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NEW PROVISIONS IN THE SWISS LAW ON THE OLD AGE, WIDOWS', AND ORPHANS' INSURANCE

The Consulate of Switzerland wishes to draw attention once more to certain new provisions as contained in the Decree of the Swiss Federal Council, dated April 9th, 1954, with respect to Swiss nationals residing abroad.

A woman who had lost her Swiss citizenship through **marriage to an alien** before 1953, but has since regained it by virtue of the new law on Swiss nationality, is at liberty to join the Swiss Old Age Insurance as a voluntary member. The adherence would have to be declared within one year from the date of the reintegration into Swiss citizenship. However, if the reintegration was granted before January 1st, 1954, the term for enrolment expires on December 31st, 1954. (Sec. 8.)

A Swiss woman who has become widowed or **divorced** after December 31st, 1951, has the opportunity to enrol in the said insurance. Such a person would have to declare her adherence within one year from the date of her husband's death or from the date of the divorce. For a woman who became widowed or divorced between December 31st, 1951, and January 1st, 1954, the term for adhering to the said insurance extends to December 31st, 1954. (Sec. 9.)

A woman who has been insured while still **single** may continue her membership provided that she signs a new declaration within one year after her marriage. (Sec. 10.)

A Swiss citizen of either sex may declare his or her adherence to the insurance at **any time prior to attaining the age of 31 years**. (Sec. 7.)

Any Swiss national or "Dual" national interested in this matter may obtain further information by contacting the **CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND**, P.O. Box 386, WELLINGTON, C.1.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

International Course of Road Traffic Technique in Switzerland

On September 20th, Mr. Etter, Federal Councillor, inaugurated, on the Burgenstock, above

the Lake of Lucerne, the Second International Course of Road Traffic Technique. More than three hundred persons took part in it; they came from twenty-two different countries, most of them European, to which must be added Egypt, French North Africa, the United States of America and Turkey.

This course was intended to provide for an interchange of views among engineers specialising in roads and bridges, road traffic engineers and police officers—in short, among all those who, in one way or another, are engaged in traffic control and in road building and designing.

200 Years Control of Precious Metals

A rather special kind of anniversary is being celebrated in the Swiss watchmaking trade. It was in October, 1754, that is to say, two hundred years ago, that the first law establishing the control of precious metals came into force in the Principality of Neuchâtel. It imposed upon the craftsmen working on precious metals the obligation to submit the articles that they had manufactured, to be assayed and officially stamped by a sworn assayer. This measure proved excellent for the watchmaking industry, which was then at its beginnings. Its aim was to institute honesty in the trade and to give every guarantee to the purchaser. It is the Bureau for the Control of Precious Metals, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, which was founded 66 years later, that is to say, in 1820, which is now celebrating the anniversary of the promulgation of this law, by publishing a historical booklet. This gives it also the opportunity to review its own past. Thus we learn that during the course of the last 34 years, the Bureau has stamped nearly 19,000,000 watch cases. This is a truly eloquent figure, which shows us that the Bureau for the Control of Precious Metals in La Chaux-de-Fonds has contributed to an appreciable measure to the maintenance of the confidence which exists throughout the world in the Swiss watch.

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Mr. E. Gilgen,
P.O. Box 2875, Auckland, C.1.

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