

News at random

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Swiss National Hymn

(Tritt'st im Morgenrot daher)

With the sun's first golden beam
Setting snow-capped peaks a-gleam,
Yet another glorious morn thus is born,

As we stand in adoration,
Proud of our land and nation,
We pray God for maintenance
Of this great inheritance.

When the ev'ning's shadows fall,
Starry heavens us enthrall,
We are lifted high above, by God's love,

Whilst in silent contemplation,
Filled with awe and admiration,
Our grateful heart expand,
Beating high for Switzerland.

And when storm-clouds stir the sky,
Lightning flashes from on high,
We implore, with one accord, Thee, oh Lord!

In our greatest tribulation
He is our sure salvation,
May His strong, protective hand
Ever guard our native land.

(September 1938.)

GALLUS.

Xmas Greetings

Following former years, practice we propose
to publish again in our December issue a col-
lective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards should induce
many of our subscribers to make use of this
facility to extend to their friends the compli-
ments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing
to be included should forward name and address
to our office not later than Friday, 25th Novem-
ber 1960, together with remittance for £1.

NEWS AT

Federal

Federal Councillor Jean Bourgnecht has signed an agreement with the British Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr. P. F. Grey, to a loan of 215 million francs to Britain repayable over the next three years at 3%.

The Swiss National Council has rejected by a vote of 147 to 12 a constitutional amendment that would have banned the use of nuclear weapons by Switzerland's armed forces. The amendment will go before the nation's voters in a referendum.

U.S. Senator Humphrey, who has been travelling extensively in Europe, stopped for a few days in Switzerland on his way to Tunisia. He paid a visit to President Wahlen.

The Federal Department of health is to launch a winter campaign against polio, recommending to all cantonal authorities a sweet preventive to the disease — a few drops of live virus vaccine poured on to a piece of sugar. The oral immunization recommended is the Sabin vaccine, made available commercially through the National Institute of Health in America.

Major Franz Beidler, Swiss army chemist, died in Novaggio military hospital following a heart attack. Major Beidler was only 46 years of age.

Former Swiss president Max Petitpierre and Mrs. Petitpierre are on a visit to the United States.

Recent statistics suggest that there are now 8,085 doctors of medicine in Switzerland. This represents approximately one practitioner per 1,083 inhabitants.

The retail price of petrol in Switzerland will go up about 20 centimes a gallon at the start of next year. The Swiss Parliament in Berne gave final approval last September to a Government Bill providing for a surtax on petrol of five centimes a litre to help finance a 1,100-mile highway building programme.

Cantonal

Former federal councillor Rodolphe Rubattel died recently in Lausanne at the age of 75. Famed personality of the Canton of Vaud, Mr. Rubattel was elected State Councillor in 1944. Three years later he succeeded Mr. Stampfli

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RANDOM

as head of the Department of Public Economy. President of the Confederation for 1953 and 1954, Mr. Rubattel was also previously director of "La Revue", a daily newspaper of Lausanne.

* * *

The first snow fell last week in many parts of Switzerland, heralding the approach of winter and blocking several Alpine passes. In the Valais, cowherds were temporarily isolated when snow fell below 3,000-foot level, closing mountain roads. The French and Swiss Juras were covered with ten inches of snow, while the mercury dropped to the 20's (Fahrenheit). The slopes above Nyon were blanketed, and the winter resorts in the Bernese Oberland are reportedly very happy with their first snowfall.

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In Geneva, a taxi driver was attacked by two gangsters and robbed of about four hundred francs.

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Professor Karl Weber, editor for federal affairs at the Neuer Zuercher Zeitung and teacher of journalism at Berne University, died recently in Liestal at the age of 81.

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Police of the Canton of Vaud have just acquired a remarkably efficient radar system which will enable them to enforce the observance of speed limits more effectively.

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The Ticinese State Council gave an open competition for twenty-five vacancies to be filled with the local police. But apparently the Italian Swiss are not keen to be "Bobbies". The response was poor, and even then only fourteen young men were accepted.

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In Geneva, the trial of Richard and Josette Bauer, who were accused of murdering Mrs. Bauer's father, has ended. Richard Bauer was sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment and his wife to five years'.

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A huge meeting organized by the Duttweiler Party in Congresshouse, Zurich, expressed its sympathy for

Berlin. Mr. Alleman, foreign editor of "Die Tat", strongly criticized the West for not sufficiently resisting Soviet threats and blackmail.

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In Cartigny, near Geneva, a farmer was surprised to find that thieves had broken in during the night. Their haul: 2,000 kilos of beet-root!

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An enormous forest fire between Gersau and Brunnen was spreading so rapidly that military help had to be called in to bring it under control.

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A William Tell Museum is to open in about a year in the great Swiss patriot's birthplace, Bürglen, in the Canton of Uri. Until the museum, housed in an old tower, has been officially opened, the literature associated with Tell, and the large collection of paintings and sculptures, can be seen in the Tell exhibition at Bürglen.

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On the last Sunday in August, 47,163 passengers were carried by the ships of the Lake of Lucerne Navigation Company. All nine steamships and eight motor-ships were put into continuous service to transport this highest-ever total of passengers.

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

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Le Corbusier Honoured

The Frank P. Brown Medal of the Franklin Institute was awarded on 18th October to Le Corbusier, the Swiss architect. Le Corbusier, whose real name is Charles-Edouard Jeanneret (of Neuchâtel), is also an artist and poet.

He received the medal "for a lifetime of creative leadership in the teaching and the practice of architecture as exemplified by his modular concept of human scale, free plan, pillar foundations, glass walls, sun breaks and roof terraces; his city planning as exemplified by the vertical city concept and for his outstanding contributions as a sculptor and painter.

The award was set up by the will of Franklin P. Brown, a member of the institute, for "discoveries and inventions involving meritorious improvements in the building and allied industries".

Building Boom In Davos

Davos is busily preparing for the next winter season with a building boom that is costing an estimated 40 million francs. The world-famous ski-ing resort is increasing its facilities to include new accommodation and new ski-lifts.

Mount Parsenn, best known of the surrounding Alps, is to get a new aerial cableway link with Weissfluhjoch. Rivalling Parsenn as a skier's paradise is the Brämabüel-Jakobshorn area on the opposite side of the Davos valley. Here, a number of secondary téléferiques and ski-lifts will open up new areas for downhill and cross-country trails.

Holiday chalets and modern apartment houses are springing up on both sides of the Promenade, the Grand Hotel Beveledere will be topped with a new "Bel-Etage" of luxury suites offering a panoramic view of the mountains. As a result of this building boom, the accommodation facilities at local hotels, chalets and flats will be increased to a capacity of 12,000.

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