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functions, as for example, to the General Staff. The appointment of a Commander-in-Chief is made by the Federal Council. The appointment of a General and of the Chief of the General Staff, when the Army is on active service, is a matter which is decided by the Federal Assembly. The absence of any form of decorations and of high ranks, is due to the particular attitude which prevails as regards military matters in this country, where the soldier is considered to be subordinate to the civilian and where any form of ostentatious display is heartily disliked for a democracy whose army is purely defensive and has not taken part in any wars for a long time. If military displays do occur occasionally, this only happens as a result of some external necessity. Thus, during those years when National Socialism was looked upon as being a great, imminent danger, the people demanded military parades and displays, because for them the will to be free and the spirit of resistance was embodied in their Army. In peace-time however, all such demonstrations are avoided. And this shows a further peculiarity of our system, namely, the practical manner in which our military instruction is directed. Drill is cut down to a minimum and - by the way - even this minimum is criticised by our public opinion. Modern warfare demands that the greatest care should be expended on the training of the military technicians, in order that they may be thoroughly conversant with the use of mechanised weapons. It must be stressed, however, that it is only possible to curtail drill in the Swiss Army to such a minimum because of the very high standard of education which exists in the country and the good upbringing which the generality of recruits have had in their homes.

SUNDRY NEWS.

The Federal Military Department has submitted to the Government a proposal to acquire another 100 Planes of the "Vampire" type. These planes have proved very successful and satisfactory.

On the labour market, due to the cold weather, there is a marked increase in the number of unemployed, the increase concerning mostly the Building trade. The total number unemployed at the end of December 1948 was 10,857 compared with 3,807 in November.

As communicated by the Praesens-Film AG., the traditional Review of film productions by the New York Press, resulted in the Swiss film "die Gezeichneten" being placed among the best productions of the World. The "New York Times" lists it among the ten best English-speaking films.

In Geneva, the first International School for Business Managers was inaugurated - it is called "Centre d'etudes industrielles" and the age of the "students" ranges from 25 to 40 years and they all occupy responsible posts in Industry.

Dr. Paul Egli, of Uzwil (St. Gall) has been nominated Professor at the Japanese University in Tokio.

A Poster (St. Moritz) of the St. Gall designer, Werner Weiskoenig, has achieved outstanding success at an International Exhibition in Vienna.

A number of Swiss factories participated in the construction of the first Spanish Television Station in Barcelona.

According to the newspaper "New York Star" the performances of a Swiss Conductor, Ernest Ansermet, in the United States, has proved such a success, that he will not be able to evade accepting the invitations for a second tour of the U.S.A.

The Swiss Commercial Air-lines are celebrating their 30th Anniversary. New

DAS SCHWEIZERLAND

Dort fern im Schweizerland, da liegt mein Heimatort,
Es ist gar lang schon her, dass ich von dort bin fort,
Doch die Erinnerung, die bleibt mir stets gewiss,
dass ich das Schweizerland ja nie vergiss,

Es war im Schweizerland, wo meine Wiege stand,
Im schönen freien Schweizerland.

O holde Kinderzeit, noch einmal kehr zurück,
Wo spielend ich genoss, das allerhöchste Glück,
Wo ich am Vaterhaus, auf grüner Wiese stand,
Und weithin schaute auf mein Heimatland,

Es war im Schweizerland, wo meine Wiege stand,
Im schönen freien Schweizerland.

Nur einmal noch, o Herr, lass mich die Heimat seh'n,
Das schöne Schweizerland, die Täler und die Höh'n,
Dann kehr' ich gern zurück, und rufe freudig aus,
behüt' Dich Schweizerland, ich bleib zu Haus,

Es war im Schweizerland, wo meine Wiege stand,
Im schönen freien Schweizerland.

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Üüsere Verein.

Einer fôr alli, alli fôr ein,
Das ist's Motto vo üüserem Hülfsverein,
Jetzt ist scho wieder es Jahr verschwunde,
Jo scho wieder es Jahr vorbi,
er Schwyzer mer wäret Eu sehr verbunde,
Schicket üüs Euri Biitrag ii,
Vergesst nöd, ond denket au draa,
Dass kein Verein, ohni Biitrag existiere chaa,
ond wenn's au bloss 10 Shilling ist,
Zeig üüs dass en guete Schwyzer bist,
II weiss ehr händ's Herz am rechte Fleck,
ond was ehr gänd, ist fôr en guete Zweck,
ond was mehr jewills au gern g'siehnd,
ist dass mehrs nöd zwei mol mahne müend,
de Sekretär hät sös gnuag z'schriibe,
drom tues nöd dehine bliibe,
mach en Chnopf is Fazeneetli,
ond schick üüs bald es Postal-Nötli,
jede Biitrag werd met Dank quittiirt,
sogar per Flugpost wenn's pressiert,
mer wönschet Eu allne Glöck ond Sege,
ond sind mer joh nöd hös derwege.

A. Moosberger.

Aerodromes recently occupied at Geneva-Cornavin, are the most modern of
their kind permitting the handling of approximately 200 passengers per hour.

Due to the importation of large quantities of immoral literature, the
Authorities of the Canton of Waadt have now banned the sale of same to our
Youth.

Upon the advice of Mr. Winston Churchill, his grandson, of the same name, is now being educated in a Swiss Institute.

One hundred years ago, on January 7th, L. L. Rochat was born in Geneva. He later founded the International Association of the Blue Cross (Temperance). The Blue Cross is now established in many countries and has an approximate membership of some 100,000.

Swiss Druggists have sent 4000 tons of Milk to be distributed amongst the aged people of Alsace (France) as a Christmas Gift.

SWISS FOREIGN TRADE 1948.

During 1948, the figures for Switzerland's Imports totalled roughly five (5) billion Swiss francs against an export figure of 3.43 billions francs. It is interesting to note the following figures in this respect:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Machinery exported | 648.6 million francs (an increase of 100 millions on the 1947 exports). |
| Precision Instruments | 203.4 million francs (an increase of 35 million francs on the 1947 Exports). |
| Watches | 659.5 million francs. |
| Watch Parts | 84 million francs. |
| Paints | 269 million francs. |
| Pharmaceutical Preparations | ... 210 million francs. |
| Chemicals | 121.7 million francs. |

SWISS FEDERAL RAILROADS IN 1948.

During 1948, 206.8 million persons travelled by Rail, being a decrease of six (6) million as compared with the figures for 1947. Despite this diminution in the number of passengers, due to the higher tariffs revenue increased from 270 to 276 million Swiss francs.

In Goods Traffic, a decline is recorded as from the middle of the year, but the total is still about the same as 1947, i.e. 18.4 million tons of freight, whereas there has been an increase in receipts of one million francs, the total being 342.6 million francs.

In comparison, unfortunately, a sharp increase in expenditure is noted, 1947 figure showing as 443 million francs against a sum for 1948 of 486.5 million francs.

LOCAL NEWS.

In the Canton of Aargau, a New Government has been elected, by a vote of 81% of the inhabitants of the Canton. The position is now as follows:-

Two (2) Liberals ... One (1) Socialist ... One (1) Catholic
One (1) Farmer.

Fribourg: The death is announced of the former Swiss Consul-General, Paul Frossard. He spent various periods in the following countries - Netherland East Indies, Australia, Venezuela and during the last War, whilst stationed in San Francisco, he was also charged with the representation of Japanese interests. He retired a year ago.

THURGAU.

Walter Sennhauser from Aadorf, an embroidery manufacturer, who died recently in South-river (New Jersey) left 5000 dollars for his home community. Mr. Sennhauser visited his home-town every year. The legacy is to be used for charitable aims.

URI.

A popular vote sanctioned a credit of frs. 397000 for the construction of alpine routes. This calls for federal contributions of 1.3 million frs. The amount will be used for the improvement of the Furke, Gotthard and Susten passes.

LUZERN.

On January 15th, a picture of the famous Spanish Painter, Goya, was stolen from the Museum of Agen (France). The culprits, an 80 year old woman and her son, were arrested by the Security Police in Lucerne, being passengers on the Gotthard Express on their way to central Switzerland. This valuable picture was recovered wrapped in a roll of old French newspapers, in a nearby compartment of the train. This woman and her escort had been sought by the police of many countries over a number of years as they were specialised in the theft of pictures.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

A Referendum was launched against the Federal Law which gives authority to the Federal Government to compel the people to submit to a periodical X-Ray examination. This opposition comes from circles which are opposed to any centralisation and in particular, to any increase in the powers of the Government concerning personal freedom. The advocates of the law, headed by Professor C. Henschen of Basle, maintain that success in the fight against this illness can only be achieved by the whole of the population periodically reporting for X-Ray examination. Hygiene is principally a matter for the Cantons but the Confederation is entitled to take precautionary measures regarding infectious illnesses. As a result of the opposition to the Federal Law, this matter will now be submitted to the referendum.

THE NEW HOLIDAY TICKETS.

During the war Holiday Season Tickets were introduced with a view to encouraging the Swiss to tour their own country, and owing to the reduction in price they offered, met with immediate and ever increasing popularity. Renamed "Holiday Ticket" the Holiday Season Ticket has now become a permanent institution, at the same time undergoing certain modification which considerably broaden its scope. This new Holiday Ticket can now be purchased outside the country itself from all Travel Agencies that sell Swiss Railway Tickets. There is no doubt that it will soon be used by all those who travel to Switzerland for their holidays by rail, since it combines a considerable reduction in price with the greatest latitude of use. The basic ticket costs Fr.25.- in First Class, Fr.20.- in Second and Fr.15.- in Third. To this is attached the ticket covering travel from the point of departure to destination, either by the direct or any other route, and back - namely, a return or round-trip ticket, which is charged at half the normal rate. The holder of the Holiday Ticket can also make a certain number of excursions from points along his route, likewise at half price. It should be noted that the Holiday Ticket, the ticket for the main journey, and those for the excursions, can all be purchased and paid for by the traveller in his home town, be this London, Paris, or Kalamazoo. This facilitation is available not only on the railways but also on the boats and on the postal motorcoach lines. The period of validity of the Holiday Ticket is one month, but can be prolonged for an additional month on payment of 20% of the fare.

THE SWISSAIR IS INAUGURATING ITS FIRST CONNECTION OVERSEAS WITH THE DC-4 - "GENEVA."

It will be remembered that the first Douglas DC-4 belonging to the Swissair landed at Cointrin on the 24th November last, after a record non-stop flight from New-York to Geneva. The radio installations on the machine have now been modified by the Swissair technicians and have been replaced by a system better fitted to meet European requirements. This work having been finished the "Geneva" as the machine has been named, was put into service on March 16th, 17th and 18th on the Geneva-Athens-Cairo-Lydia-Athens-Geneva line. It left Cointrin at 6.30 a.m. with a stop overnight at Cairo, and then on to Athens. These special flights will be repeated at regular intervals starting on March 22nd, March 31st, April 8th, April 15th, April 22nd, and April 29th.

SPECIAL POSTAGE-STAMP TO MARK THE FIRST SWISSAIR FLIGHT GENEVA-NEW YORK.

A new air service Geneva-New York is being inaugurated by the Swissair, the first flight of which will take place on 2nd May. As this is a special flight carrying particularly correspondence, and is consequently an occasion

in the history of Swiss Civil Aviation, the Swiss Postal authorities have decided to issue a special postage stamp.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

In the November issue of our "Helvetia" the Committee published an appeal to members of our Society to raise their contribution in order to meet the increased cost of our paper. In recent weeks a marked increase in the individual payments of fees received is noticeable and we wish to thank all these friends for helping us in our task.

At the present time there are still about 100 Subscriptions outstanding and we ask these members to kindly forward contributions to our Secretary, P.O. Box 85, Auckland, without delay.

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

The Consulate sometimes receives requests from intending emigrants from Switzerland to supply addresses of farmers who are desirous of engaging farm hands, and at the same time providing accommodation. The Consulate would like to know who is desirous of engaging new labour and interested farmers are asked to give their names to the Consulate of Switzerland, P.O. Box 386, WELLINGTON. C.I.

ATTENTION! - CALENDARS.

Last day for Subscriptions is 10th MARCH, 1949. The following Calendars for 1949 in colour, can be ordered through the Consulate of Switzerland:

"Berge und Taler der Heimat" - 7/- ... "Die malerische Schweiz" - 6/-
"Alpenblumen Kalender" - 5/-.

PESTALOZZI CALENDARS.

As in previous years the popular Pestalozzi Calendars can again be ordered. The cost is as follows:-

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|------|------------------|-----|------|
| German for Boys | ... | 4/3d | German for Girls | ... | 4/3d |
| French for Boys | ... | 4/- | French for Girls | ... | 4/- |
| Italian | ... | 4/- | | | |

These calendars can be highly recommended and when ordering please add Subscription fee and state type of calendar desired.

When in AUCKLAND ... Patronise Mr. T. KOMMINOTH'S

"CHALET TEAROOM"

12 Victoria Street West, (near Queen Street).

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Our Secretary, Mr. E. Merz, has returned to New Zealand from his trip to Switzerland and no doubt, readers of "Helvetia" will soon have the pleasure of reading a survey of his trip abroad. He has taken up his duties again as Secretary and correspondence etc., should now be addressed to him - P.O. Box 85, AUCKLAND. C.I.

We take this opportunity of thanking the Acting-Secretary, Mr. A. Moosberger, for his very generous co-operation and interest whilst in the office of Acting-Secretary. We look forward to retaining the wonderful contributions to our Paper which he has so willingly provided us with in the past.