfectly sensible information on the behaviour which civilians should adopt during the emergencies of war. One chapter however deals with psychological warfare and suggests that a hardly disguised Eastern power, wishing to subjugate the Swiss, would begin its action by undermining national resistance through the agency of the illustrative "Swiss Party for Work". Critics of the book have found that its authors have been backwards by a number of years in their political judgement and that their creation condemned rather than defended democracy. The Federal Council had given the green light to the publication of the book, a circumstance which many have found ironical in considering that the Council has two socialist members. The "Gazette de Lausanne" has discovered that the French, German and Italian translations of the text contained marked differences.

French-speaking Switzerland appears in it as having a higher potential of "bad Swiss", cowards and traitors and the "Tribune de Lausanne" has

been urging that this affront to *Romandie* be discussed in Parliament. Nearly all the authors of the book were German-speaking. The person who translated it in French, Maurice Zermatten, a nationally well known author, was publicly condemned by twenty writers who thought that, because of his involvement in such a tendential work, he was no longer in a position to remain president of the Swiss writers' association.

(ATS)

NEW PRO JUVENTUTE STAMPS

The Pro Juventute welfare organisation derives an appreciable portion of its livelihood through the 10 or 20 centimes surcharge on Pro Juventute stamps. Pro Juventute stamps are sold during the month of December and are offered from door to door by schoolchildren. The benefits of last year amounted to over six million francs and permitted the organisation to continue its task of helping families and children in difficulty. But besides this individual assistance, it is effective in providing for more marriage guidance, more child-rearing education, improved hygiene education, reformed adoption laws, equal professional formation for all and the creation of communal centres in towns and villages.

Mr. SCHAFFNER'S SUCCESSION

The Radical group in Parliament has unanimously voted Mr. Ernst Brugger from Zurich as successor to retiring Federal Councillor Schaffner. The French-speaking radical group has not presented any candidate in order to maintain a faithful linguistic representation in the Federal Council. It has however been agreed that a French-speaking candidate shall be accepted as a replacement of Mr. Celio, whenever he steps back. Mr. Brugger is the son of a peasant and was born in 1914. He succeeds to Mr. Schaffner as head of the extremely important Department of Public Economy, or Swiss Board of Trade.

(ATS)

THE VICTIMS OF AVALANCHES

The fourth international conference on Alpine rescue was recently held in the premises of the Swiss transport museum Lucerne and attended by 20 delegates from mountain-rescue associations, police and military organisations.

They have discovered during their first day's work that, in spite of the progress of science, avalanche dogs were still the surest way of rescuing victims of avalanches. Sounds were however acquiring an increasing importance in modern rescue methods.

One of the greatest Swiss experts in the branch, Mr. Melchior Schild, said that 15% of people carried away by avalanches were found dead when

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rescuers were on the spot. There was still plenty of scope for saving many more lives through improved rescue techniques.

A CHANCE FOR THE JESUITS

Professor Werner Kägi of Zurich has produced at the demand of the Federal Council a report on the opportunity of deleting the 51st and 52nd articles of the Federal Constitution. These articles ban all Jesuit activities from Switzerland and forbid the creation of new religious orders. The professor's report has just been published in Berne. He reaches the conclusion that these two articles are unjust and contrary to law and proposes to replace them by other articles. Moreover, guaranteeing the free exercise of worship and banning only those religious orders that could be durably harmful to the community. The Federal Council has sent the report to the cantons, the churches and political parties to ask for their advice. Following this consultation, the Council will make definite proposals to the Federal Chambers. (ATS)

AN INTERESTING SWISS NOVELTY FOR SKI-BOB FANS

Every year, as winter approaches, Swiss inventors and manufacturers give new proof of their vitality by launching on the market a number of articles for sportsmen enabling them to practice their favourite sports more easily and more proficiently. Recently a leading footwear manufacturer announced the creation of a fibreglass shell for ski-boots. Today, a sensational novelty

for ski-bob enthusiasts is beginning to appear on the market—the BOB-LIFT-REY. This device for attaching ski-bobs to ski-lifts won its inventor a gold medal at the International Inventors and New Products Exposition in New York in 1968, and another in silver-gilt at the 18th International Inventors Salon in Brussels this year. Thanks to this new device, ski-bob fans can use all types of ski-lifts without having, as previously, to dismantle their ski-bob after each run in order to get it into a cabin or bubble-car. This new type of attachment is easy to fit to the handlebars of any type of ski-bob and is connected by means of a cable to the hand-brake; a slight pressure on the latter closes the attachment which opens again once the brake is released. The Bob-Lift-Rey has already been tried out successfully on the ski-lifts of Crans-sur-Sierre and Montana in Switzerland and has been approved by the Swiss Ski-Bob Federation which has recognized its qualities of simplicity and safety. (OSEC)

A JEWELLERY "OSCAR" FOR A SWISS WATCH FIRM

At its annual award ceremony, the International Diamonds Academy awarded an Oscar to the Longines Watch Company at St. Imier (Switzerland). This supreme prize was awarded to the Jura firm for a beautifully cut watch-strap decorated with 177 brilliants each held in an 18-carat white gold setting. Of the 1880 entries originally submitted by 29 jewellers from 10 countries, only 30 were selected for actual execution and participation in the finals of the competition. After

catching the attention of the public with its new quartz watch, the Longines Watch Company now wins great success in the field of jewellery. (OSEC)

A SWISS SKI FACTORY SIGNS A MERGER WITH A BIG AMERICAN COMPANY

The production of new skis today requires large research and testing laboratories, so that with the growth of leisure and tourism manufacturers wishing to play a rôle on the markets of tomorrow have to internationalize their activities. This is the reason underlying the merger between Olin Corp., an American company with a turnover of over one billion dollars, and Authier Ski, Switzerland's leading manufacturer of skis. Having common interests, Olin and Authier have formed a joint company known as Olin Authier Co. Ltd., which will develop its activity in Europe, while Olin will cover the American market. The pooling of the resources and experience of the two companies will allow them to achieve new goals by using the latest, most advanced equipment and knowhow. (OSEC)

THE SCHOOLCHILDREN OF ZURICH TO USE COMPUTERS

That pupils of secondary schools in Zurich should learn to use computers is the opinion of the government of this canton, which is prepared to include in its budget the sums needed for carrying out such a course of instruction. Answering the question of a member of parliament, the government stated



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that several teachers in Zurich secondary schools had already been dealing with this problem for some time now. These teachers had in particular studied the way in which the teaching of the use of electronic computers should be organized. In addition they have familiarized themselves with the use of such machines by attending congresses and courses. In 1968 there were no fewer than 6,915 perforated card machines and electronic computers in operation in Swiss concerns. (OSEC)

SWISS SMOKERS ENJOY A WIDE CHOICE

With over one hundred makes of cigarettes and over 200 different presentations, Switzerland is the country that offers smokers the widest choice of cigarettes. In fact, if one compares the percentage of cigarettes sold by the 13 leading world makes in the countries of western Europe and the United States, it can be seen that in Switzerland this figure is the lowest: 67.4%. On the other hand in France and Italy, over 90% of the market has been cornered by these 13 makes, the figure amounting to 75.8% in Belgium, 85% in the United States and 94% in Denmark. This diversification in the supply of cigarettes in Switzerland shows clearly the general tendency to individualism characteristic of this country. (OSEC)

YOUNG BRITISH PAINTER WINS AWARD AT LUGANO

The "Grand Prize of Lugano" was awarded to Vincent Haddelsey, whose paintings obtained the largest number of visitors' votes, at an exhibition of primitive paintings held last Summer.

Vincent Haddelsey was born in Lincolnshire in 1929 and now lives in Paris. He is a skilful horseman and trainer, and participates in polo and jumping competitions.

GENEVA—COLLECTION OF ANCIENT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

After protracted negotiations the city of Geneva has acquired the important collection of ancient musical instruments of Fritz Ernst. The valuable objects are to be put into the Historical Museum. All instruments are in excellent condition and several of them may be regularly used at concerts. One of the most beautiful pieces in the collection no doubt, is an organ used in processions, dating back to the sixteenth century, an unusually rare and valuable specimen which occupies a place of honour among viols, violins and brass instruments of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Among them one may be delighted to discover a naval trumpet.

THE ART OF DANCING ON THE SWISS STAGE

In addition to opera and operetta the art of the ballet takes on an increasing importance on the Swiss stage, just as ballet fans would want it. The "Grand Theatre" in Geneva presents its ballet which usually participates in operas in a programme of its own on November 11th, 13th and 16th. Also, the Zurich Opera will repeat its successful programme of three contrasting works of the ballet ("Miss Julie", "Marsyas" and "The Trident") and in addition a new staging of the "Nutcracker Suite" ballet, one of Tschaikovsky's most popular works devoted to the dance. Furthermore, Tschaikovsky's well known "Swan Lake", and "Coppelia" by Delibes, will remain on the programme. One evening is to be devoted to contemporary works. At the "Kurtheater" in Baden on November 12th and at the City Theatre in Chur on November 13th a Prague Dance Company will perform.

AN ABUNDANCE OF ART EXHIBITIONS

The Art Museum of Winterthur is showing until November 16th works by Benito Steiner, Italo Valenti and Taruko Yokoi. At the Museum "Zu Allerheiligen" (All Saints) in Schaffhausen paintings by Albert Schachenmann will be shown until November 9th. In Western Switzerland there is an exhibition by Rene Berthoud at the city hall in Yverdon which will last until December 4th and one by Alfred Huguenin in La Chaux-de-Fonds (November 8th to 25th). Furthermore, the show "Japon, theatre millenaire" (Japan, 1000 years of theatre) radiates artistic splendour from the Ethnographic Museum at Neuchatel until the end of the year and fascinates by its magnificent costumes. The art of coins and medals is illustrated in the Bernese Historical Museum in Berne with an exhibition from its own collections.

THEATRE IN MANY FORMS

Not only the official stages of Switzerland's cities offer first nights in December but many other theatrical sites announce surprises. In Lausanne a group presents Aristophanes' ancient Greek comedy "Peace" which is still topical nowadays (December 9-13) and in Montreux there will be theatrical performances on December 9 and 16. Numerous cities offer French guest performances. At Yverdon a Spanish Ballet will perform on December 11, while the municipal theatres of Berne, Basle and Lucerne will take their turn in presenting their companies in Olten. The Aargau Opera will visit a number of places which otherwise would enjoy very few shows of musical theatre. The "Kurtheater" in Baden will again offer its winter guests performances by

important visiting companies. Also, the Goetheanum at Dornach will present many new things in December, such as three "Oberuferer Spiele" and performances of other dramas and mysteries on its high intellectual level.

(SNT0)

THE MATTERHORN VILLAGE TO REMAIN FREE OF MOTOR CARS

"Zermatt, the Matterhorn village, will always remain free of motor cars." This comforting sentence is taken from a letter of Zermatt's tourist director, Constant Cachin, to a worried friend of the Swiss Alps and their fortunately still numerous "pedestrians and hikers reserves". The writer of the letter who hails from North Carolina, U.S.A. had lodged a protest with the Swiss Embassy in Washington, D.C. against press reports which had mentioned that a highway was to be built to the very foothills of the Matterhorn. Tourist Director Cachin says: "It is true that a road is approaching Zermatt. By 1971 it will reach Täsch, 4 kilometres (less than three miles) below Zermatt. However, the community of Zermatt — which means the entire population — has decided in a public referendum not to admit motor cars. A further referendum would have to be held to clear up the question of a possible participation in the considerable cost of building this highway which is now estimated at about 33 million Swiss francs (about 7½ million dollars). It may be assumed that Täsch will remain the terminal of the highway. Incidentally, the Brig-Visp-Zermatt-Railroad is already planning to put into service shuttle trains which would run between Täsch and Zermatt every thirty minutes." (SNT0)

CONSTRUCTION OF PARKING FACILITIES UNDERNEATH THE RIVER RHONE

In Geneva there is an average of one motor vehicle per 2.68 inhabitants. This is already quite high as averages go. To better envisage the city's traffic problems one has to take into account the thousands of French cars which run around Geneva every day. The country's frontier is just 5 kilometres (about 3½ miles) from the city's centre. The steady growth in the number of vehicles in the street traffic—7,500 more than at the beginning of the year — daily increases parking and stopping problems. After protracted research a group of merchants on the Rue du Marché — the city's main traffic artery — has decided to finance the construction of a parking garage for 1,450 cars. What makes it unusual is that it will be located underneath the River Rhone, totally invisible from the outside. Work has already been started on this unique construction and the "under-water parking lot" should be put into operation in about three and one half years. Located in the left

branch of the river, between the Mont Blanc Bridge and the Des Bergues Bridge, this big four floor building will cost its originators about 28 million Swiss francs (about 6½ million dollars). (SNT0)

The Berne Art Museum presents one of the most respected artists of Berne, the painter and plastic artist Serge Brignoni with his sketches and graphic prints, while at the Art Hall and School Watch Tower of Berne the Bernese painters and sculptors present themselves collectively. (SNT0)

Is Schwizertütsch, the dialect of the supposedly German-speaking Swiss a language or only, as malicious observers say, a throat disease? Arthur Baur, Ph.D., exactly thirty years ago decided in favor of the first alternative. His amusing "Praktische Sprachlehre des Schweizerdeutschen" ("Practical Instruction of the German-Swiss Language") has now been published in a new edition, particularly adapted for the non-German-Swiss, under the title "Grüezi mitenand" ("Hello there"). However, the author who hails from Zurich makes one reservation: "The language taught in this book is Züritütsch (Zurich dialect)." (SNT0)

ANZERE (4930 ft.) — THE NEW RESORT

Situated on a magnificent terrace above Sion (Valais), this newly discovered resort is exceptionally sunny. Anzere now has one aerial cableway to the Pas-de-Maimbre (7,872 ft.) and seven skilifts as well as a Swiss ski-school with over twenty instructors. There are chalets and apartments available through Anzere's U.K. Selling Agents, Knight Frank & Rutley, 20 Hanover Square, London W.1. Within the next few years, it is planned to build two aerial cableways to reach the summit of the Wildhorn (10,650 ft.), thus opening up this area to summer ski-ing.

SYMPOSIUM AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS AT THE MONTREUX ASSEMBLY

At last year's Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Schaffhausen, symposium and group discussions were introduced as a novelty. The idea was repeated this year at Montreux. It is a moot point which is preferable. Some of us remember the tedious sessions of former assemblies when, in general discussion, the same people came forward time and again, bringing up their own pet grievances whether or not they had to do with the subject up for discussion. More successful were the conferences of the 'sixties when eight to ten speakers from various countries were asked to give short talks on the same subject. The drawback of that system was that there was no group discussion nor a real summing up, and the speeches were often left somewhat in the air.

The disadvantages of symposium and group discussions were already mentioned in the general report on the Montreux Assembly. Their main shortcomings are no doubt that an excellent consensus of opinion may be disregarded on account of inadequate reporting to the plenary session, and that no action is taken to remedy any particular fault or introduce desirable new measures.

In the symposium which took place on Saturday morning, 30th August, the theme was "L'Utilisation du *potentiel suisse de l'étranger*" par *l'économie suisse — vœux réciproques*". The discussion was under the able chairmanship of Dr. Rolf Buehler, President of the Union of Swiss Chambers of Commerce Abroad", and the participants were Mr. F. Fleischmann (Lima), Mr. J. L. Gilliéron (President of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Paris), Mr. T. Nagel (Norrköping, Sweden), Dr. A. von Reding (Frankfurt), Dr. C. Steffen (President of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Milan), Minister G. Bauer (President of the

Swiss Watch Federation), Ambassador Dr. A. Gruebel (BIGA Director), Mr. P. de Haller (member of the Swiss Science Council) and *Fürsprech* M. Jaccard (Chief of the Section for matters concerning the Swiss abroad at the Federal Political Department). Dr. Buehler opened the discussion explaining that economy implied not only buying and selling, but it meant keeping the Swiss image intact, and trying to get cultural as well as economic benefits. The work of Swiss Chambers of Commerce abroad was duly praised, and there was no doubt that they would have to play an important part in improving the slightly faded image of Switzerland. The task of putting Switzerland back on the map can and should be done by Swiss centres abroad, for they guarantee the best and most effective co-operation between Swiss and foreign circles. They, too, allow the co-ordination of economic and cultural efforts and thus contribute towards establishing the best possible complete picture of Switzerland. There was some criticism that the weak participation of Switzerland at foreign fairs resulted in "loss of national credit." The Swiss Office for Development of Trade had a task, too, as had "Pro Helvetia". Another point mentioned was training. The better the Swiss at home were trained, the better Ambassadors of Switzerland they could become, especially once wider knowledge of their country of residence had been acquired. The statement by the member of the Swiss Science Council that the standard of education and training in Switzerland was no longer high enough caused some surprise. The general level was good, but the top class was very small, if not practically missing. Summing up, the need is for improved co-operation between the organisations at home and the Swiss economic centres abroad, for information on a two-way-traffic basis, careful personnel management rationalisation, and above all for the upkeep of Swiss quality by the Swiss abroad themselves. The good name of Switzerland was not enough, it had to be activated, and only then would it be a valuable potential.

In the afternoon, four discussion groups treated the problem of reintegration for the Swiss returning from abroad: technical, natural sciences, legal/economic and university teaching groups. In general problems arose only after many years of residence abroad, and the difficulties were often not professional, but personal and social. On returning home, it was not least every-day life which often created the biggest difficulties. As far as the work was concerned, it was frequently difficult to accept a position of smaller importance. If the returning Swiss from abroad remained in the same firm, careful long-term management planning was of great value; in this a small firm was handicapped. Often expert knowledge was adequate in a leading posi-

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tion abroad, but was suddenly no longer sufficient at home. It was stressed that intending *Rueckwanderer* should be warned of difficulties before they returned.

A fifth group discussed the chances of training in Swiss concerns for young Swiss from abroad. And this is where we take up the criticism voiced at the beginning—inadequate reporting deprives the participants at the Assembly of a complete picture. The outcome of the group discussions was of use only to those actually taking part and only in as much as there was a personal exchange of views and experiences, but of little value to the Assembly in general. Such discussions should be reported by experienced people and summed up for the benefit of the whole Assembly. Still, I believe the message was brought home on the whole: we Swiss abroad have a responsibility towards our country, to help improve its image by personal example and effort. (MM)

MORE UPSTIR OVER THE LITTLE RED BOOK

Not the thoughts of Mao-Tse-Tung, but the little red book on civil defence. The free Jura movement has launched a massive campaign to collect every little red book at hand and send them to Délémont, the Separatist stronghold, to have them (probably) ceremoniously destroyed. A case containing two thousand of the precious volumes was stolen from a railway warehouse, in that same town. Crowds gathered in La Chaux de Fond's main artery, l'Avenue Léopold Robert, to dump their little red book and listen to firebrand speeches by local Socialist politicians. (ATS)

SAD EVENT IN A MATERNITY WARD

A rather sad event took place in the maternity ward of Lausanne's cantonal hospital. A pregnant woman had contractions and pains throughout the whole night, she was known to be giving imminent birth to a premature child, her room-companion called for help as best she could and yet the unfortunate woman gave birth to her child unassisted at dawn. The windows of the room were open and the place was very cold. Although the baby was put in an incubator, he died the next morning and this produced a strong local upstir. The Lausanne daily who revealed the incident appealed for precautions on the part of the hospital. The doctors have considered that the death of the baby was not due to the circumstances in which he was born, neither was it due to any professional blunder, but rather to the drastic lack of personnel in the hospital. (ATS)

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN GENEVA

The Duke of Edinburgh spent twenty-four hours in Geneva, coming on Thursday, 20th November and leaving the next day. Prince Philip made this trip in his quality of president of the International Equestrian Federation to attend the international horsemanship competition being held in Geneva. He was received at Cointrin airport by the British Ambassador, Mr. H. A. F. Hohler, Mr. Evans, British Consul in Geneva, Col. Capadose Military Attaché, Divisionary Colonel Pierre de Muralt, president of the organisation-committee of the competi-

tion and J. P. Galland, State Chancellor of the Canton of Geneva. (ATS)

A BRIDGE WIDENED IN GENEVA

The bridge of the "Coulouvrenière", the 5th bridge down-river and the one used by tram No. 1 on its way from the Station to the Plain of Plainpalais, is to be widened from 13.20 to 18.80 metres at the cost of 2.7 million francs. In this way the bridge will hold six, instead of four lanes and help to streamline the traffic in the centre of Geneva.

The other two main bridges, the Pont du Mont Blanc and the Pont Butin have already been widened. (ATS)

THE CAVALRY'S OBITUARY

Federal Councillor Gnaegi, head of the Military Department, has confirmed in a recent speech that the dragoon squadrons of the Army will have to go. The horse stays on in the service corps only, essentially as a transport utility. This decision had been dictated by the general reorganisation of the Army set forth in 1961. Cyclists were also pointed as the future victims of reorganisation. The Army could not renounce to an indispensable modernisation just to maintain troops constantly loosing in relative combat efficiency.

The horse-breeders of the Franches Montagnes were not in agreement with this policy. The organisers of the "Marché Concours" of Saignelegier declared themselves to be irrevocably opposed to any abandonment of the cavalry and urged the Federal Council to do everything within its powers to uphold it and encourage horse-breeding in Switzerland. (ATS)

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CLOSURE OF THE RAILWAY JOINING MULHOUSE AND PORRENTRU

The Dannemarie to Pfetterhouse railroad will be definitely closed on 4th January according to a recent decision by the S.N.C.F. This line was a link between Porrentruy and Mulhouse in Alsace and had seen its passenger and freight traffic diminish considerably since the end of the war. The line was constructed in 1905, the first train rolled on it in 1910. The Swiss completed the Porrentruy to Mulhouse link by building the Porrentruy to Dannemarie stretch. The railroad was highly used during the war, especially for the transport of wood. Today, it has become a completely loss-making affair and is to be shut down in a general savings drive by the S.N.C.F. In a few decades, probably one will remember that it was once possible to go from Porrentruy to Mulhouse through Bonfol and Pfetterhouse by train.

(ATS)

NO CHILDREN ADMITTED TO HOLY COMMUNION

The Consistoire of the National Protestant Church of Geneva has come back on a former decision to allow children of 12, baptised or not, to take communion. This decision had been taken with the view of strengthening the spiritual life of children. However, it contradicted the teachings of the New Testament and put the Church of Geneva in a peculiar position with respect to Christian tradition. Following consultations with the Faculty of Theology, it has been decided not to let children, even above 12, to take holy communion. But if adolescents in the course of their religious instructions preparatory to confirmation desire to take communion, even if they are not baptised, they may do so. The ceremony of confirmation then no longer necessarily precedes first communion.

(ATS)

STUDENTS LEGISLATE ON UNIVERSITIES

The National Union of Students has submitted a resolution to the Swiss University Conference with the aim of codifying the new law on universities.

The document allows for experimental reforms and supports "all experiences which can be useful in elaborating a new law on universities". The University Conference has taken note of these proposals "with interest, and has approved them". It has been decided to address recommendations to the cantons and the universities. They would be inspired by the pro-

posals of the Union of Students and the resolution of the University Conference.

(ATS)

SWISSAIR LOWERS FIRST-CLASS TARIFFS ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC

Having followed other airlines in a general reduction of economy class group fares on the North-Atlantic flights, Swissair is now to reduce tariffs for group-travel in first class. The reduction amounts to 18% of the former fare and is applicable to tourists staying a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 30 days in the U.S.A. or Canada.

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RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

Dr. Ernest Kron, 75, in Basle. Dr. Kron was a well known lawyer and legal advisor to a number of important firms. He presided the board of a great many of them, including the "Rhenus AG", a navigation and transport company.

Dr. Henri Pellissier, in Sion. He was a well known doctor in the French-speaking Valais. Born in St. Maurice, he went to the College of l'Abbaye, and studied medicine in Lausanne to specialise in mouth and throat diseases. He had been a practitioner in Sion for the past 40 years and had devoted himself to the regional hospital, the institute for the deaf and dumb and the nursing school of which he was a founding member.

Robert S. Pirk, 80 actor, playwright and stage director. He was born in Prague and made his name as an actor on German and Austrian stages. He lived in Paris in 1938 and became known as an art and theatre critic. From 1939 to 1947, he lived in Switzerland, working as a journalist. He left for the United States at the end of that period but returned to Switzerland in 1959, active as a correspondent to American papers and contributing to Lucerne dailies.

Marcus Jakobi, 79, in Merlingen. A well known landscape painter, Marcus Jakobi studied painting in Munich and settled down in Merlingen, on the eastern side of the Lake of Thun, in 1916. He produced innumerable landscapes, decorated the village-church and acquired a widespread reputation as a graphist.

Mr. Ernest Stingelin, former director of the Central Laundries of Basle, 62, of a heart-attack. He was vice-director of the Burger Hospital of Basle and held other local functions. He is responsible for the creation of laundry facilities shared by all the hospitals of Basle. He had retired last May.

René Vodoz, 75, an engineer from Yverdon and member of the board of

Brown-Boveri. René Vodoz studied engineering at the Lausanne Polytechnic and entered the firm of Brown-Boveri in Baden, for which he worked during 30 years. Initially charged with overseas sales, he lived in the five continents. He was appointed director in 1932 and retired in 1959, following which he regained his native town and founded the "Société des Ateliers Mécaniques". He was the brother of the late Antoine Vodoz, State and National Councillor, and himself a member of the Liberal Party and one-time candidate to the National Council. He held a seat at the Communal Council of Yverdon during two legislatures and was colonel in the infantry.

Mr. John Cherpillod, 100, farmer at La Rapaz, in Moudon. He was born in Vucherens and had been one of the founders of the Peasants' Party of Vaud.

Mr. Norbert Bosset, 86, former president of the State Council and the Government of Vaud, in Lausanne. Born in Avenches in 1883, Mr. Bosset has studied law at Lausanne, Munich and Paris. He was *syndic* of Avenches from 1915 to 1921, Radical representative at the Great Council of Vaud from 1909 to 1922 and president of the cantonal legislative in 1921. He was a member of the State Council from 1928 to 1947 and proved a champion to the vine-growers, the old-age pension fund and the polytechnic of Lausanne.

Edouard-Louis Jaquet, former head of department at the International Red Cross, in which he was in charge of the Agency for prisoners of war. He was also active as a talented journalist. A wine-specialist, he founded the "Académie du Cep" in Geneva.

Mr. Eduard Schnurrenberger, 96, in Erstfeld, Uri. He was the first Socialist delegate to the Great Council of Uri. Elected to the Great Council in 1912, he remained in this post for 32 years. Starting his career as an engine-driver, he went to live at Erstfeld in 1895 and sat on the Communal Council of this locality from 1903 to 1907. He played an important rôle in the 1918 general strike.

Mr. Gustave Lecoultré, 87, in Zurich. Born in Avenches, Gustave Lecoultré was one of the pioneers of Swiss aviation and a companion of René Grandjean, the first aircraft-constructor in Switzerland and Ernest Failloubaz, the country's first pilot. He was active in Great Britain for many years and was a director of the Sheffield steel works.

The Rev. Victor Baroni, former pastor and theology professor, 76, in Nyon. The Rev. Baroni fell from a third-storey floor onto his garden. The reasons for this fall have not been established. He was a doctor in theology from Lausanne University, lectured in exegesis at the University of Geneva and was pastor in Paris, Bruxelles, Versoix, Zurich and many parishes of Vaud.