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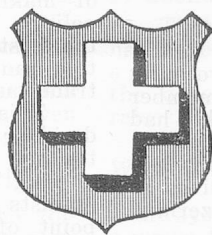
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HELVETIA

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GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

16th YEAR.

MARCH, 1951.

AUCKLAND.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

The production of electric power in Switzerland during 1950 amounted to approximately 11 billion kw.

There are over one hundred ski lifts now operating in the whole of Switzerland.

A new machine made in Switzerland for packing chocolate tablets, wraps 120 tablets per minute, i.e., 6 tons of chocolate per day. Only two persons are required to work this machine.

The avalanches which occurred this year in the cantons of Grisons, Uri, Glaris and Valais, caused the death of 80 persons and destroyed many houses. The destruction amounts to several million Swiss francs. The Swiss Red Cross asked for donations in order to organize relief for the victims, and such contributions have already reached a sum well above Sfr.3,000,000.

The construction of a very important new hydro-electric dam has been commenced at the Grimsel. This dam will be 105 meters high and 525 meters wide. It will require 120,000 tons of cement and 50,000 tons of other materials. The cement will be transported to Oberwald by the Furka-Oberalp railway, and then by cable railway to the altitude of 2,300 meters. Every minute 400 kg. will be transported to the spot, after a trip of 25 minutes. The railway company bought special cars for the conveyance of this cement.

In the course of 1950, 725,000 foreign motor cars, carrying 3,000,000 passengers, crossed the border. French were the most numerous visitors with 376,000 vehicles; Italians came next with 173,000 vehicles, followed by German, Belgium, British and Dutch. There were 6,300 motor cars from America and 4,800 from Africa.

A new cargo ship of 10,000 tons, called the "Lausanne," is flying the Swiss flag. It belongs to the company Suisse-Atlantique S.A., of Lausanne.

Mr. Julien Rossat has been promoted to the rank of Minister to Turkey. He was Chief of the Division of the Political Department in Bern. The post of Minister at the Legation in Ankara was vacant since the departure of Minister Gorge for Moscow.

The tribunal of Lucerne has recently passed sentence of five months imprisonment on a motorist who, under the influence of alcohol, ran over a cyclist who succumbed to his injuries. Two other motorists were also sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for driving when drunk.

50 years Swiss Aluminium Industry.

Thanks to electric energy the aluminium industry, which celebrates this year its jubilee, has developed considerably in Switzerland. A strong demand for the various products—raw aluminium, utensils, foils, etc.—prevails on the home market and exports for over 50 million Francs a year give proof of the excellent repute enjoyed abroad.

Successful display of a Swiss Loom in the United States of America.

Visitors to the International Textile Machine Exhibition in Atlantic City showed keen interest in an automatic loom manufactured by Adolpe Saurer S.A., Arbon.

The late Mme. Albertina Lanz-Werkmeister, of St. Gall, has left an amount of 134,000 frs. to a number of charitable institutions. The commune of Krinau (Toggenburg) receives 20,000 frs.

Two high rank officers of the Siamese army arrived in Switzerland to study military institutions.

The newly elected President of the Republic of Guatemala, Monsieur Jacobo Guzman, is of Swiss origin, his father having emigrated from Switzerland to Guatemala.

Dr. Paul Ruegger, President of the International Red Cross Committee, accompanied by two other members of the committee and three of the staff, has left Geneva for Moscow by air. This will be the first personal contact made with the U.S.S.R. alliance of crosses and crescents and much importance is ascribed to it in Red Cross circles.

A Swiss firm has produced a new kind of paper, which resists tearing when wet.

During the past year, 123,500 persons visited the castle of Chillon and amongst them were pupils from 338 Swiss schools and 70 foreign schools.

Professor Tadeus Reichstein, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle, has, jointly with two Americans, been awarded the 1950 Nobel Prize for Medicine, his work on the hormone cortisone has given relief to millions of sufferers from arthritis.

Professor Reichstein has been, until 1938, a lecturer of Chemistry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, and since 1938, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle.

Wireless operator Jules Gloor, a member of the personnel of "Swissair" for the last twenty years, has flown three million kilometers.