

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1972)

Heft: 1643

Rubrik: Swiss events

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: 23.12.2024

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

cluded in an advanced stage of negotiation which were initially restricted to finding a free trade agreement on industrial goods. Finally, reference is made to the foreign worker problem (at the demand of Italy). The declaration does however not go beyond existing Swiss-Italian agreements.

The Agreement was favourably received by most leaders of Swiss industry—who had been fully consulted. There were a few reservations from those most affected by the Rules of Origin (chemicals) and the tariff freeze by the EEC (watches), but the machine industry, a pillar of the Swiss export business, claimed that Switzerland could not have won a better deal.

In fact, the country stands to gain perhaps even more than its new partners. Apart from so-called "sensitive products", particularly paper, most of

Swiss non-agricultural goods have a good chance of withstanding competition at home and making a breakthrough abroad. This is particularly true of highly specialised machine tools, precision instruments and pharmaceuticals which Switzerland would have continued to sell to the EEC anyway.

The stakes are obviously smaller than for Britain not only because the Agreement is less extensive than the Entry Treaty, but also because Switzerland has entered into closer co-operation with the Common Market from a position of industrial strength. This can't be said of Britain. The Agreement reached by the Swiss Government has nowhere near the same degree of risk and one can be nearly sure that it will be beneficial to her prosperity.

(PMB)

and buying the land. In effect, non-excessive rents should only pay for letting costs and may not be increased, in excess of those costs by more than 40 per cent of the cost of living index during a lease.

A machinery has also been set up for rent disputes. A tenant may complain within thirty days to the rent tribunal of excessive rent increases. While the Tribunal enquires, all rents are frozen. Landlords must inform their tenants of rent increases in good time and explain their reasons on a standard form. If the parties still disagree after the intervention of the rent tribunal, the rent fixed in the original lease agreement is maintained but the landlord may appeal in court. The same kind of procedure applies for lease renewals. In all cases, tenants may ask for the advice of the Rent Tribunal.

This is the bare outline of a complicated package which will offer considerable protection against increasing rates and their repercussions on the general cost of living.

SWISS EVENTS

FEDERAL

New Rent Law

After having been shuttled several times between the National Council and the Council of States during June, an important "urgent decree" tabled by the Federal Council to stem rising rents has been adopted by Parliament and taken effect on 5th March. The Decree is valid for five years and can be questioned after a year in an optional referendum for which 30,000 signatures are necessary. It would then be necessary for both the majority of cantons and citizens to approve it. The decree applies only to those areas suffering from a shortage of housing. As this is the case of all the large towns, it will affect the majority of the population.

The Decree is a complex document. One of its most important points is to subject all leases of over five years to a cost of living index clause. In effect, rents will be allowed to rise by four-fifths of the rise in cost of living between successive lease agreements. This "indexation" of rents has been at the centre of much debate in both houses.

Another controversial point was the definition of a "just rent". The Federal Council wanted to prevent property developers from making excessive profits and thus attempted to draw the line between "acceptable" and "excessive" rents. A definition was drafted after much discussion in parliament. It was decided that rents would not be excessive if they were calculated so as to preserve the purchasing power of the risk capital involved in financing the tenements

Mr. Graber and the European Security Conference

The Soviet review *Literatournaia Gazeta* published an interview given by Mr. Pierre Graber, Head of the Political Department, to a correspondent of the Soviet *Novosti* Press Agency.

Being naturally interested in Mr. Graber's position on a planned European Security Conference, which the Russians first suggested, the magazine gives particular attention to Mr. Graber's comments on this topic.

Mr. Graber is quoted as saying that the future European Security Conference should not only be a forum for discussions but genuinely striving towards a lasting *détente*. He said that the participants should carefully work out an agenda during preliminary meetings. Switzerland could make an important contribution to the Conference, he added, and was presently



Members of Eurovan

NEALE & WILKINSON LTD.

Member of the Constantine Group

REGULAR ROAD SERVICE TO SWITZERLAND
AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

LLOYDS BUILDINGS, EMPSON STREET BOW, LONDON E3 3NB
TEL: 987 4011/2 TELEX: 897 330 STENCILLER

International Household Movers, Fine Art Packers and Shippers

studying a system for settling differences between European countries in time before these differences became a threat to peace. Switzerland would submit this plan to the conference, to be held next year.

Swiss aid to Third World in 1971

Total allocation of Swiss money to development aid and investments reached 1,009 million francs last year, against 592 million in 1970 and 560 in 1969 and 1,070 million in 1968.

These figures represent the sum of federal aid (in the form of gifts, development and export loans), private investments, private aid (charities) and support by communes and cantons.

Federal assistance fell from 126.9 million francs in 1970 to 113.9 million last year. Switzerland is one of four countries (with Australia, Austria and Canada) not to have increased their aid last year, but the private sector increased its outlay from 435.5 million to 836.9 million francs, representing 0.83 per cent of gross national product. This sum covers investments, export loans, export guarantees, and new international bonds issued on the Swiss market.

Benevolent organisations gave 56.5 million francs, against 47.2 million the previous year, an increase of 20 per cent. Cantons and communes increased their humanitarian support from 3.8 to 5 million francs.

Confederation cleared of buying land without sufficient thought

A judge at Berne's cantonal appeals court ruled that the price paid by the Confederation for a plot of land near Lutry (Vd.) was reasonable, although the services concerned should have obtained a lower price by making more detailed enquiries.

The agents responsible for buying land and real estate for the Confederation had brought land at 166 francs a square metre on 28th August, 1970. This apparently extravagant price and allegations that the persons concerned had made a personal profit had prompted an official enquiry.

The judge also cited the case of land bought by the Confederation at Bolligen for 156 francs the square metre. There again, the price paid was deemed just about acceptable, but the Report states that more bargaining could have knocked down this price.

Six men only are responsible for buying land and houses on behalf of the Confederation for the accommodation of civil servants.

Schwarzenbach: "The people should elect their government"

Mr. Schwarzenbach, who has just launched a new initiative to stem the number of foreigners in Switzerland, also launched a "parliamentary initiative" calling for confirmation by the people of the Federal Council's election. According to the President of the "National Movement for Republican and Social action", which has seven seats in the National Council, the Federal Council is too distant from the electorate. It is only by having their election by Parliament confirmed in popular vote that they will be "fully aware of their responsibilities".

Mr. Schwarzenbach claims that federal councillors are not what they used to be and cites the example of Mr. Pierre Graber, whom he suspects of leading a "personal policy". Mr. Schwarzenbach also is critical of the Government's favourable attitude to a European Security Conference, and to membership to the United Nations. He is also wary of all agreements with the Common Market.

BEHAVIOUR

Trial of two anarchists at the Federal Court

The trial of two young "Romantic Anarchists" found guilty of storing a small arsenal discovered in a Geneva basement last year ended by the two men being given particularly lenient sentences. Both were found guilty of theft and damage to property, house-breaking, use of drugs and attack against constitutional order. They were tried by the Federal Court at Lausanne, but the elder of the two, who was 21 at the time of the crime, was tried in his absence. The younger, 20, was sentenced to one-and-a-half years' imprisonment with four years suspension. The other accused was given two-and-a-half years. Both were ordered to pay the costs.

Testifying before the court, the younger man said that he had become disgusted with the "callousness and money grabbing character of our society" after a three months trip to India. He said that the stolen weapons, the main items of which were 22 automatic rifles and about 25,000 rounds of ammunition were to be exchanged with foreign subversive organisations for their assistance in the event of their arrest.

Swiss revolutionaries in contact with the Baader-Meinhof gang

The Federal Attorney, Mr. Hans Walder, told journalists in a press con-

ference that the Swiss left-wing anarchist group dismantled at the Baendlistrasse in Zurich earlier this year had kept regular contacts with the famed Baader-Meinhof gang in Germany. The Zurich anarchist cell was discovered during an enquiry that followed the fall of one of its members from a window under the influence of drugs.

Mr. Walder said that the Zurich group had sold guns, pistols and detonators to the Baader-Meinhof gang, whose activities were definitely halted by the German police last June. The group had also converted guns sold for decorative purposes into real weapons and sold them for cash to their German acolytes. When several members of the Baendlistrasse gang sensed that trouble was near, there was the question of their crossing into Germany to work under the Baader and Meinhof couple. One of them met Baader at Stuttgart and received forged identity documents.

Forty-one people have so far been accused in the Baendlistrasse case. The enquiry benefitted from the evidence supplied by one of the leaders of the gang and its self-styled "Heimkampagne".

Five lorries blown up

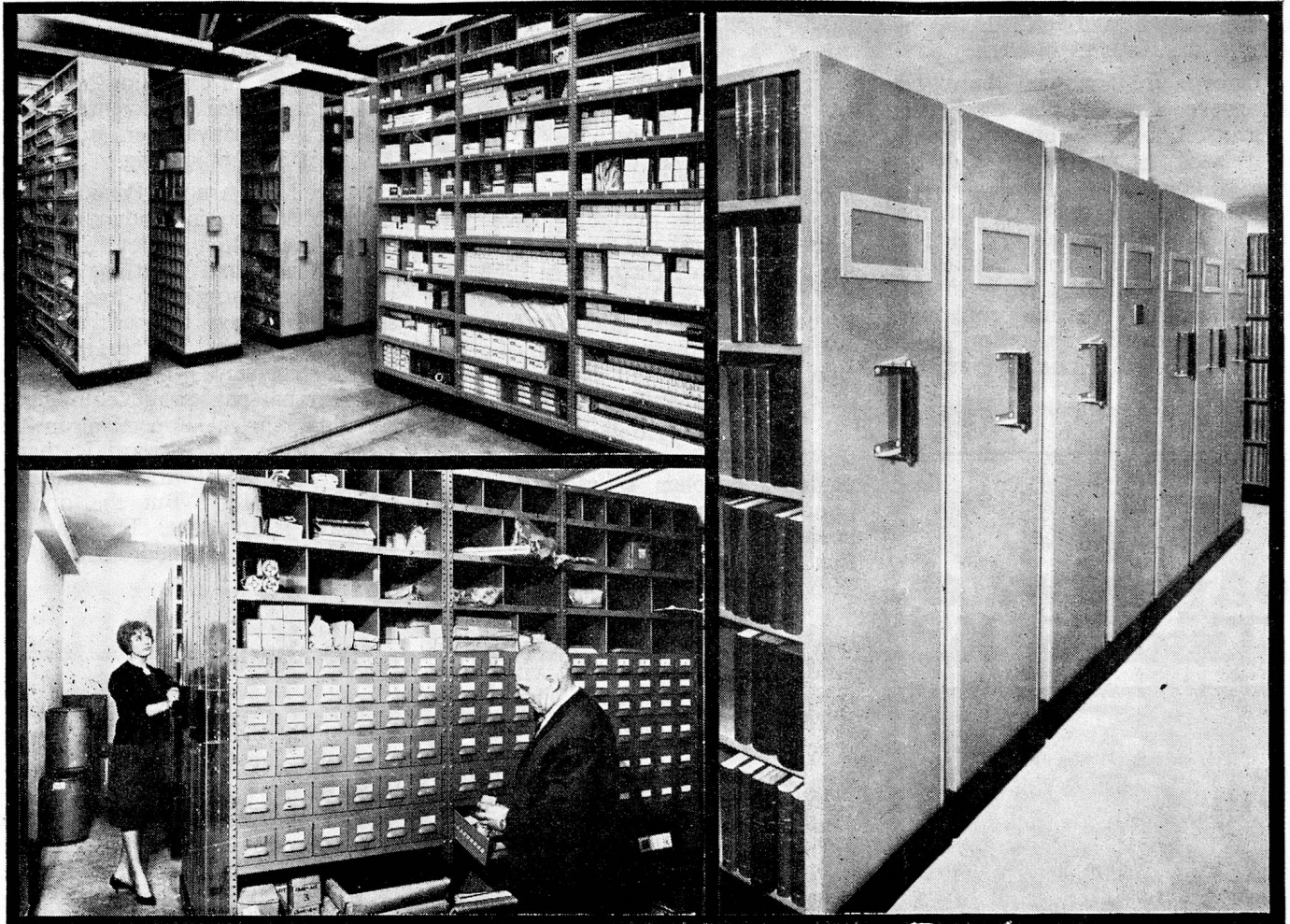
Four lorries were blown up at a quarry at Epeisses, at the border between France and Geneva, on 17th July. A fifth lorry belonging to the same contractors was destroyed three days later in a residential suburb of Geneva. Extensive damage was also caused by a bomb at the quarry.

Police were investigating on the assumption that the bombings were either a dramatic demonstration against the noise of lorries (naturally a topical theme among the conservationist Swiss) or a personal vengeance against the firm.

Separatists sit in at Paris Embassy

A group of thirty Separatist youths including several girls staged a sit in at the Swiss Embassy in Paris for a few hours on 13th July. The demonstration petered out without incident as the Swiss Ambassador, Mr. Pierre Dupont and the Embassy staff opted to leave the premises and avoid all confrontation. In Berne, where the demonstration was followed closely, officials decided to treat the incident as an internal Swiss affair. They were eager not to overdramatise and refused to call on the French authorities to evict the demonstrators who had occupied the Embassy's chancery and were lounging on furniture intended for their compatriots in need of consular assistance.

Compacrow turns wasteful space into profitable storage



Increase your storage capacity by up to 100%

Compacrow is the superb Acrow mobile storage system. A system that literally fills your aisles with storage. Storage you can walk through! Compacrow units glide effortlessly at a touch – or a flick of a switch – giving you movable access!

There is so much that's good about the Compacrow system. Marvellously versatile, units will house many things. Stationery. Components. Linens. Computer Tapes. Archives. Filing. And offer protection against fire, dust and theft.

The system can double your storage capacity, halve the storage area, release valuable space for more profitable use and save you rent.

Look at the benefits of Compacrow. With it our engineers could turn your space into effective working storage.

Acrow (Automation) Limited,
Moorhall Road, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middlesex
Tel: Harefield 2411 Telex: 22851

A Division of

ACROW



'PEOPLE WORK WITH ACROW SYSTEMS'

Please send me details on the Compacrow Storage System.

Acrow (Automation) Ltd., Moorhall Road, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middlesex

NAME

COMPANY

ADDRESS

Despite the unexpectedness and what can be called the originality of this demonstration, reactions were almost indifferent in Switzerland, where people have come to regard these Separatist stunts as schoolboy antics. But the Separatist Youth section, the Belier Group, must be credited for their efforts at imagination. Before this latest performance they had captured the Delemont Police Headquarters, stormed on to the Berne ice rink during a world ice hockey championship match and walled the entrance to the Rathaus in Berne.

Once in the Embassy, the marchers conveyed a message for the Federal Government to the Ambassador, who had refused to receive their delegation, and hoisted Jurassian flags above the Embassy. The message contained the well known demands and slogans. Expressed in five points it said that "Switzerland would not enjoy internal peace before the Jurassian people were freed of Bernese domination". The demonstrators called on international

solidarity and stated that the Jura problem will never be solved by "old imperialist recipes". The message adds that it is "extremely dangerous" for the Confederation to foster the "Trojan Horse" action of Bernese citizens preventing the Jura from gaining independence.

What most Swiss found particularly distasteful was the francophile philandering of the "*Message au peuple de Paris*" distributed to onlookers at the Embassy. The pamphlet said that Jurassians hailed from France. They were torn away from Switzerland's great neighbour by the 1815 Vienna Congress to be placed under Bernese and Swiss domination.

"For the past 150 years, our people have fought against this injustice" says the pamphlet. "We have sustained several military occupations, the last of which occurred in 1968. We are fighting for the freedom of the French-speaking people of the Jura. We are under the domination of a foreign power and will beat it down", concludes the manifesto.

Mr. Simon Kohler, President of the Bernese Executive, deplored that the Jura problem should have been brought on a foreign platform and noted that the Separatist demonstration reflected "a distinct hatred of the Motherland".

Three days later the "Jura Liberation Front" blew up an Army ammunition depot above the village of Glovelier, near Delemont. The 20 tons of rounds and explosives in the depot, which has the outside appearance of an old peasant chalet, fortunately didn't explode. If they had, there would certainly have been casualties in the village below. The saboteurs had painted the letters "FLJ" in red at the back of the depot before disappearing.

CANTONAL

The Betten cableway disaster

The worst aerial cableway disaster ever recorded in the Swiss Alps struck the Betten-Bettendorf cableway, causing the death of 12 people and seriously wounding two others. The cableway was about 700 metres on its way up the first stage of the journey to Bettmeralp and had covered three-quarters of the distance when the hauling cable snapped at its point of attachment to the cabin. The emergency brakes apparently worked at first, gripping the two supporting cables, and then let go. The cabin hurtled down the mountain slope and crashed against the concrete base station at an estimated 70 m.p.h. It was ripped from its suspension and crashed four metres below as a twisted heap of metal with

thirteen victims inside. A fourteenth passenger had apparently jumped out of the window during the cabin's death dive in a wager to save his life. But the cables were about fifty metres above the mountain slope and the man was killed.

The victims were carried to the mortuary at Naters, where their identification presented considerable difficulties owing to their mutilated condition. The youngest of the dead was a girl of three. One victim came from Betten, three others from the Valais. Most of the others were German tourists going on an excursion to Bettmeralp. A memorial service was held in Brique a few days later, with Bishop Adam of Sion officiating.

Mr. Max Arnold, President of the Court of Brigue, is conducting the enquiry. The Betten cableway was built in 1964 and had been regularly serviced every month. It had been inspected ten days before the disaster. According to local sources, it had been used extensively in the past month, both for passengers and equipment to a building in the upper stations. One theory being put forward is that the cabin was loaded with too much ballast for stability. But the operating company is adamant: The load never exceeded the permitted 3.5 tons.

SWISS ABROAD

Edgar Mittelholzer, a Guyanese Writer of Swiss Origin

In the history of mankind, slavery is a recurrent phenomenon. It waned in Europe around the sixteenth century only to reappear in the Americas on a scale up to that time unknown, entailing substantial forced migration from Africa to the New World. More specifically, slaves were brought to the southern part of the United States, to the islands of the Caribbean and to the tropical regions of South America (North East of Brazil and the three Guyanas—British, Dutch and French).

Slavery was established for economic reasons in these territories. Planters needed a cheap and abundant labour force to clean the great virgin lands and to toil on sugar, coffee, cocoa or cotton plantations. There was a prosperous trade between the colonial territory and its metropolitan centre. Raw materials from the former were exchanged for manufactured goods from the latter, which also monopolised the highly profitable slave trade. White European planters constituted a small ethnic group, largely outnumbered by black slaves whom they exploited. To maintain their rule over the black masses, a racist society was established. The slaves were repressed by being kept ignorant and

Move up to a good watch: Tissot PR516.



If you want to move up to a better watch, this is the one to go for.

Tissot PR516 looks smooth, yet strong. In your hand, on your wrist, it feels solid and reassuring.

The specification is complete. PR516 is selfwinding, with day and date. It has a 3D face, luminous dial, neat sweep second hand, and is water resistant.

Inside, it offers you hidden benefits such as the famous Tissot-made movement, Incabloc protection and flexible shock absorbers which 'float' the movement in the case. Outside, the armoured glass is 20 per cent thicker than usual.

Prices are from £17.75 to £33.75 for the GL model illustrated, with stainless steel case and integral bracelet. Ladies' PR516 models are from £24.90.

See them at your Tissot jeweller's now, or write for catalogue to Tissot, 67-74 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.



TISSOT

The Swiss watch the Swiss buy.

MAT *Transport*

The Professionals

Head Office: Arnold House, 36/41 Holywell Lane, London, E.C.2

Telephone: 01-247 6500

Telex: 883225/886384

Allied Houses: MAT TRANSPORT A.G. BASLE — ZURICH

The International Bank for International People.

Lloyds & Bolsa International Bank is strongly established in Western Europe and the Western Hemisphere.

LBI has a wide direct representation in the EEC and Switzerland, and is also the only British bank with a branch network covering virtually the whole of Latin America.

LBI plays an important role in the Eurocurrency market and has arranged finance for many major projects world wide.

The LBI Group, through its branches, associates and representatives in New York, Nassau, Paris, Frankfurt, Brussels, Amsterdam and Zurich, has a direct access to principal sources of foreign currencies in all the world's

great financial centres.

To these established features should be added LBI's experience and reputation gained in Eastern Europe, Japan, the Middle East and Australasia, and the Bank's valuable links with Lloyds Bank Limited and the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh.

The Bank's multi-currency capability, its skill in tailoring the use of funds to meet specific requirements, its spread of branches and representatives throughout the world, all combine to make LBI of essential interest to any business operating across national frontiers.

LBI is represented in Switzerland by Lloyds Bank Europe with branches in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano. Contact the specialists:

ZURICH, 18 Borsenstrasse
Telephone 25-87-65

GENEVA, 1 Place Bel Air
Telephone 25-03-20

LUGANO, 9 Corso Pestalozzi
Telephone 3-90-91

LBI **LLOYDS & BOLSA**
International Bank Limited
40/66 Queen Victoria St. London EC4. Tel: 01-248 9822

by subject to cruel beatings. In the various colonies and independent countries of the Americas, slavery was abolished during the nineteenth century. Many freed slaves refused to go on working on the plantations. Planters in British Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in turn went to look for labour in India. Indian workers replaced in these two colonies the emancipated African slaves as underdogs of the plantation economy.

The colonial societies of the Americas were marked by ethnic plurality and a system of racial discrimination designed to maintain the white man in a position of power. Social stratification and chances of promotion within the society were solely based on the colour of the skin. All non-whites thus had an inferior social and economic status.

One of the foremost writers on the history of slavery and racial relations within the "plantation societies" of the West Indies is a Guyanese writer of Swiss origin, Edgar Mittelholzer (1909-1965).

Born in the then British Guyana, he was brought up in the stuffy atmosphere of a petty bourgeois family that adhered to the rigid Victorian standards prevailing at the time in Great Britain. In Guyana, the Mittelholzer family can be traced back to the early 18th century. The manager of a big plantation was a Swiss, Herr C. Mittelholzer (probably Constanze), a native of Appenzell, who had emigrated from Geneva. He left a manuscript relating his experiences and describing what life was like on a plantation. Edgar Mittelholzer discovered this manuscript while visiting a member of his family in Appenzell. Jan Vincent Mittelholzer, the writer's great-grandfather, was the manager of a sugar cane plantation close to New Amsterdam. Although European in appearance, his offsprings were swarthy. His son John Robert became a clergyman and opened a school called "Geneva Academy", which catered for the well-to-do classes of the Guyanese society. One of the parson's son's was an architect who designed several buildings of the capital city of Guyana, Georgetown. Another son, William, was an accountant. He married the daughter of a frenchman from Martinique. Edgar Mittelholzer was the eldest of his four children. Edgar was the only member of the family with a dark complexion. From early childhood Edgar suffered from father's prejudices. "Even at this green age, I could sense a certain resentment in his attitude towards me. Then naturally, I was ignorant of what was behind it. All I knew was that something made him perpetually impatient with me. Something made it necessary for him to snap and bark at me. . . Indeed, sad to relate", he wrote, "it was my own class—people of colour

admixture but of fair or olive complexions—who dispensed any colour snobbery that was possible to dispense. It was my class which looked down upon the East Indian sugar plantation labourers ("coolies" we called them, whether they were labourers or eventually became doctors or barristers or Civil Servants). It was my class which considered the Portuguese social inferiors because of their poor-immigrant status. We even looked with a certain distinct aloofness upon the young Englishmen who came out to serve as sugar-plantation overseers. And as for the negroes, it goes without saying that they were serving people; that was an accepted tradition dating from Slavery days".

"Only the pure-blooded whites could discriminate adversely against me and my class, and it would have been awkward for them if they had tried to do so, for they were too heavily dependant upon all the other social elements beneath them. The most they could do was to keep to themselves in their own tight, tiny group: in their homes and their clubs. They had to mix with everyone else in church, school, cinema, townhall and on every public occasion".

Edgar Mittelholzer received a higher education and began to write as early as 1927. His best known novels are the "Kaywana" series published from 1952 to 1958. This series of novels is the history of a family of Dutch planters, the van Groenwegel, from the time it settled in Guyana in the seventeenth century up to 1953, shortly before Guyana achieved independence. This account is most valuable both from the literary and the historical point of view. It is endowed with a lifelike quality due to Mittelholzer's sensitivity. Indeed, with his swarthy complexion he could not help but feel very deeply the problems and contradictions of the Guyanese society. Moreover, he weaved in the chronicle of the van Groenwegels that of his own family which evolved the same way. His works depict vividly the tumultuous history of race relations in Guyana, a product of the plantation system in which the white man was the master, the mulatto the middleman and the negro the slave. Later, the same system treated the Indian as a serf. Mittelholzer's novels convey the essential racial preoccupation of the colonial societies which sometimes were tantamount to collective psychosis.

(Fragments-Swiss Volksbank)

FOREIGN LABOUR

Amendments on Swiss-Italian agreements

A new agreement on seasonal workers has been reached in Rome between Swiss and Italian represent-

atives. It tends to soften the provisions of the 1964 agreements by making it easier for seasonal workers to obtain the status of yearly workers. Although there are many "false seasonals" working in the building and catering trades, seasonal workers must in principle spend three months every year abroad before being authorised to work in Switzerland for another nine months.

When a seasonal worker has worked for a total of 45 months during four consecutive years, he is entitled to the "yearly" status and can bring with him his family. According to the new agreement, seasonals will only have to work for 36 months in four years to enjoy the same status as from 31st December, 1975. Another change is to allow yearly workers to change jobs and cantons freely after a year's employment in Switzerland as from the same date. The present limit is three years. It will be reduced by one year on 31st December, 1973.

On the other hand, there is no question of reducing from ten to five years the compulsory period of employment as a yearly worker before becoming a resident worker. The Italians had been claiming such an amendment. The new agreement has marked a thaw in Swiss-Italian relations, which have recently cooled over the seasonal worker issue. It does not however break with the Federal Council's line of stabilising the labour population in Switzerland. Only those seasonals having worked a total of 120 months in Switzerland in consecutive years may apply for residency. But it is doubtful that there are many in such a situation.

YOUR TRAVEL IS OUR BUSINESS

by air - coach - rail - sea
ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD
 just the ticket
 package holidays
 independent arrangements
 coach tours
 cruising
 car ferries
 motorail
 self drive cars
 party bookings
 private coaches
 hotel reservations
no booking fee
 Ask for free brochure from
 A. GANDON

HOWSHIP TRAVEL AGENCY
 (Established 1934)
 188 Uxbridge Road, Shepherds Bush
 W12 7JP
 (next to Metropolitan Station)
 Tel.: 743 6268
 MEMBER OF ABTA



SWISS BANK CORPORATION

(a Company limited by shares, incorporated in Switzerland)

Principal London Office
99 GRESHAM STREET,
P.O. Box No. 114,
LONDON EC2P 2BR
Tel. 01-606 4000

(Savings Account facilities available)

West End Branch
SWISS CENTRE,
1 NEW COVENTRY STREET,
LONDON W1V 8BR
Tel. 01-734 0767

SOCIÉTÉ DE BANQUE SUISSE
SCHWEIZERISCHER BANKVEREIN
SOCIETÀ DI BANCA SVIZZERA

Offices throughout Switzerland
in New York, San Francisco, and Tokyo



Swiss Life

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

Mutual Company—Established 1857

**ASSETS EXCEED
£600 MILLIONS**

24 Cheapside, London E.C.2.
Telephone: 01-236 3841

Head Office: SCHWEIZERISCHE LEBENSVERSICHERUNGS-UND RENTENANSTALT, ZURICH.

RENTENANSTALT

specialises in Pension Plans for
International Companies with the

MASTER COVER CONTRACT

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

30 Exchange Street East, Liverpool L2 3QB
Telephone: 051-236 6712

Mr. James Schwarzenbach, the father of two previous anti-foreign initiatives, has sponsored yet a third. The first one, which was defeated by a narrow majority in June 1970, called for a reduction to 10 per cent of the resident foreign population in Switzerland (it stands actually at 16.1 per cent). In September 1970, the National Action Party launched a second initiative calling for a tax on foreign employees, the proceeds of which would be spent on the environment. This initiative is now only upheld by the National Action Party, from which Mr. Schwarzenbach and his Republican supporters separated earlier this year. It has not yet found the necessary 50,000 signatures.

The initiative just launched "for the protection of Switzerland" aims at reducing the resident population to 12.5 per cent of the population from now until 1978. This would in effect involve about 500,000 departures. However, the means to achieve this will not be through outright expatriation but by halting the granting of yearly status. The idea is to reduce the population allowed to live in normal human conditions and with a chance of assimilation, and rely increasingly on a flow of seasonal workers which cost much less to the economy. Mr. Schwarzenbach's plan is subtle, being arguably a good way to discourage foreign workers from seeking work in Switzerland. It would deprive them of all hope of having families and living normal lives.

Although seasonal workers cost less to house and although they do the menial jobs which the majority of the active population refuses to do, it is not sure whether they are an economic proposition. A recent study has shown that their productivity is about half that of yearly workers and they are more prone to accidents. This

shows all the importance of psychological factors on performance. Switzerland's 182,000 seasonal workers are frustrated men and women, forced to live separately and without their children in often appalling conditions.

Most of the seasonals employed in building are housed in wooden dormitories or in grimy pensions. As a rule they come from backward Mediterranean areas and can hardly read and write. They are avoided and often resented by the local population, they have lost all hope of being assimilated in the country where they have been compelled to look for work. According to many social workers, the cost of allowing an estimated 50,000 wives and children to settle in Switzerland would be off-set by increased performance by seasonals.

MODERN LIVING

Anti-pacifist reactions

The officers of the Valais have virulently attacked the thirty-two priests and ministers who earlier this year appealed for an end to military service and warned that they would refuse to pay their Military Tax.

In its last Bulletin, the Valais Section of the Swiss Officer Society published the names of the Minister and the six Valais priests who had signed the "32" Declaration and later the "43" Document. Some of these well known personalities and also teachers in the Canton's secondary schools. The Bulletin call for an end to their employment. "These people should not teach our youth" it claimed.

The Bulletin added: "These priests and ministers wish to start

class warfare and a revolution against our country. Our laws, embodied in the Federal Constitution, lays down that military service is obligatory. Our Constitution also offers all those who would like to change something or make new proposals recourse to the Initiative, the Referendum and the Petition. These churchmen have ignored all legal ways and means by the obligations of Article 18 of the Constitution and by inviting others to do likewise. We therefore call on the authorities to punish this illegitimate gesture by preventing these dissenters, most of whom live on tax-payer's money, from teaching our youth".

Tension at Zurich Cantonal Hospital

There has been lengthy coverage in the Zurich Press over the case of Professor Wolfgang Horst, head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Cantonal University. Professor Horst, 52, born in Oldenburg, Germany, was called to teach nuclear medicine by the University of Zurich in 1963 and to head a new clinic in nuclear therapy, for which the people of Zurich had voted special funds of 15 millions francs.

In seven years, the clinic had established its reputation as a European leader in radiation therapy. However, just over a year ago two leading specialists working under Professor Horst were dismissed. This led to an enquiry by the Cantonal Health Department. In November of last year, the State Council asked the Professor for his own position on the findings of the enquiry and ordered a second administrative enquiry into the running of the clinic. But on 17th February, before the completion of this second enquiry, the authorities of Zurich provisionally dismissed Professor Horst from his responsibilities. The matter broke out into the open and many of the town's newspapers took position in favour of the Professor, attacking the Head of the Department of Public Health, Dr. Urs Burgi. Finally, on 28th June, the Council of State decided to reinstate the German Professor to his former functions but reorganised the Clinic by creating a Supervisory Commission of doctors and appointing a Personnel Officer.

From all the controversy raised by the affair, it emerged that Professor Horst, while a brilliant scientist, lacked in personal tact and administrative qualities. It was a case of bad personal relations.

New school for sailors in Basle

A training school for sailors will open in Basle this October. It will be a quarter financed by the Confeder-

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

TOURIST ITEMS

ation. The remainder of its approximately one-million franc budget will be assumed by Basle-Town. Negotiations are under way to obtain Basle-Land's participation in the school. Swiss sailors have been trained hitherto by the navigation companies or been sent to sailing schools in Germany. The new school will be obligatory for all sailors in the Swiss fleet.

What the Swiss tourist should know

The Political Department has issued a communique informing Swiss abroad that Swiss consulates abroad will only be able to attend to "most urgent cases" because of staff shortages. The document gives advice to those setting out on holidays abroad on how to avoid ever requiring consular assistance.

One piece of advice is to remain calm and polite at border posts. Injurious behaviour towards a custom official or statements against his country can lead to arrest. Tourists should be provided with sufficient money since many countries expatriate penniless and errant tourists. One bars, all people with long hair from entry.

Consulates can assist destitute tourists by lending them 100 francs for board and lodging, or up to 500 francs for medical assistance. More financial help can be granted once the Consulate is satisfied that the applicant can give serious guarantees. The document also states that Swiss consular and diplomatic missions can do little to help Swiss nationals involved in penal cases abroad and warns that sentences for certain offenses are far higher in some countries than they are in Switzerland. In particular smuggling foreign currency, insulting a country's national honour or introducing political propaganda can lead to severe sentences.

SPORTS

Single-handed Transatlantic race

The Swiss contender in the Single-handed transatlantic race, Guy Piazzini, completed the event honourably: He arrived 18th out of 58 and took 35 days 10 hours and 24 minutes to make the crossing from Plymouth to Newport. Piazzini is a highly experienced yachtsman. He won the Cape Town-Rio race two years ago, and plans to take part in that race again this year aboard his ketch "Cambronne". He will make a round-the-world trip next year. It should also be pointed out that at least one of the early French arrivers had a Swiss-made boat.

Stamp Exhibition on the theme "Rail and Post"

The Swiss Postal Service is devoting its stamp cabinet in the PTT Museum in Berne from 13th June to 3rd September, 1972, to a special philatelic display for the 125th Jubilee of the Swiss Railways (the first railway engine in Switzerland-the so-called "Spanish Brötli-Bahn"-Spanish Bun Railroad-ran for the first time in 1847 between Baden and Zurich). The display is in four parts: a collection of railway post and Swiss Federal Railway frankings and cancellations, a collection from private owners on the theme of the development of the railway, and finally an assembly of designs and test prints of stamps on the theme of railways during recent years.

The Jura-where there is still a lot to discover

The saying goes that "if you don't know the Jura, you don't know Switzerland". The Jura is ideal for hiking, cycling, fishing, riding and outings. There you still find dreamy towns and cosy inns in a peaceful atmosphere. The high Jura trail offers hiking for every taste: some twenty well-marked sections lead over gentle hills, through woods and meadows.

The little red trains of the "Chemin de Fer du Jura" convey travellers to various points along the trail. On weekends, day tickets for unlimited use of the trains are available for Fr.7.-. The plateau of the Freiberge with its little lakes and swampy moors, its firs and pines recalls the lake regions of Finland. But the Jura is a mecca for riders as well. No other region of Switzerland has so many horses. The Freiburger horse is not delicate and elegant like a racehorse but strong, agile and very sturdy. Saignelégier is considered an equestrian centre: the "Marché Concours national de Chevaux" will take place on 12th-13th August there.

Horses can be rented in stables or hotels and riders can enjoy 137km of riding trails through secluded valleys, over hills and past lakes. Many inns dot the wayside. Children particularly go for pony trekking.

The cultural attractions are also well worth a look: the old Burgundian town of St. Ursanne, medieval Moutier, the romanesque church of St. Imier, the historical buildings in Porrentruy, the enchanting old quarter of Délémont as well as its Jura museum. This summer the Swiss Postal

Coach Service is inaugurating a Jura 1972 campaign. It includes improved services as well as four special offers: 20 suggestions for hiking trips in connection with rides on the postal coaches-"Jura à la Carte", 12 selected points for group or individual excursions under the motto "Jura, les spécialités", organized excursions that lead through the changing scenery of the Jura and are organized by various postal coach offices called "Jura, le plat du jour" and as the "hit": a trip all the way down from Brugg or Basle to Nyon in nine days known as "Jura à discrétion".

After 4 or more days of hiking, the participants are awarded with a medal for their accomplishment. The "Jura à discrétion" ticket costs Fr.35.- and covers over 200km of postal coach routes.

4th International Festival of Youth Orchestras

From 24th July to 5th August, the Swiss National Tourist Office is sponsoring the 4th International Festival of Youth Orchestras in Switzerland. This year, the 1,000 young artists chosen and the people accompanying them will come from South Africa, Yugoslavia, the U.S.A., Japan, Canada, Australia, France, the Netherlands and England and belong to the ten orchestras and two ballet troupes who, together with the choirs of the Collège Calvin, Geneva, will give over 34 concerts in Lausanne and in various cities and towns throughout Switzerland. The young people are of different races, backgrounds and persuasions. But they have all one thing in common: their love of music.

During their two weeks in Switzerland, these participants from 5 continents will get to know each other by playing music together, living together and exchanging ideas. World-famous conductors such as Walter Susskind (USA), Oskar Danon (Yugoslavia), Zdenek Kosler (Czechoslovakia) and Janos Sandor (Hungary) have offered their services as teachers and will conduct some of the concerts. The farewell gala concert on 5th August at the Théâtre de Beaulieu under the baton of Walter Susskind will be played by the International Festival Orchestras 1972 composed of the most talented musicians from all the visiting orchestras. Peter Katin, a British pianist of Russian extraction, has been engaged as soloist.

The young people's programme is vast and includes concerts in Lausanne, seminars, a tour visiting