

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1971)
Heft: 1622

Rubrik: Swiss news

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 18.10.2024

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

fortunately not so and they have apparently become normally constituted and successful human beings. Asked by a family man how he brought up his children, Piaget said that he had to admit to his incompetence as an educator because his paternal fibre often contradicted his pedagogical theories.

(PMB)

COMMENT

A NEW PROPOSAL FOR THE "PEACE OF HOUSING"

Perhaps the only major source of social discontent in Switzerland is the high cost and shortage of housing. Council estates of the British kind are unknown in Switzerland and cheaply-built housing of a social nature is financed in the main by private institutions and submitted to the constraints of a free economy. The rent of an ordinary flat in any major town amounts to 100 francs a room per month which means that a working man may have to pay a third of his income in rent.

It is not surprising therefore that the majority of people are complaining against rich landlords and "speculators" whom they believe are amassing unmerited fortunes. Although rent control has been abolished the law forbids real estate companies to get the return on their investments in less than 15 years. The soaring costs of land and building have partially accounted for the high cost of new accommodation.

A Radical National Councillor from Zug, Mr. Brunner has had the peculiar idea of instituting an obligatory control by tenants of their landlords' books. He has presented this formula in an individual initiative. Needless to say, many house owners and "bourgeois" Swiss will reject this notion outright. The most radical-minded workers may also spurn it as an attempt to withhold rents from the control of the State. Yet the idea put forward by Mr. Brunner resembles the recent initiative by trade unions in favour of worker participation in management.

Workers, it is said, should have an eye in their company's books so that they can see for themselves that they are being offered a fair deal. Likewise, irate tenants struggling to meet their rent should be shown the proof that their landlords are justified in claiming the rents they do.

It should be interesting to see how the population will respond to Mr. Brunner's suggestion. If the National Council, which has first to examine the initiative, allows it to go through, then one can expect a majority of voters in the large towns to give their support.

(PMB)

SWISS NEWS

RUSSIAN-SWISS CONFRONTATION

The costly naivety of a Swiss teacher

The Bernese biology teacher Francois de Perregaux, 33 years of age, has been sentenced to three years imprisonment for having given his passport to a 28-year-old Russian physicist, Mr. Dmitri Mikheyev, who had sought to flee to the West. Mr. Perregaux was arrested on 3rd October, 1970 and it is not yet known whether these 11 months of detention will be subtracted from his sentence.

Everything had been undertaken for his defence. The Swiss Embassy in Moscow was represented at his trial (held in camera) as well as his father. The trial lasted for five days and the western journalists who attempted to penetrate the building were forced back by police in civilian clothes. Mr. Mikheyev had been arrested as he was about to board a plane at Vienna. He was sentenced to eight years of hard labour.

NATURAL DISASTER

A tornado devastates the Joux Valley

A tornado fell upon the Joux Valley in the Jura and damaged or destroyed dozens of houses in the villages of Le Brassus, Orient and Envy. Its force was such that several hectares of forest were uprooted, 100,000 cubic metres of debris and earth blocked the Molandruz Pass, and 20-ton lorries were tossed for tens of yards by the depression.

The tornado caused havoc in a camping site, blowing tents away and overturning caravans. Fortunately there were no death casualties, but six were wounded, two seriously. The tornado swept through most of the Swiss Jura. It uprooted woods at Romainmotier. It struck a saw-mill at Le Brassus and piles of logs were strewn over acres like match-sticks. The cost of the disaster was expected to run into millions of francs. Rescue teams were soon in the worst hit areas and organised the transport of tarpaulins to cover the many roofless houses.

THE DOLLAR CRISIS

Taking the necessary steps

The Swiss government saw the recent monetary crisis not unfavourably because it demonstrated the unhealthiness of the international currency situation, in particular the fact that the dollar was no longer convertible against gold. The Swiss National Bank had in the course of the previous months to mop up some two billion dollars. It acted concurrently with

other central banks in suspending further acquisition of dollars and closing the foreign exchange market. There was an exception for the benefit of stranded American tourists, who were allowed to exchange 30 dollars a day at a rate guaranteed by the National Bank of four francs to the dollar, marginally less than the rate of 4.08 francs to the dollar that had prevailed on the money market a week before the crisis.

The dollars that were circulating for free capital transactions were negotiated at the unexpectedly high rate of a dollar for 3.80 francs owing to the ruling disfavour of Euro-dollars and the expectancy of a settlement of the situation. The Swiss stock exchange suspended dealings in foreign stock in awaiting a clearing up of the situation. Swiss investors on the American stock market were uneasy about this lack of confidence and failed to follow the optimism of a market made buoyant by President Nixon's measures.

Swiss trade was expected to suffer from this presidential package, in particular the hard-pressed watch industry, which exports 20 per cent of its production to the USA. The machine industry, which exports about 8.5 per cent of its production to America, its third customer after Germany and France, viewed the surcharge with concern. The chemical giants of Basle had little to fear, since they are firmly implanted in America.

In the main, commentators deplored the slowness of reforming the monetary system and urged an early international consultation, striking the metal while it was hot. The Swiss National Bank has always maintained a policy of not being strapped with too many dollars, and the Swiss franc is still one of the only currencies entirely backed by gold. If gold is to be revalued then Switzerland's reserves, now already comparable to those of Great Britain, will get a serious boost.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

—that's what counts

FOR ALL TRAVELS
—by Land, Sea and Air

let **A. GANDON** make
your reservations

TICKETS issued at STATION PRICES
NO BOOKING FEE

HOWSHIP

TRAVEL AGENCY

188, UXBRIDGE ROAD
Shepherds Bush W.12

Telephones: 01 - 743 6268/9 and 1896

The end of the Florida Affair

During June 1969, as the National Council was debating the supply budget to the armed forces, Mr. Celio reassured the House that all was well with the development of *Florida*, the Swiss early warning defence system. Mr. Hubacher, national councillor for Basle and a journalist, countered this statement by revealing that Florida had shown serious faults. Nobody knew where he had obtained that information. The Federal Police, however, had their doubts and began tapping his telephone.

They soon intercepted a conversation with Colonel Varrone, an NCO and an engineer in civilian life. Mr. Hubacher had approached him to be enlightened by him on the highly technical Florida material which was in his hands. Colonel Varrone was arrested with the documents in his briefcase and later released. Mr. Hubacher enjoyed his parliamentary immunity and started an outcry over the telephone tapping.

Meanwhile the police had traced the source of these defence leaks to a former employee at the Dubendorf air-base by name of Alphons Huebscher, and charged him with having communicated to a third party the minutes of two secret meetings on Florida's progress. Mr. Huebscher stood trial at Fraubrunnen at the end of July and claimed that he had been motivated by a concern that the truth on the defects of Florida should be told loud and clear. He said confidently that he would not hesitate in the event to act in the same way again.

He had addressed the documents to Mr. Hubacher the National Councillor, and not to the journalist, knowing that "he was not a man to leave problems standing". Huebscher had obtained the minutes on the pretence that he required them for his work and had mailed the photocopies to Mr. Hubacher, whom he didn't know, signing with a pseudonym. The question was raised that Huebscher had acted out of a desire of revenge against his former employers, but he claimed that these considerations, although not entirely unfounded, had not been a determinant in his decision.

The court accepted that he had not intended to use documents disclosing the shortcomings of the Swiss defence system for publication. Nevertheless he had been guilty of taking possession of secret documents under false pretences and illegally communicating them to a party which was not entitled to receive them. He was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with 2 years remission.

"We are all responsible for inflation"

The Union of Employers Associations in Zurich has published its Annual Report. The preamble contains the philosophy of the organisation, and its socialising statements come as a surprise from its "capitalist" author.

First the report establishes that the standard of living has increased in every walk of life. Social security has improved and the chances of promotion have never been as good. But now that these goals are attained, goals which seemed as mirages not so many years ago, the happiness and contentment of the Swiss population does not appear to have increased. Proof of this are the continuing demands on the Swiss economy and the State for more goods.

It comes as no surprise today that the Old Age Pension may be doubled, that workers are presenting unprecedented wage demands. In fact, it is no longer possible to have a clear conception of what is economically feasible. But the increase in material welfare has its price. This is pollution, the change of social structure and large beehive towns—a price which no one is willing to pay. The result is a need to lay all responsibility on "others".

Export industries, the farmers, the trade unions, federal employees, the building trade and especially foreign workers have all at one time been picked on as scapegoats for the less agreeable consequences of prosperity. The task of the country is now to combat inflation. But this is not possible as long as the general attitude is to rest on others the responsibility of increasing prices. Inflation will be overcome by the active participation of every sector of the economy.

Furthermore, if a rift between public opinion and the leaders of industry is to be avoided, it is necessary that the methods of management, the

processes of production and the style of publicity should be geared towards a generally accepted ideal of environmental protection. An undertaking cannot rationalise and improve its productivity when this is not approved by the community. Likewise, industrial concentration, however beneficial from the economic point of view, cannot survive if they are achieved at the cost of human freedom.

MEDICINE

To save a 870-gram baby

A baby is considered premature if it is born after 7 or fewer months of gestation and if it weighs less than 2 kilograms.

In Geneva, a little girl was born after only 26 weeks (6 months) of gestation and weighing only 870 grams. The following days her weight fell to 710 grams, but with the help of intensive care and the best of what science can offer it was helped through to grow into a normal and healthy baby.

Similar cases have of course happened before, but they are extremely rare. The secret of these babies' survival is their high vitality. The problem for paediatricians is not so much to keep them alive than to make sure that they will not grow up with deficiencies. As soon as they are born they are put in an isolated incubator, they may have to be transferred to another suitable hospital by means of a portable incubator. These incubators are isolated and protect the baby against the danger of infection.

One of the great problems with premature babies in earlier days was to forestall their inevitable cardiac arrests. Now, babies are monitored by special devices warning attending nurses in time when their little hearts stop to beat. Predictably, data has been compiled on the occurrence of premature births, but the figures obtained do not lead to any clear conclusions.

In Switzerland, between 4.5 and

THE ZURICH GROUP

ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY

(a limited Company incorporated in Switzerland in 1872)

THE BEDFORD LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY LTD.

(an associate member of the Life Offices Association)

THE BEDFORD GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

(a member of the British Insurance Association)

UNDERTAKE ALL
CLASSES OF INSURANCE
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE U.K.

HEAD OFFICE:
FAIRFAX HOUSE, FULWOOD PLACE
HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1

Telephone 01-242 8833

GROUP RESOURCES EXCEED £500,000,000

In Switzerland
for over 50 years!

Lloyds Bank Europe

Geneva

1 Place Bel-Air
& Palais des Nations
Tel: 25-03-20

Lugano

9 Corso Pestalozzi
Tel: 3-90-91

Zurich

18 Börsenstrasse
Tel: 25-87-65

An International
bank for
international
people

Head Office:
100 Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1
(Tel 01-930 0831)



Part of the
Lloyds Bank
Group

7 per cent of births are premature. In Scandinavia the rate is 4.5 per cent. In Austria it is 7 per cent, in Hungary 12 per cent and in Mexico over 25 per cent. However, it is recognised that hectic living, tension and the absorption of too many medicines have a bearing on premature deliveries.

RELIEF AID

Mr. Paul Chaudet makes a national appeal

Mr. Paul Chaudet, former President of the Confederation, is now President of "Enfants du Monde", an important relief organisation. Enjoying his status as a former statesman, he had a letter printed in the leading newspapers appealing for funds to the well-fed Swiss public.

Like the official assistance afforded by Switzerland, "Enfants du Monde" had the advantage of concentrating its activities to a restricted number of precise projects. They were the creation in East Pakistan of a "re-nutrition centre" for the children most affected by famine. This centre was planned to harbour 1,000 children for six months, by which time the new harvests would allow a re-assessment of the situation. A child costs 4 francs a day to feed. The second project, equally in East Pakistan, was the equipment of three dispensaries at the cost of a million francs. The last project was the building of 50-bed hospitals at 250,000 francs apiece in the areas of India where the refugees, Bengali East Pakistan refugees had been interned.

NURSING

A better deal for the theatre sisters

The 25 theatre sisters of Geneva's Cantonal Hospital are unsatisfied with their working conditions. The official weekly of the Union of Public Employees disclosed their plight in a recent number.

Theatre nurses have to undergo the three years of normal training for nurses followed by two years of further training enabling them to assist surgeons in operating theatres. Despite this additional formation they enjoy no improved status and receive the same pay as their fellow nurses working in the wards. It lies between 1,100 and 1,300 francs a month. Yet for this income they have to work nine solid hours a day and are deprived of regular breaks for meals. Their night shifts are longer than elsewhere in the public services and with smaller bonuses. In the post office and local transport, night shifts are paid an extra three francs an hour, whereas nurses only get one franc's supplement.

In general they resent the fact that the principle of "equal pay for equal work" is still a myth in their profession. They also disapprove of the discrimination against foreign nurses. Although these have served a practically iden-

tical training to Swiss nurses, they must submit to a 6 month training course before they can exercise their skills in a Swiss hospital. Another cause for complaint is the absence of staff information. Nurses would also like to enjoy more opportunities of keeping abreast of medical and surgical developments.

By having their grievances brought out in the open, the nurses of Geneva and elsewhere are hopeful of getting nearer to winning their demands. Their list includes a minimum wage of 1,600 francs a month, day shifts of 8 hours, monthly bonuses of 200 francs for trainee theatre nurses, periodical staff conferences in which working problems could be freely raised and special courses for advanced formation.

It is taking time for the general opinion to accept the fact that the Florence Nightingale days are over. The profession is indeed beautiful and altruistic, but too much sacrifice will discourage would-be nurses. The results of this can be seen in Lausanne, where a large hospital had to "close" 300 beds because there was no staff to attend them.

BEHAVIOUR

The cost of long hair

A shopboy was given the sack after a day of employment at a Migros supermarket at La Chaux-de-Fonds because of his long and bushy hair. This triggered off a demonstration at the doors of the store by the "Hydra" fraternity of apprentices. Rejecting the idea that a man earning 850 francs a month should be given notice for a question of hair length, they distributed acid tracts to shoppers and carried placards with the theme of "Bosses, the apprentices are watching on you!" The police remained discreetly in the surroundings. Witnesses had mixed feelings. Some people approved of the decision, others said that if everyone was as severe, then factories and offices might as well all close.

The manager of the supermarket eventually accepted to meet a delegation from the demonstrators. He told them that he could only "spare them 15 minutes", stressing that the case of the sacked shopboy was closed. The principle in the management of this undertaking was not to accept any staff with long hair. He explained that the people of the town were against long hair, that he had 20,000 customers a week and that he was not going to lose a single one of them because of an employee's shaggy looks.

The boy later proclaimed that his hair was his "personal property". He washed it three times a week. He said, and made a good impression. He left to look for another job, but on no account would he part with his hair.

A tragic office outing

The staff of an architect's bureau in Geneva decided to have a night out to celebrate the opening of their new premises. They went out—all thirty of them—for a barbecue in the countryside. At eleven, when the party was about to wind up, an employee suggested that everyone should come and finish the day with a drink on his boat. Fourteen people accepted the invitation.

In the owner's mind, the boat was not intended to leave its moorings. However, upon the suggestion of a member of the party, he weakened and accepted to sail off for a short trapeze on the calm Léman. His boat, an 800 kg. English built "Vivacity" was designed to carry no more than five people. According to boating experts, the craft could have remained afloat with all fourteen had they not moved. But when a storm lantern had fallen from the mast, the owner climbed up to install it back making the ship rock.

The party found this amusing and enjoyed themselves by accelerating the rolling motion in unison. The ship predictably dipped dangerously to one side, all fourteen revellers reacted by stepping on the other side in a counterbalancing reaction, which was enough to make the ship keel over and throw everyone in the water, except for a 22-year-old girl who remained trapped in the cabin and who was one of the three casualties of this pathetic incident.

As it was pitch dark and past midnight, there were no witnesses to the scene. One man living on the lakeside was woken up by some strange premonition. He listened to the cries outside, wondering whether they were not those of people having fun. Then he realised that a drama had just happened, he woke up his wife and together they rushed to their motorboat. He had great difficulty in finding the shipwrecked struggling for their lives towards the shore in the dark. He had to cut off his engine to hear where the cries came from, but eventually managed to rescue eight people, all but one too exhausted to clamber on his boat unaided. The owner of the Vivacity reached the shore by his own means. He was so exhausted that he had to be hospitalised, but was later charged with involuntary homicide.

MOUNTAINEERING

The toll of a growing sport

The increasing popularity of rock climbing has brought its predictable toll of casualties last year. The Swiss Alpine Club published statistics showing that 157 people were killed in the mountains, 139 men and 18 women. The breakdown is as follows: 19 victims were under 20 years of age, 59 between 21 and 30, 36 between 31 and 40, 18 between 41 and 25 above 50.

98 of the victims were Swiss and 59 foreign; 77 were killed in the Jura and 80 in the Alps.

Avalanches which have struck people in sleep or at work, as was the case of the Reckingen disaster which killed 30, are not retained. Falls during rock-climbing was the first cause of death with 46 victims. 23 tourists were carried away by avalanches or the slippage of snow panes. Falls on ice and snow have made a further 22 victims and skids on shifty ground 18. Ten further tourists have lost their lives by falling in crevasses. None of them were roped, which points to the necessity of joining a roped party when walking on a glacier.

A third of these 157 victims were solitary mountaineers, and of this fraction a third were over 50. The Swiss Alpine Club recommends in conclusion that all solitary rambblers should indicate their objectives before leaving off to facilitate eventual rescue operations.

These are very costly. It cost 33,000 francs to save a wounded Japanese trapped on the Eiger's North Face last January, the cost of renting a helicopter included. In July, the rescue of two Italians trapped on the Eiger, one of whom was fatally wounded, cost 26,400 francs, 10,000 for the helicopter and the remainder for a rescue team.

There were more deaths last year than in 1969 (136 casualties) despite the smaller number of excursions due to generally bad weather.

OTHER SPORTS

Football

Switzerland is to meet England in a European Nations Cup tie in Basle on 13th October and at Wembley on 10th November. The Swiss team has already beaten Greece and Malta and are presently leaders in the 4-nation championship, but England will be the most difficult hurdle. In eight matches with England in the course of football history, Switzerland has only won twice. The last encounter took place at Basle and the Swiss lost 8-0, a national disaster.

The Swiss Football League sent Mr. Louis Maurer, manager of the national team, to discuss with Mr. Jurg Iselin (now plenipotentiary minister) on the problems of accommodating the Swiss footballers when they come here for their fight at Wembley. Mr. Iselin assured him of his "complete support". Let's hope that this will help to pave the way for a Swiss victory!

Another interesting Anglo-Swiss encounter will take place at the Servette ground against Liverpool in the first round of the Cup Winners Cup, on September 16th. Having seen Servette beaten in a friendly match by a burly Danish team we are doubtful that the Swiss finalists will put up much opposition against the Merseyside team. Nevertheless, Servette fans

will have their fingers crossed and pack the 30,000-seat Charmilles ground to capacity.

Looking forward to the next World Cup, to take place in Germany in 1974, Switzerland has been drawn against Turkey, Luxembourg and Italy. The first two shouldn't present any difficulties. The Swiss should sweep over them as they did with Greece and Malta. But Italy, the runners-up in Mexico, should prove a more difficult (but not unsurmountable) obstacle.

Yachting

The Olympic ace, Louis Noverraz, was the easy winner of the International Yachting Week of Geneva. He has just launched a 5.50m sloop of his own design and whose first trials on the lake were highly successful. The boat has been baptised as a *Toucan*. Five hundred of them are expected to be built. If this series gets off the ground, then the already impressive variety of racing yachts will have another addition.

Golf

There's no doubt about it, golf is gaining in popularity in Switzerland. The Swiss Open Championships received more coverage than ever before. It is true that a newcomer to golf, an 18-year-old Italian named Baldovino Dassu, just turned professional, played the Crans-sur-Sierre course in a fantastic 60, just after the Briton, Peter Townsend, had returned a 61, and his pitch to the last was within 4 inches of falling for a 59. Dassu's round beat the British Professional Golfer's Association record and equalled the American PGA's. However, the Briton, Peter Townsend finally emerged as the winner of the 1971 Swiss Open, catching up on the contenders Dassu and Ballesteros, and obtaining a record aggregate of 270.

Athletics

The Swiss didn't do too badly, by their own standards, at the Helsinki European Championships. The 22-year-old girl from Schaffhausen *Meta Antennen* got a silver medal in the long jump flying over 6.73 metres. She also got fifth place in the final of the 100-metres hurdles. The medicine student *Philippe Clerc*, one of the main hopes of the Swiss, got fifth place in the 200-metres men's final. The Bernese school teacher *Toni Feldman* beat his own Swiss record in the 3000-metres steeplechase of 8 min. 29.8 sec. during the preliminary rounds, but had to abandon the final race. *Werner Doesseger* came out 11th in the final of the 10,000 metres, beating his own Swiss record of 28 min. 23 sec. These were the only Swiss to reach the finals.

The racing driver from Fribourg, Jo Siffert, won the Austrian Grand Prix. Other Swiss contenders were Clay Regazzoni and Francois Cevert. Siffert took the lead immediately, placing himself ahead of the world champion Jackie Stewart. For 22 rounds Siffert struggled to keep abreast of Stewart, eventually winning nine seconds. Then Stewart had trouble with his axle and had to drop out of the race. The same fate nearly hit Siffert, when his back tyre became half flat ten rounds before the end. However, he soldiered on ahead of aces like Graham Hill and Tim Shenken and won in a Formula One event for the first time since 1968.

At present there are nineteen Swiss Schools abroad. Their existence is due largely to the initiative and sacrifice of Swiss emigrants. Swiss living abroad wished, and still wish today, an opportunity to offer their children an education consistent with school instruction available in Switzerland. Contrary to earlier times, Swiss emigrants now tend to return to the homeland sooner or later, rather than becoming permanent settlers abroad. Their children should be able to assimilate at any time into Swiss schools without great difficulty. This is an important and far from easy task for the Swiss schools abroad. It can only be achieved through constant contact with the schools back home.

In this context it has become increasingly clear during the past few years that the larger schools abroad should offer schooling facilities from kindergarten through primary and secondary levels. Such schools are not ghettos and in fact provide a possibility for encounter with children of different nations, religions and social standing. Attendance by children from the host country is quite often large and has tended to increase during the past few years. This is indicative of the trust that the Swiss education system enjoys abroad. Although Swiss schools abroad are primarily for children of Swiss living in foreign countries, these schools also help to establish Switzerland's image abroad and are a major instrument of Swiss cultural presence around the world.

THESE VEHICLES



TRAVEL TWICE MONTHLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES with vans specially equipped to carry

- Household Removals.
- Exhibition Goods.
- Works of Art.
- Machinery.

For full information contact

In Switzerland

Kehrl + Oeler,
3001 Berne,
Nachf. A. Oeler,
Bubenberplatz 9.
Tel. 031 22 00 22.

In England

Neale & Wilkinson Ltd.,
1 and 2 Rangoon Street,
London, E.C.3.
Tel. 01-480 6351. Ext. 54 or 58.



RENTENANSTALT

Swiss Life

INSURANCE AND PENSION COMPANY
(Incorporated with limited liability in Zurich Switzerland)

Mutual Company—Established 1857

**ASSETS EXCEED
£600 MILLIONS**

specialises in Pension Plans for
International Companies and

MASTER COVER CONTRACT

offers in Great Britain all types of
life assurance and annuities.

24 Cheapside, London E.C.2.

Telephone: 01-236 3171

30 Exchange Street East, Liverpool L2 3QB

Telephone: 051-236 6712

Head Office: SCHWEIZERISCHE LEBENSVERSICHERUNGS-UND RENTENANSTALT, ZURICH.

The oldest school is in *Naples*. It was established in 1839 by the Protestant community (mostly German and Swiss) of Naples. During the First World War, Swiss emigrants took over this school. It has since developed into one of the most renowned educational institutions of Naples. The *Genoa* school was started in 1851 by Swiss Protestants, especially of Western Swiss origin. French is still the tuition language. In 1853 an international school was founded in *Milan*. During the First World War, its international character was relinquished and it has since been run as a Swiss school. These three institutions are famous despite wars and economic ups and downs. This is a vivid testimony for our countrymen, for the school administrators and the teachers. Three smaller schools were opened subsequently in *Luino*, *Ponte San Pietro* and *Catania*. They were primarily intended to serve employees of Swiss companies which had established branches there. Shortly after the Second World War schools were also opened in *Rome* and *Florence*.

The *Barcelona* school founded in 1919 has had rather a turbulent history. During the Spanish Civil War it even had to close. However, it has developed favourably since the end of the Second World War.

In South America schools were opened in *Santiago de Chile* (1939, in *Lima* (1941) and in *Bogota* (1949). In the sixties followed schools in *Rio de Janeiro* and *Sao Paulo*, where important branches of Swiss industries were established. This resulted in a large influx of Swiss emigrants. The newest schools are in *Mexico City*, *Bangkok*, *Singapore*, *Accra* and *Madrid*.

The above-mentioned schools are officially recognised by the Government of Switzerland as Swiss schools abroad. Apart from these, there are

numerous schools established and directed by Swiss in different parts of the world. These schools are generally company or mission schools. All Swiss schools abroad are private.

Responsibility lies with the respective Swiss emigrant colonies. Usually, a School Association appoints a School Committee to have full responsibility for the upkeep and operation, and school regulations are adapted to local conditions. In principle, the School Associations and Swiss emigrant colonies are primarily responsible for financing. Firstly, parents pay annual fees, calculated according to their financial means. In certain cases these fees are reduced, or even waived completely. Secondly, Swiss colony circles and Swiss companies make donations. However, since these colonies must also meet the needs of such other institutions as old people's homes, churches and hospitals, substantial assistance from the Swiss Confederation has become necessary. Public support is based on Federal Decrees promulgated in 1947 and 1964. The first annual Federal contribution (10,000 Swiss Francs) was disbursed as far back as 1922. By 1964 it totalled 60,000 Swiss Francs and now amounts to approximately 5.8 million Swiss Francs.

Conditions for Federal support are that the schools follow the Swiss educational system, that children of lower-income groups may attend and that Swiss history, geography, constitutional and economic science are taught. The Swiss Relief Foundation (Schweizerhilfe, Secours Suisse) and the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad of the New Helvetic Society give practical help through the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad, by assisting in the choice of Swiss teachers, organising teachers' instruction courses and supplying educational documentation and materials. These tasks continue despite

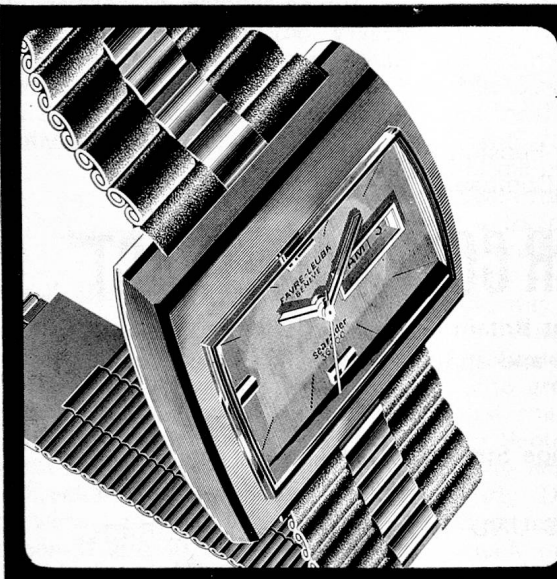
increased Federal financial aid. Every six years, the National Independence Day Committee allocates a portion of the funds collected to this Committee, enabling it to give additional material help to Swiss schools abroad. Furthermore, a number of Swiss Cantons supply certain schools with textbooks and other educational materials.

No less important a factor is the readiness of young Swiss teachers to serve abroad. At present over 5,000 students in recognised Swiss schools abroad are taught by some 350 teachers. About half of the teachers are Swiss. Much of the teaching is in German. The "Colegio Helvetia" in Bogota is the largest with 1,010 students, ten per cent of which are Swiss. The "Scuola Svizzera" in Luino is the smallest with 25 students of which 20 are Swiss.

These schools will always have to adapt themselves to living conditions in the respective host countries. The mounting educational demands of today must also be met. This is only possible through a constant review of the activities of the schools and adoption of modern teaching methods.

Despite increased Federal assistance, various schools have run into financial difficulties in the past few years. This situation has led to the establishment of a Working Group for Questions Concerning Swiss Schools in Foreign Countries by the Federal Department for the Interior. Officials of interested Federal Departments, the Conference of Cantonal Education Directors, the Swiss Teachers' Association and the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad are members of this Working Group. Its task is to study the situation of these schools, especially with respect to aims, structure and development, and to examine both the position of Switzerland and the present support programme.

FAVRE-LEUBA (UK) LTD. 92 Oldfields Rd. Sutton Surrey



FAVRE-LEUBA

sea raider

Genève

THE RUGGED LOOK OF HIGH ADVENTURE

Automatic, day and date
36 000 beats per hour
Water-resistant up to 150 ft.
Shock-protected, non-magnetic