

# News from Switzerland

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Motto: Everybody in swing! Are you blue or is it the sea?

Surprise supper.

Prize-giving of the masks: Best single mask; best group; best entertainment mask; most original mask.

Entrance: Masks 10/-, Members 15/-, Non-Members 20/-.

—The Committee

### Hamilton Swiss Club

Do not forget our next evening at Mr Fluhler's Swiss Chalet on Sunday, October 17, 1965. No better or homelier place could be found. Dinner: Blut und Leberwurst and Apfelstrudel. Drinks available as usual.

Our secretary, Mr John Villiger, R.D. 1, Morrinsville, telephone 721 Kiwitahi, is holding attendance tickets. Please contact him by Sunday, 10th of October. We must know beforehand how many people will attend. First in, first served.

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## **News from Switzerland**

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### **MONETARY COVERAGE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD**

With currency and gold backing for its paper issue at the 147% level, Switzerland found itself at the end of 1963 the most heavily guaranteed country in the world, followed by Austria with 129%, the Federal Republic of Germany with 113% and the Netherlands with 107%.

Switzerland is also first as regards the ratio of gold and currency coverage the monthly imports: 11.4 times as against 9.5 in Austria, 6.6 in Germany and 6.1 in France.

### **TRIBUTE TO A SWISS PIONEER**

The Swiss Veteran Motorists' Club has elected Henri Dufaux, the Genevese pioneer in motoring and aviation who is now 86, an honorary member.

At the turn of the century, Henri Dufaux and his brother Armand built the famous Motosacoche motorcycle and, in 1905, the first helicopter in the world. In 1909, Henri Dufaux flew the first Swiss aeroplane, a biplane named after him. In a similar craft, Armand Dufaux, who died about twenty years ago, flew down the whole length of Lake Geneva, about 90 km.

In 1910, a plane was used for military purposes for the first time in Switzerland: it was the new Dufaux two-seater, used for observation during manoeuvres.

### **SWISS EXPERTS IN SAUDI ARABIA**

Three Swiss experts are to go to Saudi Arabia to help the Government with its agricultural and livestock problems. They were appointed by the Technical Co-operation Office of the UN; their special fields of competence are, respectively, the development and upkeep of pastureland, livestock raising and the cultivation and preparation of textile fibres.

## **IMPORTANT AMERICAN MAGNET ORDER**

A large machine-making plant in Zurich has just dispatched the last eight electromagnets that go to make up the order of twelve received from Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois, United States of America.

This is the first time a European factory has received such a large order for magnets from the United States of America — over a half a million Swiss francs in value. The twelve quadripolar magnets will be used in basic nuclear research.

## **SWISS FILM INDUSTRY**

Is there actually such a thing as the Swiss film industry? If so, what shape has it taken? Who are its spokesmen? Or is the term "Swiss film industry" only a meaningless collection of words?

The answers are many and various, depending on the viewpoint from which the questions are examined. An understanding of the situation will be greatly helped by a solidly researched and well organised fascicle brought out by "Cinema International," a bi-monthly that recently began publication at Echandens, near Lausanne.

Together with authoritative studies written by Mr F. Buache, Director of the Swiss Film Library (Cinematheque suisse) and Mr R. Dasen, Secretary-General of the Swiss Cinematographers' Association, and many other interesting contributions, there are articles on talented young Swiss cinematographers and their production, on the Swiss Film Library, on the scope for co-productions with other countries, on the present-day situation with regards to the use of animation and on the highlights of the Swiss film industry over the last forty years.

The review (published in French) is the official organ of the Swiss Federation of French-Speaking Amateur Cine Clubs.

## **IMPORTANT SWEDISH ORDER FOR SWISS INDUSTRY**

A short time ago "Sydsvenska Kraft A.B." ordered a 320,000 kW group of turbines from Brown, Boveri & Co. of Baden, for a value of 35 million Swiss francs. This is the largest order for steam turbines for a conventional electric power plant ever received from Scandinavia. The plant is expected to start operating in the summer of 1969.

## **SWITZERLAND BUYS FURS**

At the International Fur Fair, which was held in Frankfurt on Main this spring, Switzerland was once again—by far—the best client of the West German fur trade, buying 29.6 million marks' worth (\$7.4 million) of furs, as opposed to 23.2 million (\$5.8 million) in 1963. Next, in descending order, come Austria with 11.3 million marks, the Netherlands and Italy.



## SWITZERLAND AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Switzerland has already had its share in setting up several schools in the Cameroons; a few weeks ago, the Swiss government granted a Fr. 300,000 subsidy to a school for rural cadres at Douala.

Recently it decided to assist the Basel Mission to build a new school for teachers at Nyasoso, with a grant of S. Fr. 680,000 out of the 90 million francs that constitute the confederation's global allocation to technical co-operation with developing countries.

The Federal Council also decided to finance partly a project for the establishment of a vocational school at Karachi. The "Pakistan Swiss Training Centre" will make it possible to train skilled workers in the maintenance and, eventually, production of certain types of equipment that now have to be imported.

The Swiss foundation will provide a director and four professors, at its expense; it will be responsible for delivering the machinery and tools to equip the toolshop and will also offer five scholarships in Switzerland, to train the five Pakistanis who will later replace the Swiss staff.

The Swiss foundation and the Confederation between them will contribute about two million Swiss francs. The training centre is expected to open in September, 1965.

## FIRST INDUSTRIAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The North-East Switzerland Power Company (NOK) have just ordered from a Swiss-American group formed by Westinghouse Electric and Brown Boveri & Co. a nuclear power plant for installation on the Aar river, near Baden.

The plant, which is to be equipped with a closed cycle pressurised water reactor, will be producing 350,000 kWh before the end of 1969. The Beznau power plant will be the largest one in Europe to have a single enriched uranium reactor.

## Laugh a little . . .

The lady at the pictures asks the gentleman behind her politely: "Excuse me, does my hat disturb you?"

"No, not me," says the gentleman, "but my wife. She has the same hat at home."

\* \* \*

A psychiatrist discharges a patient after his last treatment. He cured the patient from the fixed idea of being a mouse. Suddenly the man races back again, shaking from head to foot: "Doctor, I cannot go away, a cat sits on the garden wall!"

"Well, well, you know that you are not a mouse any more!"

"Yes, I know it, but the cat doesn't!"

—From Nebelspalter.