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commercial use. Almost all these machines are in private homes and are operated by elderly persons who have trained no successors. No Swiss machinery manufacturer has included embroidery machinery in his postwar production plans.

The Association of Swiss Embroidery Exporters fears competition from the Austrian Vorarlberg, where it appears that all machines are intact and ready to start production as soon as raw materials are available. The association claims that money must be found to finance the rehabilitation of this traditional Swiss industry, and that time should not be lost, since it takes from 6 to 10 years to train skilled designers and embroiderers. It has been suggested that the necessary capital should be obtained by creating a special fund to which members of the Embroidery Co-operative Trusteeship and other interested parties could contribute, by organising a special corporation to handle the matter and by appealing to the Government for a loan.

(Foreign Commerce Weekly)

#### SUBSCRIPTION TO ILLUSTRATED SWISS NEWSPAPERS.

The well known publishers of the "SCHWEIZER ILLUSTRIRTE ZEITUNG" and the "L'ILLUSTRE" in Switzerland, are inviting our Compatriots to subscribe to their papers. These publications are known the world over and chiefly depict current illustrations of important happenings. Most of you have no doubt seen the papers.

The annual subscription of one publication is approximately £2 and we would undertake to forward the remittance in bulk to Switzerland, provided the number of interested parties is large enough. Will you please notify the Secretary within 4 weeks, whether you would be willing to subscribe either to the "ILLUSTRIERTE" or to the publication "L'ILLUSTRE" in French.

In addition the publishers for the following papers also solicit your patronage:

"Schweizer Familien Wechenblatt"  
 "Meyers Schweizer Frauen-und Modeblatt"  
 "La Patrie Suisse"  
 "La Femme d'aujourd'hui"

We are not able to state the subscription-fees for these papers, but shall make enquiries for any member interested. The Secretary has been promised a number of free copies by Messrs. Verlag G.Meyer's Erben Zurich, and when these are available they may be borrowed by members for perusal.

#### VII FEDERAL YODELING FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT LUCERNE DURING JULY.

On July 13, 14 and 15 lovely Lucerne in Switzerland will be hostess to the VII Federal Yodeling Festival. The event is to be held in the city's modern Kunsthhaus.

Yodeling dates back to the earliest days when the dwellers in Swiss Alpine regions made up their own melodies and songs. Thus

high up in his solitary pastoral realm the dairyman sang of his love and longing and of the joys of his vast, free domain. Face to face with the sublime majesty of the mountains singers and listeners alike were deeply conscious of a consecration by Nature herself, and these feelings found expression in Alpine music.

In the beginning yodeling was confined to its original home. Later, however, the Swiss who went on military expeditions into foreign lands began to yodel on their weary marches, with the result that many a tough warrior began to long for home. Early in the 19th century some music-loving Swiss began to take notes of the words and melodies of different yodel songs. Many of the best Swiss yodelers belong to a line of such Alpine singers, their particular vocal gifts having been handed down through generations.

The Swiss yodels differs somewhat in their cadences. In the beginning all yodels contained long drawn, far sounding tones which echoed in the mountains. According to his individual gifts a singer would know how to form and vary the tones. Especially in the Bernese and Lucerne mountain regions, yodel melodies came into being which contained a wider range and demanded more skill. But on the whole the Swiss yodel of the different cantons is one of the main objects of the Swiss Yodelers Association.

This association was founded in 1912. Its immediate object was to promote characteristic Swiss pastime and customs, such as yodeling, alphorn-playing, singing of folk-songs and flag-swinging. The Swiss Yodelers Association now has members throughout the country and in normal times arranges a national festival at intervals of three years. The last fete of this kind was held in Zurich, in 1939, when the largest of Swiss cities was hostess to the Swiss National Exposition.

#### 1ST AUGUST BADGES.

The Swiss Committee for the 1st August celebrations has already mailed to us a sample of the 1946 badge which represents part of the globe, in metal, surrounded by ribbons in the Swiss colours and surmounted by the national flag. This symbol has been designed because the proceeds of the sale of the 1946 badges will be used to assist needy Swiss abroad.

Upon the suggestion of a number of our compatriots, we have already placed an order for 200 badges (instead of 150 as in previous years) and these should reach New Zealand in the near future. We would ask the different local Swiss communities to let us know now how many badges they would like to have (price 2/6 each, as usual).

It will no doubt interest our members to read part of the letter which the Swiss committee for 1st August celebrations has addressed to us:-

"Seit Dezennien sind wir regelmässig um diese Zeit an unsere diplomatischen Vertretungen im Ausland, die Gesandtschaften und Konsulate gelangt. Wir möchten das auch dieses Jahr tun, und Ihnen zum ersten danken für das Interesse, das Sie immer wieder unsern Bundesfeier-Aktionen entgegengebracht haben. Dieses Interesse wirkt zurück auf die Angehörigen Ihrer Schweizerkolonie; ihm danken wir die gute Aufnahme, die unsere Bestrebungen auch dort finden.

Das war auch im vergangenen Jahre wieder der Fall. Rund 50000 Stück Bundesfeier-Abzeichen sind, zur Hauptsache durch Vermittlung des Eidgenössischen Politischen Departements, ins Ausland gesandt worden, dazu ganz vereinzelt auch Bundesfeierkarten und-marken; rund 62000 Schweizerfranken sind uns von dorthier zugekommen.

Für diese Unterstützung sprechen wir auch an dieser Stelle allen Beteiligten unsern besten Dank aus. Dank werden Ihnen allen auch die notleidenden Mütter, für welche die Sammlung bestimmt war, wissen