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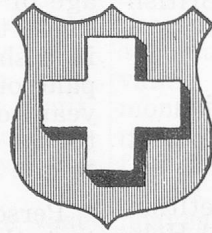
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# HELVETIA

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17th YEAR.

NOVEMBER, 1953.

AUCKLAND.

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### International Tourist and Hotel Trades Exhibition

The work of organising the big international Tourist and Hotel Trades Exhibition, to open at Berne next spring, has made great strides. The committee has sanctioned a plan for constructions involving an estimated outlay of SFr 2,000,000 towards the building of the halls and the arrangement of the site. Operations will start on 1st October with a view to finishing the approaches, avenues and lawns before winter sets in, and allowing the gardeners to set to work in good time.

The Swiss bakers, confectioners, butchers and grocers will show their ware within the framework of the culinary exhibition, which, it should be noted, is to comprise a stand where the public may compare the various kinds of bread consumed in Switzerland, and maybe those abroad as well; this is bound to elicit much interest. There is also to be a section reserved for modern alimentation and alimentary systems, including a dietetic shop, a vegetarian restaurant, and displays of alimentary produce. Another section promising to be equally enlightening and interesting will be that devoted to wines, which is to contain a rational representation of all viticultural and oenological questions, cellars such as are required for storing and otherwise handling wines, and stands where the best home and foreign vinages may be tasted.

The tourist section will show the diverse modern means of transport; and a hotel in full swing, complete with lobby, between ten and thirteen rooms of different categories, a linen store, kitchens, etc.

Furthermore, the committee of this great Bernese exhibition are promoting a literary competition of an international character open to authors, writers and editors of all countries, no matter what their language. A panel will judge books containing culinary information and recipes, books on beverages, gastronomic writings and other works related to the hotel trade.

### Additions to the Famous Fleet of "Red Arrow" Railcars

Worthy additions to the fleet of the famous "Red Arrow" railcars, well known to visitors to Switzerland, are two new railcars, being put into service by the Swiss Federal Railways. The first has already been tried out by the Swiss Press and has been the subject of enthusiastic reports.

Each accommodates 123 people seated, which will be welcomed by organisers of group excursions. At each end of the railcar is a spacious compartment containing 20 upholstered seats while in the centre are two smoking saloons (each with 18 seats). A buffet and other services are also provided.

One important feature is the clear view afforded by the large windows. Partitions between compartments are also transparent so as not to interfere with visibility. Fluorescent lighting is installed, and there is an automatic electric heating system which results in constant temperature. The railcars can travel at a maximum speed of 78 miles an hour (125 km/h).

### World-famous Alpine Climber and Guide Attends the Everest Reception at Buckingham Palace

Raymond Lambert, the world-famous Alpine climber and guide from Geneva, attended the Everest reception at Buckingham Palace as a guest of the Queen. There he met Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa "Tiger" Tensing, conquerors of the world's highest mountain, who told him that part of their success was due to the help he had given when the historic climb was being planned. For it was Lambert, also with Tensing as his companion, who during the Swiss assault last year climbed to within 200 yards of Everest's summit, only to be driven back by bad

weather. The lessons he learned were passed on to Colonel Sir John Hunt, leader of the British team.

### First Prize in Window Dressing Competition Held in Rome Won by Swiss National Tourist Office

First prize in a window dressing competition held in Rome on behalf of the International Help the Children Fund went to the Swiss National Tourist Office. The window of the SNTTO's Rome office depicted the facilities offered to families and school children by the Swiss Railways, and the centrepiece was a poster by Pierre Monnerat. Also on view was a working model of a Swiss electric railway. In addition to the first prize the SNTTO was awarded a silver medal.

### Schiller's "William Tell" Played by Local Company

The first performance of Schiller's "William Tell," which is given every year in Altdorf, centre of Switzerland's authentic William Tell country, has taken place with great success. The five-act play is being performed by a local company under the direction of W. J. Ammann. The cost of seats is very moderate, and there are special rates for schools and other groups. Full details can be obtained on application to the Tellspielbureau, Altdorf, Switzerland.

## 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 "Beitrittserklärung" 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.

## OUR FATHERLAND (Continued)

### CENTRAL SWITZERLAND AND LUCERNE

The cradle of the Confederation, the three original Cantons, the founders of Switzerland, undoubtedly take pride of place in the hearts of all Swiss. During the last fifty years, Switzerland's heavy defences were built around the Gotthard and its approaches. And it was here that throughout the long centuries, Switzerland's history was centred and built up to what it is today. Here in the very centre of our Fatherland is the peaceful meadow known as the Rutli, where, history proves beyond doubt the verbal agreement took place between the "forest cantons" of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, which led to the league of August 1st, 1291, against the rule of the Habsburgs and finally to the formation of the Swiss Confederation.

Ours is a land of mixed sternness and beauty, but in no part of it has nature bestowed her gifts with a more varied and unsparing hand than in Central Switzerland, the country round the famous lake of Lucerne, the lovely valleys, the mountains which crowd along the Gotthard line as far as Andermatt. A traveller passing through today will find it hard to realise the bitter and long struggles which once raged round these peaceful scenes with their sunny hills, rich pastures and flower-strewn meadows. Yet in these central cantons lived those stout clans of hardy peasants who again and again successfully defied the greatest powers in Europe, maintained in the name of freedom and democracy their independence, and so laid the foundation of a peaceful Confederation which forms the Switzerland of today. This is indeed the real heart of Switzerland—the cradle of an ancient race.