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for printing. Experiment with making clusters of your design, it can be very effective. Potato block will keep fresh for several days, wrapped in a damp cloth and plastic bag and stored in fridge.

Little Child's Christmas Verse

According to Swiss tradition, this is to be recited under the Christmas tree.—

"Jesus Kindli my,
I mecht au by d'r sy,
In's Staelli mit de Hirte goh
Und ganz noch zu dym Kripple stoh.
Jesus Kindli my."

—'Young Mother'

★ RECIPES

CANTON UNTERWALDEN

Ofentori: Boil and mash potatoes, add salt, pepper, grated nutmeg, a little milk or cream, 1 or 2 eggs and a large quantity of diced bacon. Mix well, fill into a greased pie dish, strew the top with more diced bacon and bake in a hot oven.

CANTON URI

Dried Chestnuts and Smoked Pork: Soak chestnuts overnight. The following morning simmer in slightly salted water with a piece of smoked pork — ½ lb pork to 1 lb chestnuts. This requires long, slow cooking (2-3 hours). Fresh chestnuts may also be used, but the cooking time will be slightly less.

CANTON VAUD

Gratin Montagnard: 1 quart milk, 4 eggs, ½ lb cheese. Butter a pie dish . Warm milk in a saucepan, add a knob of butter and a pinch of salt. Then stir in 2 dessert-spoonfuls of semolina. When mixture thickens add cheese, finely pared, and stir until cheese is melted. Leave the whole to cool, then add the yolks of the eggs, fold in the whipped whites, fill a buttered sandwich-tin and bake about 40 minutes until golden brown. —R.B.K.

News from Switzerland

THE COST OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Between 1960 and 1966, the total expenditure of the Swiss Confederation, the cantons and communes, on public education and research has more than doubled. It comprises current working expenses, including 30% of the running costs of university

clinics, as well as investments in building and equipment. It rose from S.Fr. 1.2 to 2.6 million and represents nearly 5% of Switzerland's national revenue. The bulk of this expenditure is met by the cantons. In 1966, they provided 51% of the total expenditure, i.e. S.Fr. 1.3 billion, the communes S.Fr. 1 billion or 39% and the Confederation some S.Fr. 260 million or 10%.

Primary schools accounted for 49% of the government's expenditure on education, vocational training schools 14%, places of higher education 13% and secondary schools 12%. The remaining 12% went on research institutes, sports facilities and cultural institutions outside the school system. For 1966, current expenditure alone, without investments in building and equipment, is estimated at an average of S.Fr. 1200 per pupil in the primary schools. During the same year a pupil in a secondary school cost the community S.Fr. 1600, one in a "middle", or lower secondary school S.Fr. 3500 and one at a technical institute S.Fr. 4000. For a student in higher education, the average cost works out at S.Fr. 9400.

At university level, expenditure on each medical student averages some S.Fr. 28,000 per year, i.e. much more than in the other faculties; by way of comparison let us mention that the amount spent on law students or political science students is only S.Fr. 3000 per year.

From the first year of primary school to the qualifying final certificate, the education and training of a skilled worker or an office clerk cost the State some S.Fr. 14,000 in 1966. A technician cost S.Fr. 26,000 and a university graduate, provided he finished his studies in the normal time, about S.Fr. 69,000.

SWISS INNOVATION IN THE FIELD OF AERIAL CABLEWAYS

To manufacturers in the Bernese Oberland, one of whom specialises in the building of aerial cableways, have invented and built a self-powered aerial-cableway cabin which will render invaluable services, not only for the installation of transport lines on mountain building sites and for the rational working of alpine pastures, but also as an emergency cabin on large already installed aerial cableways.

Fully loaded the vehicle weighs 1,760 lb and can climb at a vertical rate of 3.9 ft. per second, on a cable 22 mm in diameter; the traction device comprises a system of caterpillars operating on a fixed cable, and driven by an oil motor, itself powered by a motor used for the rescue of aerial cableway passengers, in the event of a breakdown. The new cabin has been approved by the Swiss Federal Transport Department and by the Swiss National Accident Insurance Company.

TIMING THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN MEXICO

The famous Swiss firm Omega was again appointed official timekeeper for the Olympic Games in Mexico. Since 1932, this firm has taken part in the timing of all Olympic Games, with only one exception. It has created electronic devices recording differences down to hundred thousandths of a second. The instruments used at this year's Olympics however recorded differences to the nearest thousandth of a second only, which is actually quite sufficient for the occasion. In Mexico, Omega used 600 chronometers, operated by 45 Swiss experts and over 100 Mexican assistants.

STATISTICS CONCERNING PENSION FUNDS

A survey carried out in Switzerland, in 1966, on collective welfare measures for old age, disablement or death, also referred to in Switzerland as the "2nd column" of the Swiss social insurance system, the 1st column being the State social insurances and the 3rd individual insurance. The results of the statistics concerning pension funds show that the collective welfare institutions of firms or professional associations are much more numerous than was thought before the survey. In fact 13,304 welfare institutions were counted, with a total of 1,526,399 active members.

Compared with the previous statistics in 1955, the number of welfare institutions has increased by about one third and that of active members nearly half. Thus, in 1966, about 72% of the 2.1 million people liable to insurance belonged to a collective insurance scheme and out of the 1.5 million active members of these institutions, slightly over 50% were covered against the three risks of old age, disablement and death, while a little over a tenth of these members were not protected against the risks of old age.

In 1966, the 13,304 collective insurance institutions paid out to 192,034 beneficiaries, i.e. retired people, cripples, widows and orphans, a total of S.Fr. 820 million in the form of pensions and to 10,700 beneficiaries a sum of S.Fr. 92 million in the form of single capital payments.

SWISS MERCHANT NAVY STATISTICS

On March 1st, 1968, the Swiss Ocean-Going Fleet numbered 33 ships with a total capacity of 296,000 tons (end of 1966: 32 vessels and 282,000 tons). The fleet consists of 25 ordinary cargo-boats, 4 cargo boats for heavy loads, 2 refrigerator ships and 2 small wine tankers. At the end of 1967, the crews totalled 1006 men as opposed to 973 at the end of 1966, a little over 60% of whom were Swiss citizens. As for the Swiss Rhine fleet, on January 1st, 1968, it comprised 488 ships with a total capacity of 467,856 tons and a total power of 255,404 H.P.

CUCUMBERS OF GENEVA!

Everyone has heard of the "Watches of Geneva" but few people know that there are also the "cucumbers of Geneva"! In fact, the Geneva countryside can be considered as the leading centre of cucumber production in Switzerland, ahead of even the larger cantons going in extensively for agriculture. In the Geneva countryside therefore, 19 producers who grow this refreshing cucubitaceae, to call it by its scientific name, in an area of just over 11 acres, supplied about 600 tons of cucumbers in 1967 and are expected to produce as much as 900 tons in 1968, i.e. about a tenth of Switzerland's total consumption about 40% of which is covered by home production.

FIGHT AGAINST DISUSED CAR DUMPS

The recently founded "Swiss Society for the Study of the Rational Removal of Vehicles for Demolition", which has been joined by a number of organisations interested in this problem for various reasons (scrap-iron trade, automobile industry, road traffic, protection of nature, etc.), is at present carrying out a survey all over Switzerland for the purpose of taking a census of disused car dumps, public and private depots of disused vehicles as well as demolition firms. In addition, it is examining Swiss industry's needs with respect to scrap iron.

When all the fundamental data has been compiled and studied, it will be possible for this new group to make concrete suggestions for as rational as possible a scheme for the destruction of vehicles for demolition, which is a particularly urgent problem in Switzerland, owing to the high density of the built-up and cultivable areas of the country and the part played by tourism.

SWISS MACHINES

The only steel-works in Australia, which is at the same time the biggest industrial concern in the country, recently put into operation a machine for drawing out cast steel with an annual capacity of 150,00 tons, which makes it possible to cut out three steps from the traditional process of steel manufacture. This machine was supplied by the Swiss firm of Concast Co. Ltd., in Zurich.

The Indian Government recently ordered a rolling mill from the Swiss metallurgical works of Von Roll Co. Ltd., for rolling the metal used in the manufacture of currency. This machine weighing 37 tons, with rollers 450 mm. in diameter, exerts a rolling pressure of 200 tons and requires a power of 200 h.p.

One of the biggest textile groups in the United States has ordered 500 looms from the Swiss firm of Adolphe Saurer Co. Ltd., at Arbon.

GROWTH OF BANK SAVINGS IN SWITZERLAND

Traditional bank savings have grown considerably in Switzerland during the last five years, in spite of the competition of other forms of saving. During this period, the savings deposited in banks, including all deposits in saving books, and deposit books of all kinds as well as funds invested in short and medium-term bank bonds, have increased by 56%, to amount to S.Fr. 47.3 billion; the national revenue and private consumption increased by 47% and 44% during the same period.

In 1967, 11.6% of the total available revenue was placed at the disposal of Swiss banks in the form of savings deposits and short and medium-term bank bonds, as compared with 7.8% in 1963. At the end of 1966, there were 148 savings books and deposit books for every 100 inhabitants, which shows, taking into consideration the sums invested in the same way by corporate bodies, that in Switzerland bank savings consist mainly of deposits paid in by wide layers of the population. Over 90% of the amount invested in savings books and deposit books comes from private individuals.

About 81% of Swiss savings books are less than S.Fr. 5000 in value. The greater part of the savings placed in banks by the public, i.e. 55%, is deposited in savings books which, in 1967, totalled S.Fr. 26.1 billion.

THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution is one of the unfortunate by-products of our technological civilisation, which not only makes its effects felt in everyday life but is very annoying in industry and craftwork, especially when the manufacturing processes themselves produce dust and vapour harmful to the health of workers and the general public. The problem of eliminating dust and vapour has been studied by an engineering firm in the canton of Vaud, which has produced a range of air purifiers with capacities varying from 350 to 1500 cu.m. of air an hour.

These instruments are based on the wet filtering principle, that is to say the air filled with miasmas and dust is brought into contact with sheets of water circulating under the effect of the suction of the filter; this water captures the dust, which is precipitated in the form of sediment. The "CBC" dust separator therefore has no filter to get clogged with dirt and is completed by a plastic secondary filter and a stainless steel drip-proof device preventing the filtering water being drawn off by the flow of air.

The filters, driven by electric motors with powers of 0.75 to 40 kw according to capacity, are equipped with a great many improvements, making servicing simple and inexpensive, with the possibility of adapting them to a wide range of requirements in both industry and craftwork.