

News at random

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SWITZERLAND AT SYDNEY'S FAIR

Switzerland will be represented at this year's Sydney International Trade Fair (1st to 12th August) both officially and through private industry, the Fair thus constituting the first big advertising campaign for Swiss industry in Australia. In accordance with the growing world-wide tendency to organise international trade fairs in distant markets, Swiss industrialists, too, are showing an increased interest in participating in such overseas displays of national achievements.

Pavilion 8 of the Sydney Fair, near the halls reserved for the official exhibitions of Italy, France, Germany and Japan, will provide a comprehensive view of Swiss industry. Already it is clear that this exhibition of Swiss achievements will be presented in a most elegant and richly varied form.

One of the main attractions in the Swiss pavilion will undoubtedly be the joint exhibition of the Swiss watch-makers; visitors will be able to see a great many watches of all shapes and sizes suitable for all occupations, requirements and occasions — in such variety as has probably never before been seen in Australia. Besides these miniature precision mechanisms and jewellery pieces, the embroidery and fine fabrics industries will be showing their latest creations, providing an enthralling experience for the ladies. Apart from the combined exhibits, the representatives of some of the most important St. Gall export firms will have their own stands for showing their highly fashionable materials, which are a hallmark of elegance throughout the world.

Chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers are collaborating in an exhibition of their world-famous specialities, which emphasises the importance of these for Swiss foreign trade. A general review of Switzerland's industry must also, of course, include engineering equipment, machines and precision instruments. Some of the leading firms will have their own stands, on which their latest developments will be demonstrated and exhibited; others will show their internationally renowned products no less impressively by means of large illuminated photographs, for example, large marine diesel engines which sail the seas under the flags of all nations.

The Swiss section of the Sydney Trade Fair could scarcely give the visitor a complete picture of Switzerland's many-sided industrial effort; the exhibits will therefore be supplemented by an enquiry stand, where competent staff will be on duty to answer all questions relating to Swiss production and industry. In particular, they will be able to put enquirers in touch with manufacturers of any of Switzerland's products. No publicity for Switzerland would be complete without a mention of her scenic beauties; the Swiss National Tourist Office will be doing its utmost to give visitors to the Fair a vivid impression of this holiday paradise. Finally, Swissair, whose aircraft provide the only direct link between Switzerland and overseas, will be represented in the Swiss pavilion and will provide information about their services.

By participating officially in the Sydney International Trade Fair from 1st to 12th August 1961, Switzerland will be returning the visit paid by the Australian Government last autumn, when, as Guest of Honour, Australia provided such an admirable display at the Comptoir Suisse in Lausanne.

NEWS AT

Federal

Dr. Marcel Junod, a distinguished member of the International Red Cross and chief of the anaesthetic department of the Cantonal Hospital of Geneva, has died at the age of 57. Dr. Junod had worked all over the world for the International Red Cross, notably in Ethiopia during the Italian-Ethiopian war, and in Spain during the civil war, where he persuaded both sides to accept Red Cross facilities.

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Mr. Hans Schaffner has been elected by the Federal Council to succeed Mr. Max Petitpierre.

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In May 1961 Switzerland exported 3,599,300 watches and movements valued at 104,900,000 francs. For the same month in 1960 the figures were 3,539,100 items worth 98,400,000 frs.

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Pedestrians' rights in Switzerland are clarified in a new federal law which will come into effect shortly. The text states that pedestrians shall cross the roadway "with prudence". On safety crossings they shall have priority, but, the law adds, they are not to enter them "rashly".

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Antoinette Knie, widow, of the State-subsidised Swiss National Circus, has died in hospital. She was 72 years of age.

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Attilio Moresi, a Swiss, won the 1961 Tour de Suisse bicycle race after leading the 63-man field most of the way. The 1,355-kilometre course started in Zurich on 15th June. Moresi took the lead on the second day and held it virtually without challenge to the end.

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Thousands of children in Switzerland are growing up without their normal share of motherly love and care — because steep rents are forcing both parents to work. This was one of the findings of the Swiss Association for Social Medicine when it met in Berne recently.

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Cantonal

By a vote of almost three to one, Zurich voters turned down a proposal to extend paid vacations by an extra week. Present laws provide for a two-week paid holiday each year.

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Last week a young sales-girl was savagely murdered in a grocery shop at Schwamendingenstrasse, Zurich. After stabbing her with a butcher's knife, the murderer ran away with the total contents of the till.

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The Berne art dealing firm of Klipstein and Kornfield celebrated 100 years of picture selling recently with a three-day auction. The highest price paid was for "The Three Russians" by the German impressionist, Nolde. It measured two feet six inches by three feet four inches and sold for 144,000 frs.

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An anonymous donor has sent one hundred thousand francs to the cantonal hospital of Lausanne.

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Climbing in sandals on the Kerenzerberg, during his Swiss holiday in Canton Glarus, a 20-year-old Englishman, Peter Oliphant, slipped and fell to his death.

RANDOM

Charles Monbaron, a famous engraver, of Bienne, died recently at the age of 90. Monbaron emigrated to the United States when very young and it was there he learned his trade. He afterwards returned to his native city where he established an engraving firm.

Nearly 200 teachers in Zurich's cantonal schools are to get an increase in pay, at an annual cost of 740,000 francs to the canton's education authority.

Statistics published at the end of May reveal that Geneva's population is now well over 260,000. About a quarter of the inhabitants are foreigners.

Fire broke out aboard a Rhine motor-launch traveling between Stein-am-Rhein and Hemishofen in the canton of Schaffhausen, but the 135 passengers aboard escaped uninjured on to other vessels.

Dr. Herbert Tauber, former London correspondent of "Die Tat", has been appointed foreign editor of the paper.

A do-it-yourself car-washing garage — the first in Switzerland — has just opened in Geneva, near the Cointrin Airport.

While he was visiting the stamp market of "Weisse Wind", in Zurich, the other day, a stamp collector discovered that his album, worth 5,000 francs, which he had brought along with him had disappeared.

The 14th International Film Festival of Locarno will be held this year from 19th to 30th July.

"Make less noise" the people of Zurich are being told this week — by a woman who is repeating the warning 4,000 times. That is the number of posters, plastered throughout the city, on which the woman appears, with an admonishing finger raised to her lips.

In the presence of the Austrian Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr. Coreth, Bern's municipal theatre gave the very first performance of "Ascanio in Alba", a work written by Mozart when he was 15 years of age.

The canton of Neuchâtel has the honour of having six centenarians among its inhabitants.

Mme. Henri Guisan has made a gift of one of the general's uniforms to the Vaudois military museum of Morges.

Mr. Albert Mori, who seventy years ago left his home in Kallnach, Seeland, for the United States, has just returned for the first time to his native village. While in America Mr. Mori married a Bernese girl, and there were thirteen children — nine of whom are still living. 87-year-old Mr. Mori came back accompanied by two of his sons; one of them, a doctor, is head of a large American hospital.

Aargau's beautiful city of Langenthal has just celebrated the 1,100th anniversary of its foundation.

(Most of the above items were received from the A.T.S. News Service.)

Swiss National Day Celebration and Gala Dance

TUESDAY, 1st AUGUST 1961, at 7.30 p.m.

(Doors open at 6.30 p.m.)

at

WIMBLEDON TOWN HALL, WIMBLEDON

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programme includes

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PIANO RECITAL BY ALBERT FERBER

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