

News from Switzerland

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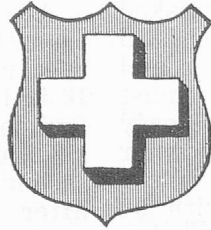
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AUCKLAND.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

A Swiss-New Zealand Wedding

The wedding of Mr. Fridolin Wehrli to Patricia Eleanor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Hunter, of Khandallah, Wellington, was celebrated on October 17th, in the lovely old English Church, St. Barnabas, at Khandallah. The bride wore a gorgeous Swiss organdy dress with a long train, a Queen Anne bonnet with long veil, and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley. The church was also decorated with these traditional flowers of English weddings. The young couple looked extremely happy on that fine spring day.

After the church ceremony the bride's parents gave a reception at their home, which was attended by over 50 guests. Many toasts were offered and everybody wished the young couple a long and happy married life.

Mr. and Mrs. Wehrli then left for their honeymoon, to be spent in the South Island. When they return they will be able to move into their own home, which Mr. Wehrli planned and constructed himself.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Swiss Society for Public Welfare

The Swiss Society for Public Welfare will soon hold its yearly meeting in Geneva. This Society was founded in 1810 in Zurich and is especially devoted to the support of professional education, social aid and popular education. Their first task was to build homes for foundlings, but the Society has also helped people who have suffered from natural catastrophes and the young and old, whenever aid was necessary. The Society has worked out plans for family vacations and they have constructed with their own funds small vacation houses for workers and their families.

More Safety for Cyclists

A new electric tail-light for bicycles has just been put on the market by a well-known Swiss firm. This new device consists of a special white lens which illuminates the back and the hand signs of the bicyclist, and a red light with a strong light reflector which can be seen from a great distance. The new invention not only provides more safety for cyclists but also gives warning to car drivers at night. It is very moderate in price and will certainly contribute to increased safety in night traffic.

New Swiss Invention

Among other Swiss inventions which have just been placed on the market, a new device for preventing car thefts may be mentioned. The mechanism is based on the vibration principle and will give alarm as soon as the car or any of its parts is tampered with. This safety gadget can also be used to protect offices, homes, or public places.

No Fear of Coal or Steel Shortage

In order to make secure her ability to obtain natural resources Switzerland recently formed a special delegation for the European Coal and Steel Pool. The question of obtaining natural resources was also discussed a short while ago by representatives of several Swiss industrial organisations. As it appears now, Switzerland need have no fear of a coal and steel shortage, but there is some question about the future satisfaction of her needs. Discrimination and the "double Prix" are still a threat to the Swiss machine industry. Switzerland does not possess enough natural resources to meet all of her demands, but she cannot allow her economic situation to be endangered by new factors which are arising in the field. The newly appointed delegation is expected to protect Switzerland's interests in the Pool.

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