

# Sundry news from Switzerland

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# HOME SPUN YARN.

Der Scheidungsgrund.— "Herr Pfarrer! My Wyb ischt chorzsichtig, i cha si nemme bruuche, i möcht mi von-n-ere Schääde loo!" - "Jää, Jakob, Chorzsichtigkeit ascht käänn Schaadigsgrund." - "Jää, wessid, Herr Pfarrer, ond ehr Here, mi Wyb ischt so chorzsichtig, dass si my ond en andere Maa nemme vone-n-and kennt."

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## SUNDREY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

Negotiations are in progress for establishing a radio station for the exclusive use of UNO; suitable ground has already been selected.

CANTONAL. Dr. Adolf Suter, since 1922 President of the District Tribunal in Schwyz, died, following an apoplexy, at the age of 65; he has been for nearly twenty years a member of the Ständerat over which he presided in 1944.

Ragaz has decided to construct a cable railway from Balen in the Tamina gorge to Pardiol in the Piz Sol region; it will reach an altitude of 1600 metres and open up a large ski-field.

A profitable transaction is reported from Geneva where in 1941 the city fathers bought the old hotel "Metropole" for a million francs and placed it at the disposal of the International Red Cross Committee. The building has recently been "de-requisitioned" and the council sold it to a foreign syndicate for the sum of 1,400,000 francs. Reconditioning and the necessary alterations have already been taken in hand and the hotel is expected to revert to its original usefulness early this summer.

Three months imprisonment was the penalty dealt out by the Geneva courts to one Felicien Bösch, who, in a stolen car met with a serious accident; he escaped scot-free while one lady passenger was killed on the spot the others being badly injured.

The first of the Douglas DC4 machines ordered in America was flown by a Swiss pilot from La Guardia airfield to Geneva in 16 hours 39 minutes without a stop. For the distance of 4,000 miles the plane averaged 240 miles an hour; it carried no passengers but nearly five tons of spare parts.

ECONOMICS. A strong protest has been lodged with the U.S.A. on account of the low import quota of 8,500 tons bread cereals for January instead of the previously agreed 40,000 tons. The American authorities replied that in spite of the largest wheat crop ever recorded it had been found impossible to overcome the existing transport difficulties and gave the assurance that by July 1st the total quantity contracted for would be exceeded in all probability.

During a discussion in the National Council about the division of the Radio licences, it was stated that for the last three years the total fees amounted to 35.5 million francs and showed a gradual slight increase, i.e. 11.4 million in 1944, 12 million in 1945 and 12.1 million during the last year. Over a third (13.5 million) has been claimed by the postal administration for the maintenance of the technical installation, the remaining 22 million being allocated to the Swiss Radio Corporation responsible for the preparation and distribution of the broadcasts. The general demand for an improvement in the programmes may lead to a measure of re-adjustment.

As a token of recognition and gratitude for the help extended to fugitives and the maintenance of war charities the Belgian Government has made a gift of three grammes of Radium to Switzerland; in acknowledging the gift the Federal Council stated that this radium will be used exclusively for the fight against cancer. The transport of this apparently small quantity which is the largest ever carried on a railway has been effected with the closest secrecy.

The next Tir Federal (Eigen. Schützenfest) will take place at Chur in 1949.

In spite of the exchange restrictions it is officially stated that there were more British people going for our Winter sports than ever before.

It is stated that amongst our farmers there are no less than twelve millionaires whose total net assessment is about 22 million francs; if all were rightfully declaring their wealth the number is likely to show a pleasing increase. Appenzell A./Rh. seems to be the poorest canton as well over 90% of the farmers have to pay interest in land mortgages; in the Ticino the proportion is 22% only, believed to be the lowest.

Some surprise will be occasioned by the announcement that the well-known BIRO pen will be produced in Switzerland. The parent company, the Compagnia Sudamericana Biro, intends to establish a factory and distribution centre capable of supplying the Swiss and European markets. The principle of this pen was originated by a young Hungarian who shortly before the outbreak of war emigrated to South America where after many frustrated hopes, he succeeded to perfect the invention.

In Lucerne a proposal to increase the members of the inner town council (Engerer Stadtrat) from five to seven was negatived by a large majority; this extension was contested by the liberal and conservative parties the other four recommending acceptance.

GEN. GUISAN FUND.

An excellent response has been given to the Consul's appeal for the Gen. Guisan Fund in the Auckland and Waikato districts. Special thanks are given to Mr. E. Merz, Auckland, and Mr. J. C. Steiner of Waikato, who made enormous efforts to accomplish such good results. Thanks are expressed for all the donations which have been so liberally given; the highest of which is £15. 15. 0 - the total to date being over £150. 0. 0. Arrangements are made for collection in the Taranaki and Wellington districts and no doubt our compatriots in these districts do not want to lag behind.

HOW SWITZERLAND IS GOVERNED.

An interesting brochure with the above title has been published, which in a very clear way gives a survey on the sphere of the legal bodies of the Swiss Confederation. Orders can be given to Mr. E. Merz, Auckland, or to the Consulate of Switzerland, Wellington. The price for New Zealand being 6/-.

DUPLICATING OFFICE FOR HELVETIA.

We regret having to advise that Miss C. M. Trevor, in whose office the Helvetia has been duplicated in a very satisfactory way for many years, closed her office in April.

NEW MEMBER.

We are very pleased to announce the enrolment of:

Mr. J. Dettling, P.O. Box 91, KAPONGA, Taranaki.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Mr. L. Leuthard, Visit his "Hygienic Dining Rooms."  
NEW PLYMOUTH.

Mr. L. Zurcher, 1946 Apple cider, 5/- per gallon, in two gallon  
212 Pattison Road, HASTINGS. lots, plus freight; samples free of charge. In  
ordering state Dry or Sweet. Jars to lend.  
"Moscht Müends aim gha."

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to the Secretary:-

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