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Forest Protection from Deer and Rabbits

The Swiss Forestry Department recently asked a chemical concern to develop a drug which will protect the trees from animals such as deer and rabbits who do much damage. The drug must not harm animals or the trees and must be easy to use. The first experiments with a powder gave excellent results. Only 3.5 per cent. of the trees treated were damaged, compared with 90 per cent. of the untreated trees. The powder, furthermore, is not expensive.

Cattle Markets in Switzerland

Cattle raising is an important branch of Swiss agriculture. Two of the most important breeds, the Brown, or Inner Swiss Breed, and the Spotted Cattle, or Simmentaler Breed, are well known outside of Switzerland. These special breeds are of middle height and weight, strong constitution, and excellent proportions. They also develop great resistance because they spend the summer in the Alps, sometimes as high as 6000 feet. In several different places in Switzerland, large cattle markets are held in the course of September and October each year. At these markets, buyers and other interested persons from Switzerland and abroad have the opportunity of seeing highly qualified cattle breeds.

Swiss Cotton Industry

Business conditions in the Swiss cotton industry are again very satisfactory, and the same can be said for the other branches of Switzerland's textile industry. Delivery terms have been lengthened, and prices of yarns and woven articles are again up to 10 per cent. higher.

Television in Switzerland

Experimental television transmissions are now taking place in Switzerland. The programmes are sent from a mountain summit near Zurich. Although it was expected that they could be picked up within a distance of 50 to 60 miles only, the practical tests have shown that these television broadcasts can be clearly received even on the Rochers de Naye, a mountain on the board of Lake Geneva, at 180 miles distance from the transmitter.

Tobacco Imports in 1952

Swiss tobacco imports reached a record mark last year. Switzerland imported 11,200 tons of raw tobacco valued at more than 70,000,000 francs. The main countries supplying tobacco to Switzerland are the United States, Brazil, Turkey, Greece, Indonesia, and the Dominican Republic.

Swiss Silk Industry

At the fourth International Silk Congress which recently opened in Milan, the Swiss silk industry was represented by a delegation of its own. It is interesting to note in this connection that Switzerland has imported about 600,000 lbs. of raw silk during the last year. This makes her the second largest European importer of raw silk after France. With respect to the per capita consumption of raw silk and the capacity of her silk and rayon industry, Switzerland is second only to Japan. Though Switzerland is not a producer of raw silk, her silk industry goes back as far as the thirteenth century. The important place which the Swiss silk industry still occupies internationally is principally due to a high degree of specialisation, a preference for nouveautes fabrics, the purchasing power of Switzerland's population, and the widespread network of the industry's commercial organisation.

Foreign Labour in Switzerland

As far as the admission of foreign labour to Switzerland is concerned, the Swiss authorities follow a policy adapted to the changing circumstances on the labour market. In principle, the entry of foreign workers is authorised only as far as equivalent labour is not available in the domestic market. Thus the total number of entry permits issued fell from 150,000 in 1947 to 75,000 in 1950, and rose again to a level of 149,000 in 1952. The largest group of foreign workers in Switzerland is Italian. Others come from Germany, Austria, France, etc.

THREE SWISS ENGINEERS

During its recent annual assembly, the Swiss Association of Engineers and Architects has conferred its highest distinction—honorary memberships—on two Swiss engineers of world-wide fame: Dr. O. Ammann, the well-known builder of one of New York's most important bridges, and Professor A. Stucky, director of the Lausanne Institute of Technology.

Dr. Stucky, who was called to the direction of this important school in 1940, has given the institution a new and successful impulse. At present, the Institute of Technology has almost 550 students, as compared with 140 in 1940. A number of new laboratories and institutes furnished with the most modern equipment have been created, especially for hydraulic machines, technical physics, photogrammetry, statics and applied mathematics.

Another Swiss engineer, Dr. Adolf Meyer, has recently been awarded the Henderson Gold Medal

of the Franklin Institute in Pennsylvania. This distinction acknowledges his pioneer work in the field of the construction of gas turbines where he has been the leading expert both by his own research work and by that of his pupils. Dr. Meyer has already received an honorary degree from the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and, in 1935, from the Stevenson Institute in New York. Since 1950 he is an honorary member of the American Academy of Science and Arts. He is also the author of numerous technical publications.

"OUR FATHERLAND"

Gastronomy: Central Switzerland, more particularly Zug, has two popular specialities: the "Rotel," a small fish, and the "Kirschtorte," a form of pastry dessert the size of an ordinary pie, sprinkled with powdered sugar and flavoured with Kirsch. The "Rotel" is only available in November-December, and is very popular far beyond the district. It is cooked in various ways, but is usually served fried in deep butter. Another way is to boil the fish in water to which a leek, a bunch of soup greens, an onion with cloves and a dash of vinegar or lemon has been added. Do not boil longer than five minutes, remove from the water and serve with slices of lemon and a sauce of melted butter.

Try a popular soup made as follows: Brown a chopped-up onion and a small piece of finely chopped garlic in fat or butter, then add a tablespoon of flour. Add several cups of water slowly, add finely sliced potatoes, a cup of rice, leeks and cabbage and sufficient water to cover the whole. Cook for $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours, adding water so that the quantity of water remains the same.

Or a soup made of barley, as well as bread soup made by soaking small pieces of bread with a thick crust in salted water and then mashing the softened bread into a paste, adding the required amount of water. The mixture should then be brought slowly to the boil while being stirred constantly, and bit by bit finely grated cheese added together with salt and pepper. After the cheese is added, the soup should not be cooked more than 10 minutes.

Quite a favourite dish is made of chestnuts and smoked pork. The chestnuts are soaked overnight and then cooked until soft in salted water together with the smoked pork.

A universally popular supper among the peasants is made of boiled potatoes eaten in the skins with cheese, accompanied by a bottle of wine. Naturally in the farming districts of central Switzerland, cheese is always very popular. Central Switzerland does not grow wines, but on the other hand, the Canton of Zug produces the famous Kirsch.

(To be continued)

E.M.

NOTICE

Concerning the Swiss Insurance Law of 1947.

The Swiss Federal Old-Age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance, which has been in force since January 1st, 1948, and which is compulsory for the inhabitants of Switzerland, is also available, under certain circumstances, to Swiss living abroad who wish to participate.

Those Swiss nationals who have been insured in Switzerland, but who have moved to New Zealand and who want to join the voluntary insurance are at liberty to enrol, provided they are properly registered with the Swiss Consulate and that they sign a formal Application "Beitritts-erklärung" within six months from the date of their release in Switzerland from the compulsory insurance.

Those Swiss citizens, including dual nationals, who reside in New Zealand and who have reached, or will reach, the age of 30 years on or before December 31st, 1953, and who wish to enrol for the Swiss Old-Age, Widows' and Orphans' Insurance, must sign the application form by the end of this year. Naturally their registration (matriculation) with the Consulate has to be in order or taken care of first.

The annual premiums are payable until the age of 65 years. Persons gainfully occupied are liable to contribute 4 per cent. of their income in cash and in kind. The Old-Age pensions are paid out to single persons from the age of 65 years onwards, and in cases of married couples, to the husband from the age of 65 years, and to the wife from 60 years.

Persons interested in this matter should contact the Consulate, whereupon a pamphlet (at their request either in German, French, or English) giving further detail in this matter, as well as an application form, will be furnished them.

Consulate of Switzerland,

P.O. Box 386,

Wellington, C.I.

THE NEW LAW ON SWISS CITIZENSHIP

Some important points resulting from this law, which came into force on January 1st, 1953, are the following:—

- (a) Loss of Swiss Citizenship Through Marriage (Section 9).