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SWISS NEWS

IMPORTANT DECISIONS BY THE JURASSIAN SEPARATISTS

Five hundred delegates from the various sections of the Rassemblement Jurassien met in the town hall of Saint Imier, which is not a separatist locality, for what one must call a legislative assembly.

The delegates were welcomed by Mr. Jean Rossel, assistant to the mayor of Saint Imier, who conveyed the wishes of the municipal authorities that the "exhausting and baneful struggle" rending the Jurassian people should be solved by means of a dialogue between all the parties concerned.

There were speeches by Mr. Germain Donzé, Central President of the Rassemblement Jurassien, by Mr. Roger Schaffter, Assistant General Secretary and by Mr. Roland Béguelin, General Secretary. Mr. Schaffter eloquently recalled the main lines of Separatist cause, insisting that Jurassian self-determination should be decided by the Jurassians themselves and not by the Bernese people. He referred to the contested 8th article of the constitutional package passed by the whole canton in March, 1970, which stated that *all* the citizens of Berne should participate in a vote on the future of the Jura.

Separatists are strongly opposed to this idea and Mr. Schaffter took the opportunity of stating the considered opinion of an Austrian international jurist, Dr. Veitter, who had claimed in a report commanded by the Movement that the Jurassians only, whether residing or not in the six French-speaking districts of Canton Berne, should decide on the eventual creation of a canton of their own.

Mr. Schaffter added that despite this conflict of views, the Separatist Movement did not consider the recourse to violence as a solution. However, he wondered whether violence could be avoided.

Mr. Béguelin enlarged on his comrade's speech and said that only the international rights of people to self-determination could be applied to the Jurassian problem, all the more so as the Jurassian people had been annexed to Berne following a lengthy and democratic discussion towards a final communiqué. Its main innovation was to invite the Petitpierre Commission on the Jura into a "serious, detailed and objective" study of the possible division of the Jura into two half cantons, corresponding to the Separatist and Anti-Separatist regions, and a possible attachment of the district of Laufen to Basle.

The Separatists are against the creation of a single Northern Jura can-

ton comprising the three Separatist districts of Delemont, Porrentruy and Franches Montagnes, as this would involve the loss of the three remaining districts to Berne, the enemy, which is an unacceptable eventuality.

A MOST DISPUTED SQUARE MILE

Switzerland's cramped space has always made it difficult for the military administration to find the training grounds it required.

No farmer is willing to sell away his land, even at an advantageous cost. He is also likely to be pressurised by his commune, strongly opposed to the idea of living with the noise of fire-arms and artillery. The problem of land procurement has been most edgy in the beautiful hills of the Franches Montagnes, in the Jura.

The first project to use some of this famed horse-rearing land for military purposes dates from 1930, when it was decided to use land near the village of Bellelay as a firing exercise zone. In 1946, this project gave way to a proposed artillery range at Les Breuleux. In 1948, the project was shifted to Cerlatez and the marshes of Gruère. In 1955 a project was submitted to transform a private estate in the commune of Genevez as a training ground for mechanised armour. This same year saw the formation of an anti-training ground committee and the opposition of all the communes of the Franches-Montagnes.

On 4th July, 1956, the head of the Military Department, Paul Chaudet, receding before the pressures of the people of the Franches Montagnes, announced that the project had been temporarily abandoned. In January, 1957, the Great Council of Berne, who apparently refused to give top priority to the wishes of northern Jurassians, voted to acquire seven properties in the Franches Montagnes.

On 4th September, 1962, the National Councillor Virgile Moine notified the representatives from the communes of Lajoux, Les Genevez, Montfaucon and Tramelan of the imminent creation of a training ground for the army horse services and of the sale of the acquired land to the Confederation for that purpose. On 22nd November the Great Council of Berne passed the sale of the property to the Confederation by a 144 to 9 majority.

The following month, the Bernese Councillor of State, speaking to the Federal Assembly, said that one capitulation to the inhabitants of the Franches Montagnes was enough, and that it would not be repeated. A week later, all the communes of the district prohibited the sale of any of their land, a ban which was to last for two years.

Five days later the National Council ratified by 125 votes to 5 the acquisition of the training land around les Genevez. The following week a demonstration was organised at Saigene-

légiez and a committee formed to wage a campaign against the establishment of a training ground in the Franches Montagnes.

In the night of 26th April of the following year the farm "Joux-Derrière", now federal property, was burnt down. On 18th, the farm "Sous-la-Cote", also federal property, was destroyed by fire, and both incidents were claimed by the Jurassian Liberation Front. In May, 1966, the project of a training ground was finally abandoned, leaving only a proposal for a horse acclimatisation centre at Sand, not far from Berne.

From 1966 to 1969 the various political parties and a successive approach towards the Federal Council led to the definite and official burial of all training ground projects on the communes of Genevez, Lajoux and Montfaucon.

The situation is now that the Confederation possesses in these three communes one and a quarter square miles of land which it is ready to sell at the cost of 3,858,000 francs. It is for the people of Franches Montagnes to decide how they are going to pay for this land and what they are going to do with it. There are currently three proposals: To develop the site as a private tourist centre; to create a limited company which would buy the land and lease it for both agriculture and tourism; to buy the land by means of a public subscription patroned by the communes concerned and devote it back to agriculture.

The latter proposals stem from militant Jurassians who want to preserve the "virginity" of the Franches Montagnes plateau. Some would even like to see it made into a national park. The first proposal comes from an expatriate Jurassian who now runs the largest hotel in Jamaica. It is now for the citizens of these communes to make their choice.

PURCHASE OF 30 JET FIGHTERS FINALLY APPROVED

Despite strong opposition from the Genevese Socialist André Chavannes and his supporters, the Federal Council's decision to acquire 30 second-hand "Hunter" planes as an interim solution before the Air Force's future fighter comes into service has been approved by the National Council. The credits demanded for this purchase were 129 million francs, which means that the second-hand, but refurbished, aircraft will cost more than they did when they were new.

THE CONFEDERATION TAKEN IN BY SPECULATORS

The National Council was passing the accounts of the State under review in a regular sitting. It was all routine and straightforward labour.

Suddenly a Radical and an Agrarian delegate raised a point putting the head of the Financial Department, Mr. Nelio Celio, in an uncomfortable position. They wanted to know how the Confederation had bought land at Lutry, Chavannes and Puidoux, paying for it up to eight times its market price.

The federal administration in Berne occasionally buys plots of land to build houses for its officers. The job of buying this land is entrusted to an agent who, in the cases brought up during the sitting, was taxed with negligence and "curious behaviour".

In the extreme case he had bought land offered at 25,000 francs for 250,000 francs. This was not only a useless expenditure of tax-payer's money but a spur to inflation and excessive land prices.

Mr. Celio placated the complainants by informing them that Federal purchase of land would henceforth be controlled by an independent administrative commission chaired, in the canton of Vaud, by a prefect.

WHERE THE SWISS MAKE THE MOST MONEY

The Union Bank of Switzerland has just published its statistical portrait of Switzerland, "Switzerland in figures", which contains a host of interesting details. For example, it turned out, from an estimate of the Swiss per-capita income, that Basle town is the wealthiest canton in the country.

Every inhabitant in the city earns an average of 17,410 francs. Basle is followed by Geneva (15,170 francs per capita), Zurich (13,800 francs) and Zug (13,380 francs). The canton with the smallest income per person was Appenzell Inner Rhodes, with 7,635 francs.

Limiting its survey to the cantonal capitals, the report finds that the total income tax (federal, cantonal and communal) imposed upon a 20,000-franc a year working man with a wife and no children is the smallest in Basle and Liestal, where it represents 5.8 per cent of total income.

Income tax is the highest for the same category in Fribourg, amounting to 18.8 per cent. Tax on fortune is the smallest in Zurich, where 3.4 per cent is levied on a fortune of a million francs. It is the highest in Glarus, where the tax is 12.4 per cent.

A 2-litre car licence costs 185 francs in Geneva and 354 francs in Saint-Gall, the upper extreme.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWISS TOURING CLUB

The Swiss Touring Club, an organisation with 653,000 motorist members, was founded on 1st September, 1896, in Geneva. These 75 years of growing activity were marked by a

reception and an assembly in the festooned Grand Theatre of Geneva with 200 delegates from the 24 sections of the Swiss Touring Club, Mr. Roger Bonvin, Head of the Department of Transport and Communications, and many other distinguished personalities. But first, the delegates met in ordinary assembly in the decorated Congress House of Geneva.

They agreed to the present system of financing the national highways and accepted an increase of 5 cents on the "surtax" on petrol designed to pay for them. They also demanded of the Confederation a higher contribution in the financing of highways.

Among other interventions, a delegate from Geneva proposed that an obligatory sight test should be imposed on motorists.

GLORIOUS END TO THE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Grasshopper F.C. of Zurich wrested the championship title from Basle in what the commentators rated as one of the best ever confrontations of Swiss football.

The Wankdorf stadium in Berne was packed with 51,000 spectators, the highest crowd since the Zurich-Servette Cup Final, which had an all-time attendance record.

The tension of the match lasted throughout a full 90 minutes, which ended with a 2-2 draw, and the ensuing extra time, which closed with a 4-3 advantage for Grasshoppers.

Two players who played an essential role in Grasshopper's victory were the German Ohlhauser and the Swede Grahn. The Basle goalkeeper Marcel Kunz had a bad game and made a bad mistake which gave Basle's opponents a vital edge in this exciting closing game of the Swiss top league championship.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF LOCAL POLITICAL PRESS

The organ of the Radical Party of the Valais, a daily called "The Confederated", was forced to limit its editions to twice a week not long ago, and on 1st June to stop circulation altogether because it had run out of funds.

A general assembly met at Leyrton and decided to save the paper by means of an appeal to raise 300,000 francs. The delegates themselves underwrote 100,000 francs and, by means of subscription forms delivered throughout the canton, soon managed to raise an additional 100,000 francs.

It now seems that the remaining 100,000 francs should be forthcoming and the sum considered to be necessary for the "Confederated's" survival raised.

Another publication, the weekly "Le Valais Demain", organ of the

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Valais Christian Democrat Party, was also threatened with closure. The president of the party, the lawyer Francois Bagnoud, warned that unless there were more party solidarity and more support towards the paper it would have to fold up. He urged for more subscriptions. The official circulation of "Le Valais Demain" is 14,000.

THE PROBLEMS OF APPLYING ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION

The draft of a new federal law on the protection of the environment runs as follows: Effluents and floating debris which have to be sifted from a watercourse for the protection of industrial installation drawing its water may not be dumped again in the watercourse.

In other words, the projected law asks of factories and power plants to carry out the cleansing of watercourses polluted by others. The manager of the hydro-electric plant of Lavey on the Rhone, upstream of Lake Geneva, objected to such a clause.

In this typical instance, a dam had been built above his factory and a by-pass canal to channel excess waters. The dam was equipped with a large iron grating designed to strain the waters going into the plant from other debris. It had regularly to be cleared of grass, tree trunks, paper, plastic bags and animal corpses, all of which were driven through the by-pass canal into the Rhone, and thence into Lake Geneva.

The manager of the Lavey plant reckoned that the grating only held 15 per cent of all the bulk impurities carried by the Rhone. Most of them were retained at the foot of the Lavey dam or overspilt in periods of high water. He therefore demanded the financial support from the states of Vaud and the Valais to enable him to submit to the new legislation without financial prejudice.

Three solutions to keep the Rhone clean have been put forward to the public works authorities of these two cantons. One is to collect all the refuse flowing in the Rhone and burn it on site. The other is to transfer it to a purifying plant to be built by neighbouring communes, and third, most original, is to build a vast floating dam to which a net would be attached and closed at the collection point by a boat. The refuse would be destroyed on the spot and in a later stage be transferred to a purifying plant.

The towns of Vevey and Montreux are particularly interested in this solution as they suffer considerably from pollution due to whirlpools in that part of the lake. This projected floating dam may be set up within the next few months.

PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE NURSING PROFESSION

A meeting of delegates from the Swiss Red Cross met at a round table conference at Lausanne to put forward proposals for the betterment of the professional life of nurses.

As in many other countries, Swiss nurses are overburdened and relatively badly paid. Moreover, the profession has evolved into considerable technical complexity and the modern nurse is a far cry from the former image of a helping and benevolent maid.

The best way out of the persistent labour shortage of hospitals is to institute the status of assistant nurse and to provide a special training course for this category, lasting 18 months.

The delegates agreed that, even for student nurses with genuine vocations, it was psychologically necessary for them to be given more spare time for their formation. Both assistant and diploma nurses should be part of a nursing team in which patients should participate when they are able to do so.

The personnel problems of hospitals would be made easier if patients were separated into three main categories — those totally dependant on nursing care, those semi-dependant and those able to help themselves. Hours of work should be reduced and the possibility of employing married nurses wishing to work on a part-time basis, seriously investigated.

Their co-operation could be particularly valuable in dispensaries and in home care. This would lift a considerable burden from the hospitals, but would also imply the provision of day nurseries for the children of these voluntary nurses as well as courses of re-education.

A wish of many girls planning a career in nursing is to be able to enter the profession at a higher level than has been the rule so far in conclusion of an advanced course of training, and this will be investigated. Women with late nursing vocations are now enjoying the possibility of enrolling in a two-year special course devised for candidates between 26 and 36, possessing educational background and aptitudes.

DEMOS ACT IN LAUSANNE AND GENEVA

After Zurich, Lausanne and Geneva have been the scene of riots by discontent youth demonstrators.

In Lausanne, a demonstration was planned to protest against the expensive seats in the town's cinemas. The organisers demanded a reduction to 4 francs of cinema seats, the creation of a cinema hall which they could use in all freedom to see films escaping "commercial monopoly", and gave the authorities a week to satisfy these demands. The municipality bluntly prohibited the demonstration and trouble flared up. The demonstrators invaded the centre of Lausanne and for four hours traffic was clogged and the towns folk were weeping from the tear gas fumes.

In Geneva, the Lindenhof "Bunker" episode in Zurich seems to be repeating itself. The "Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture" was occupied by a few hundred youth. Their committee distributed tracts in schools and in factories (for the intention of apprentices) informing them that the occupation of the "Maison de la Culture" was a vital step in the struggle against the isolation and passivity into which the boss-family-school triumvirate had thrown youth. It represented the "refusal of a dead culture and the pernicious terrorism by which it was imposed".

A day later, however, they were evicted by the police and the centre's director threatened to shut it down until September.

The same people, grouped in a movement now called the "Movement for an autonomous centre", demonstrated what they meant by a "dead culture" in trying to place pickets be-

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fore Geneva's "Grand Théâtre" on an opening performance of Wagner's "Lohengrin". They were met by an impressive battalion of policemen and prevented from disturbing the "bourgeois" people out on a cultural evening.

The youth leaders, haranguing some 500 followers on La Place Neuve criticised the "Grand Théâtre bourgeois", the "bluff and the snobism" which, according to them, were the foundations upon which it relied. One speaker said that the difference between the Army and the "Grand Théâtre" was that in the former it was necessary to see without being seen, whereas in the latter, the important thing was not to see but to be seen.

Other speakers lashed out against the cost of renovating the "Grand Théâtre" (28 million francs) and the public funds used to subsidise its activities. They taunted the "snobs" on their way to the theatre and claimed that the opera they were going to see "had contributed substantially to the growth of Nazism".

HOW TO CONDUCT A REVOLUTION

A 20-point revolutionary programme was being circulated among militant youth in Lausanne. This document revealed a certain degree of self-awareness on the part of the promoters of the Revolution and some of its guidelines were reminiscent of the principles adopted by Mussolini's Black Shirts and the early Nazis to pull the masses to their side.

Having established that the undecided masses will be drawn into the Revolution by the presentation of a careful dosage of real demands and ideals of permanent dissent, the document says that the mainspring of Revolution will reside in a multiplicity of improvised committees and organisations, so devised that any person participating in their activities will wittingly or unwittingly be playing the game of Revolution.

Having made the ominous statement that "reform is not an end in itself but the vehicle of permanent revolution", the document goes on to describe how the many "democratic" assemblies designed to give fuel to the movement should be conducted.

Everyone must have the possibility of expressing himself and a microphone should be moved about among the attendance. Chairmanship should be entrusted to people committed to the movement but of second rank. Skilled agitators should be dispersed in suitable positions among the assembly and henchmen should come forward to speak on behalf of the opposition in order to ridicule it.

A vigorous and strong commissioner placed at the centre of the debate should, if necessary, control proceedings and reorientate the discussion on the correct track. No vote should

be held following interventions by the opposition. Voting should never bear on a precise point but on vague notions which will win the general assent.

Assembly clerks and commissions are to be self-elected. No debate is to be held on the issue of group representativity and appointed group leaders should be displaced from group to group. The tracts and literature issued as the basis of the work of an assembly should only contain the points to be discussed during the assembly and avoid referring to the subjects discussed in depth at previous sittings.

Here we omit two or three other minor prescriptions to return to the 18th "clause", which is that discussions on the most simple issues should be muddled up and made difficult so that the assembly can be dissolved at the outcome of a vote engaging no one.

This vote, or any vote, should be held late at night after the exhaustion of the opposition. A passionate climate should also be carefully maintained until the "boiling-point" of the participants is reached.

Today's teenage revolutionaries are not without some psychological cleverness and humour.

PAILLARD FACES PROBLEMS IN ITS REORGANISATION

Paillard SA, makers of *Hermes* typewriters and *Bolex* cameras, closed their financial year with a net loss of 0.3 million francs. The chairman of the group, Mr. Francois Thorens, explained the causes of these adverse results in the Annual General Meeting which took place at Yverdon.

The Austrian branch responsible for the production of cine-cameras was progressing satisfactorily, although the output of *Bolex* cameras was being run down as planned in order to leave capacity for the group's other production. *Hermes* typewriters had progressed by 22 per cent and were taking an increasing share of the European market.

Another branch to beform well was *Precisa SA*, affiliated to the group, and the new sector of calculating and invoicing machines, whose share of turnover had increased from 8 per cent to 16 per cent in two years.

There were two reasons for the losses of the group: one was the transfer of staff to different lines of production, with the need to re-train it and the concurrent requirement of new capital investment. The other, and main reason, was the losses of the French subsidiary, *Japy France*, in which Paillard had taken a majority share in 1970 in pre-emptive bid against a competing company equally interested in Japy.

The high cost of the takeover had been made worse by the currently unprofitable state of *Japy France*. The turnover of Paillard was 254 million francs in 1970.

CIBA-GEIGY BECOMES THE FIRST OF THE EURO-SHARES

Within the next two or three weeks merchant bankers in London and Basle should be offering British investors a unique titbit. Ciba-Geigy, one of the powerful and tightly controlled group of Swiss chemical giants of Basle, will try to raise a sterling loan, probably about £10 million, convertible into Swiss shares of Ciba-Geigy. This is a remarkable reversal of the long queue of British companies looking for cheap money in Switzerland. It is a revolutionary attempt for one of those mysterious Swiss companies to broaden its shareholding, which by Swiss law cannot let voting control pass out of Swiss hands. For investors it raises the intriguing question: should they be interested in low-yielding Swiss shares at all?

Investors will also find it difficult to evaluate Ciba-Geigy. It was formed only last October by merger of Ciba and Geigy, neighbours in dour, Germanic Basle, one of the strongholds of European chemical industry ever since the great 19th century boom in artificial dyes. Sandoz and the secretive drug giant Hoffman-la-Roche, are also based there. As independents Ciba and Geigy both had world sales of £300 million plus. Together they form one of the top half-dozen prescription drug companies in the world with sales of about £150 million. They have about the same position in dye-stuffs. Both invested heavily outside Switzerland so that today one-third of the group is in the U.S. and another sixth in the U.K.

That makes Ciba-Geigy U.K. a sizeable £100 million business in its own right, with household names like Entero-Vioform and Araldite. Ciba moved into the U.K. by buying up the Clayton Aniline company, serving the Manchester textile trades, as early as 1911. Spin-off from dyes led to pesticides like DDT (invented by Geigy). The most familiar part of the company for U.K. consumers and investors alike is probably Ilford Films, which Ciba bought in 1969 from ICI.

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For Ciba-Geigy investors the first difficulty is lack of real profit figures. The next is that the merger will upset profits. Rationalisation is gentle, none of the 12,000 U.K. employees is expected to be made redundant, according to chairman Lord Harvey. The merger "is not first and foremost to increase the rate of expansion, indeed just maintaining the combined positions of the two companies is an ambitious objective" according to the group's latest annual report. It seems both companies were finding life independently more and more expensive. Together they spend about £50 million on research, half of it on drugs, and that is considerably more than ICI, which is twice their size.

It is taking a long time to integrate the two companies. According to John Rogers, now on top of the U.K. pyramid, there was not even a common definition of sales. Thanks to opposition from the U.S. anti-trust busters the merger took 18 months to go through (which made it a smoother operation in the end). On paper a new board and organisation structure has been nicely mapped out, with separate divisions for dyes, drugs, agricultural chemicals, plastics, photography and consumer products. In practice this is an interregnum and few people even in the company know what new sort of animal Ciba-Geigy will be.

One major change is already apparent in the decision to raise money in the U.K. and elsewhere overseas. Subsidiaries will be made more independent of the parent and expanded with their own resources. In the U.K. some £40 million will be spent over the next five years, during which the U.K. business should have doubled. But U.K. trading profits are at present only £6 million plus, on assets of about £30 million, hence the need for extra cash.

Swiss companies are often undercapitalised and understaffed and so have traditionally expanded overseas. Swiss nationals must hold the registered voting shares. The voteless bearer shares are however in much greater demand to provide anonymity for tax avoiders. Swiss shares seem mainly to be bought as a currency hedge for they pay very little dividend. Ciba-Geigy is valued in the Swiss stock market at £710 million, a staggering 14 per cent of the value of all quoted Swiss companies.

A U.K. loan convertible into Ciba-Geigy shares, probably on a published P/E ratio of about 14 compared with 23 for Beecham, could have its attractions once European share investment gets going. Ciba-Geigy has the chance to widen considerably the market for its shares (Alusuisse announced a dollar loan with warrants to buy their shares last week for the same reason). The Ciba-Geigy sterling loan could then also be used for U.K. bids.

British investors investing outside the sterling area have to pay a premium for currency, which largely makes buying foreign shares direct an unattractive proposition. Sterling convertible loans do not escape this premium but they do postpone payment until the loan is converted into shares. If the U.K. does join the EEC there is a fair chance that the premium will be phased out by the time conversion takes place. Such sterling loans convertible into U.S. shares are now fairly common, the latest being the £12 million raised by Ford two months ago. So far the only European company to try this is the Dutch electrical giant Philips. If Ciba-Geigy pulls it off it will certainly be only the first of many tempting Euro-shares.

(*Sunday Times*)

A LONE STRUGGLE AGAINST ROOKS

Mr. Cholet, a farmer at Gland, fought a life-long struggle against the rook, a cousin of the crow and the jay. These birds regularly plundered a sizeable part of his crop. They were quite clever and scarecrows had become a farce to them. Neither did bangers and carbide guns impress them any longer.

So Mr. Cholet decided to use a means which had been tested in the South of France and which remained efficient as long as it was not practiced for too long: He let dead rooks hang from posts across his seed plots of experimental maize.

The rooks were chased by the sight of their dead congeners long enough for the new seed to take root. However, as this was the first time such a method of scaring birds was used in Switzerland, it shocked Mr. Cholet's neighbours. They ripped off the animal corpses and nailed threatening messages on to the wooden pillars.

Some warned him that his farm would be burnt down, another told him to expect it to be blown up by Molotov Cocktails. However, the agricultural authorities of Vaud stood firmly behind Mr. Cholet. The dead rooks were not an environmental nuisance. They were drying, rather than rotting in the sun, and thus were emanating no noxious smells. Moreover, they had been killed in a humane and approved way, and not (as in former days) by the use of bird-lime.

In fact, the rooks had been trapped with a new device invented in Germany and adopted by the cantonal services of Vaud. It consists of a vast aviary into which a rook can enter without having to spread out its wings. To get out, however, he has to make use of his wings, but the orifice is too small for this. The bird must therefore remain in the aviary, attracting other rooks by its presence. The system, according to the local gamekeeper, is "secure, efficient and silent".

A MISUNDERSTANDING

A helicopter was spraying chemicals on some vineyards above Rolle, in Vaud, and hovering at a height of about 18 feet. The din of the machine upset a lady villager, who after having waved repeatedly at the pilot to make him fly away, took out a gun and took a symbolic shot at him.

The pilot had interpreted the woman's waving as a sign beckoning him to draw nearer to be photographed. To be friendly, this is just what he did, but when he saw the gun aimed at him he immediately landed, abandoning a half finished job, and reported that he had been shot at.

This is also what the press reported on the next day, until this misunderstanding was sorted out. The pilot, it turned out, was highly experienced and a veteran from the Algerian war.

THE BASLE "ART FAIR"

From 24th to 29th June, 1971, ART 2'71, the International Art Fair for 20th century art which was started last year by a group of Basle art dealers, is again taking place in Basle. A committee that has been set up according to special duties, and to which, among others, apart from several art dealers, also the director of the Basle Art Gallery, Dr. Franz Meyer, the manager of the Basle "Kunsthalle", P. F. Althaus and representatives of the Swiss Industries Fair belong, has taken over the organisation and publicity on the basis of the experience gained at last year's successful Art Fair (reported turnover: 6 million Swiss francs).

Fundamentally, the principle of a free, open and uncensored art fair has been carried on, as opposed to the principle of "Participation by Invitation only" which is strongly attacked nowadays. In Basle, every art dealer regardless of which type of 20th century art he represents, could rent as large an exhibition stand as he wishes. The private organisation of the Basle Fair is completely free and independent of the authorities and official art organisations, except for a small subsidy from the state towards propaganda costs.

For ART 2'71, 120 exhibitors have taken advantage of the offer from Basle to participate in a free, international art market. The available 6,000 square metre exhibition—as last year, the fair is being held in Halls 8 and 9 of the Swiss Industries Fair, with the adjoining attractive grounds which are particularly suitable for exhibiting large sculptures and environments—was very soon booked up, so that several late-comers from abroad could not be allotted any space.

The exhibits of the participants from the following eleven countries: Austria, Germany, Great Britain,

France, Holland, Israel, Italy, the Principality of Liechtenstein, Spain, Switzerland and the USA, are correspondingly varied. They range from the young, progressive art, as shown by different galleries over several specialities such as Op-Art and the Constructivists (Denise René, Paris/New York, or Bischofsberger, Zurich), to the great masters of the classical moderns as represented, among others, by Beyeler, Basle; Schwarz, Milan; Krugier, Geneva; Gimpel and Hanover, Zurich.

It is already certain that numerous well-known art dealers, mainly from Germany and the USA will have visited the Basle Fair not only because of its information value, but as travelling dealers, in order to make new contacts and purchases. For them, and for collectors, ART 2.71 is, in these weeks after the international monetary crisis, of particular interest as an international forum of the art trade.

EUROPE'S HIGHEST THROUGH RAILWAY

The Bernina offers the amazing contrast between the icy wastes of a notable Alpine chain in Switzerland and the warmth and lushness of a valley reaching across the Italian border. It is hard to believe that such variety is contained within the mere 38 miles of the line from St. Moritz to Tirano. It must be an awe-inspiring experience to make this journey in the depth of winter when the snow banks on each side of the track may be 15 ft. deep, but the writer was fortunate in making it on a glorious June day when the thaw was many weeks late. The snow was still deep and the lakes between Morteratsch and Alp Grüm were frozen hard. The countryside near Bernina Hospiz was desolate indeed and a forceful reminder that we had attained the highest summit — 7,403 ft. — of any through railway in Europe.

The gentle run from St. Moritz up to Pontresina scarcely prepares one for the grandeur which is to follow, but the snow-plough, standing in Pontre-

sina Station (still with some snow on it in June) was a hint of things to come. As the line climbs up to Morteratsch, the 13,000-ft. peaks of the Bernina Range tower above the line and the great Morteratsch Glacier sweeps down close to the line. It is not surprising then to see the height on the station sign at Morteratsch — 1,899 metres (6,170 ft.). The 10 miles from Morteratsch to Alp Grüm are perhaps the highlight of this route with a never-ending succession of wonderful views of the peaks and the many glaciers.

The recently constructed aerial cableway station at Bernina Diavolezza halt catches the eye with its great cables soaring away to almost 10,000 ft. below Piz Palü. This building quite overshadows the modest railway halt whose only "building" is a Rhaetian Railway coach stripped of its bogies to serve as the waiting room complete with a diminutive ticket office, but the setting of the halt is superb. After the bleakness of the Summit, the station buildings at Bernina Hospiz have a reassuring solidity — despite the snow banks against the walls on a day of brilliant sunshine.

The line drops down from Bernina Hospiz to Alp Grüm and after swinging round sharply enters the station through a massive galleried snow-shelter along which there are some fascinating glimpses of the remarkable development of the line below Alp Grüm.

Although in such an isolated situation, the station buffet at Alp Grüm provides an excellent lunch with a close up view of the Palü Glacier and the jagged Piz Palü. Immediately on leaving Alp Grüm, the line makes an almost circular sweep round, giving glimpses of the deep valley below Cavaglia.

There are two more levels of snowshelters at Alp Grüm as the line begins its long to and fro descent of the mountain walls — often at 1 in 14 — to reach the valley floor, which seemed so close to us at Alp Grüm Station. There are many bridges and more snowshelters on the way down. After

Poschiavo, the line is still of considerable engineering interest, but the character of the country has changed and the vivid blue lake of Le Prese shimmers against the background of snowy peaks as the line skirts its shore.

There is another 1 in 14 descent as the line passes through the Brusio gorge and a complete spiral in the open before the line drops abruptly into Brusio Station.

The Swiss frontier station is at Campocologno — a very attractive little station whose new building boasts a charming coloured wall-painting. The final two miles of the line across the Italian border ends with a somewhat hair-raising run through the narrow streets of Tirano to the station where the Bernina line meets the Italian Railways line from Milan via Sondrio.

The heat and glare of Tirano strike the harsher as one recalls the keen wind across the snowy wastes of the Summit only 24 miles away — but 6,000 ft. above Tirano! The journey takes up to three hours with its 21 stops, but the frontier halt at Campocologno occupies some ten minutes. The Bernina Railways should be a "must" for all enthusiasts visiting the Engadine.

(*"St. Moritz Courier"*)

THE MAURITIUS SPRING

In the Engadine Museum St. Moritz possesses a fountain relic of the bronze age, which may well be 3,000 years old.

This is the earliest evidence of the use made of the mineral springs in the Swiss mountains, which was to become a cultural factor of importance in the social and commercial life of the Middle Ages. Centuries before the mountains themselves were valued as one of the glories of nature, visitors had thus sought out the highest of their mineral wells, the ferruginous spring of St. Moritz. Although we can only guess at what took place here during the days of the Roman Empire and down through the Middle Ages, it seems clear that in the 14th century

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St. Moritz was already a place of pilgrimage, and we know that by the 16th century its "red water" — so named because of its rust-coloured deposit — had become famous. In 1537, Paracelsus, the greatest physician of the Renaissance, praised the healing qualities of the spring in detailed treatises. *The Mauritius Spring*

There is scarcely any other spa in which the actions of climate and mineral springs supplement each other as happily as in St. Moritz. The most important constituents of the Mauritius Spring are iron and carbonic acid. It is to the effect of the iron that the drinking cure owes its age-old reputation. Today its special field is the cure of anaemia.

The quantities of iron which the spring contains are present in a very active form which enables them to stimulate the production of healthy red corpuscles in anaemic persons. The climate and spring, therefore, both exert the same influence on the blood, and a pupil of the famous Bernese pharmacologist Bürgi even succeeded in furnishing an exact proof that the combined effect of the two healing forces is considerably greater than the isolated effect of the spring added to the isolated effect of the climate.

The bathing cure depends on the high carbonic acid content of the Mauritius Spring. Small quantities of this are absorbed by the skin of the patient and produce a pronounced and uniform expansion of the smallest blood vessels in and under the skin — the so-called capillaries. This expansion of the blood vessels is felt by the patient as a pleasant sensation of warmth. The lower the temperature is kept, the richer it is in carbonic acid and the more intense is its effect on the skin. The relatively low temperature — for the bathing cure between 95 and 82° Fahrenheit — has a sedative effect on the heart. The intensified flow of blood near the surface of the body relieves the circulation in the internal organs. The two actions combine to produce a remarkable healing effect on many disorders of the heart and circulation, such as could not be achieved by any medicinal treatment.

While in carbonic acid bath the best results are obtained with low temperatures and short durations — the latter vary between 5 and 12 minutes — for mud baths the contrary is the case: they should be as hot as long as possible.

The thick mud, heated to 104-108° F., causes a considerable accumulation of heat in the body of the patient, which leads to profuse perspiration in the bath and more especially for about an hour afterwards. This warming and moistening of the tissue with an abundant secretion of perspi-

ration is beneficial for all forms of chronic rheumatism and arthritis, for many chronic neuralgia disorders — especially chronic sciatica — and for chronic inflammations of the female internal organs.

(“St. Moritz Courier”)

SWISS CONVERT \$50M TO GOLD AS SPUR TO US

The Swiss National Bank announced yesterday that it has recently converted 50 million of the dollars in its reserves into gold through the US treasury. This, in itself, is not going to worry the Americans unduly, but it follows an earlier Swiss conversion of \$75 millions and decisions by France, Belgium and Holland last month to switch some of the dollars they had accumulated in their three transactions into gold from US stocks. The total sum involved was well over \$250 millions.

At the moment the US is committed to supplying central banks gold for their dollars at the rate of \$35 an ounce. But this always depends on the banks going gently on the issue, for their dollar claims exceed US gold assets roughly in the ratio of 2½ : 1. The Europeans have become increasingly irritated by the American failure to improve their balance of payments deficit, and this has been one way in which they have been able to show their feelings. There is no immediate panic for in April the US gold stocks still stood at \$10.92 billions. Even so they were nearly \$1 billion down on the figure at the same time last year.

In London gold prices moved up rapidly and at the afternoon fixing it stood at \$39.975 an ounce, 20 cents up on the morning sale and 38 cents up from the closing price on Tuesday. But dealers said the shift in price was perfectly normal, and that the Swiss decision had had no effect on the market.

Ever since the massive move into D-marks which precipitated the German decision to float their currency, fluctuations on the free market have been rather wild. Gold reached its high of \$41.30 in mid May, and has been falling since then, though the rate on Tuesday morning — at \$39.44 an ounce — was at its lowest point.

Yesterday's increase was probably just a reaction from the excessive gloom, the dealers said. Some suggested that the demand had come from the Far East and others saw industrial pressure and buying from West Germany as the main reasons for the higher price.

(The Guardian, June 17th)

A REVOLVING BATHROOM

Incredible though it may seem, Western Europe still has millions of homes without bathrooms. The classical solution consisting in making separate plans for each new bathroom is no longer rational today. A Swiss firm has produced a prototype for a standardised revolving bathroom, easily mass produced; based on the building block principle and capable of being installed in a few hours in an area of 2 square metres (22 square feet), this fully-equipped bathroom requires only two holes to be made. The new revolving system results in considerable saving of space: the prototype in full working order contains 4 sanitary appliances in an area of just under 22 sq. ft., i.e. a WC, a wash-basin, a shower and a "bidet", all automatically cleaned by a spray device. It is impossible for the revolving system, which is operated by hand or motor, to become stuck. Also available in separate units measuring less than 55 cm each this mini-bathroom is ideal for installing in old buildings; in new premises, it can be installed as a complete unit by crane.

EBAUCHES CO. LTD. PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE CREATION OF A FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES

In view of the promising prospects of big markets now offered by the United States in the field of atomic timepieces, Ebauches Co. Ltd., the leading European firm in this sector, has decided to join in the creation of a firm in the United States. Known as Frequency & Time Systems Inc., (FTS) this firm will be located on the outskirts of Boston. In particular, it will go in for the development, manufacture and sale of cesium tubes and complete atomic standards. It will also be responsible for the distribution throughout North America of the scientific products made by Oscillo-quartz Co. Ltd., a firm affiliated to Ebauches Co. Ltd., and the only European manufacturers of an atomic clock with cesium tube (Oscillatom). By taking an active part, in the United States, in a firm specialising in the field of atomic time and frequency systems, Ebauches Co. Ltd. shows its intention of remaining in the forefront of progress in the sector of very high precision timekeeping. The applications planned for the atomic systems in question, requiring the setting up of an industrial production plant today, are the outcome of the research work undertaken in Neuchâtel a few years ago. By its pioneering activities, Ebauches Co. Ltd. thus contributes to the good name of the Swiss watch industry.

(OSEC)