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Fiftieth Anniversary of Simplon Tunnel

It was on the 1st of June, 1906, that the Swiss and the Italian railways opened up for traffic the Simplon Tunnel and Simplon Line, which were rapidly called upon to play a big role in communications between the West and the Near East.

The piercing of the Simplon Tunnel, the work on which lasted for more than seven years and had often to be carried out under very difficult conditions, owing to the hardness of the rock, to the high temperature and to the numerous incursions of both hot and cold water, caused a great sensation, not only in Switzerland, but also in Europe, and, in fact, in the whole world. Italy and Switzerland have decided to celebrate together, the fiftieth anniversary of this tunnel, which still remains the longest in the world. The Italian Government and Provincial Authorities, the Swiss Federal Authorities and those of the Cantons concerned, and the various economic and tourist associations will join with the railways of the two countries in celebrating this anniversary. A Swiss Official Day will take place in Lausanne, on the 17th of May next, and on the following day, there will be an Italian Official Day, in Milan. Finally, the President of the Swiss Confederation and the President of the Italian Republic will meet at Brigue, on the 19th of May.

Europe's Longest Aerial Cableway

After five years of preparatory work, the tourist resort of Zweisimmen, in the Bernese Oberland, has been authorised by the Federal Authorities to build an aerial cableway which will probably be the longest in the world. What is being planned is to overcome a difference in level of about 3000 feet by means of two cableways, the total length of which will be 3 miles. It is intended to operate them in summer as well as in winter. The authors of the project stress the fact that their aim is in no way to transform the character of the resort to which the tourists are accustomed, but, on the contrary, to preserve its own particular quality.

The Next Swiss National Exhibition: Lausanne, 1964

Lausanne, Switzerland.—In accordance with tradition, a Swiss National Exhibition is held once every twenty-five years. The last three events of this kind were: Geneva in 1896, Berne in 1914 and Zurich in 1939. For the next exposition, scheduled for 1964, Lausanne headed the list of Swiss cities applying for the honour of playing host to this national show of efficiency, and its candidature has just been approved by Switzerland's Federal Council. The authorities of the Canton of Vaud and the City of Lausanne, a few hours after this announcement was made by the Federal Government, invited the press to

the Villa Mon-Repos, headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, for a first briefing on the large-scale preparations which are already in progress in view of the 1964 exhibition. State Councillor G. Despland, who is the Vice-President of the Swiss National Tourist Office, was appointed chairman of the provisional committee. His duties will be those of his predecessor, Dr. h. c. Armin Meili, the President of the Swiss National Tourist Office and noted architect, who was the principal organiser and creator of the successful 1939 Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich.

NOTICE

The Consulate wishes to inform compatriots that a new Fr.20.-banknote of the following description has been issued by the Swiss National Bank:—

Size: 155 x 85 mm.

Prevailing colour: Blue

Front: The portrait of General Dufour (1787-1875), furthermore printed in large characters the figure 20 framed by multi-coloured ornaments, as well as by a blue guilloche with the Swiss National Emblem (white cross). In addition, the figure 20 appears in a smaller size in every one of the four corners.

Back: Silvery bluish thistle, furthermore the figure 20 surrounded by a twin-coloured guilloche.

The Fr.20.-banknotes bearing a portrait of the head of Pestalozzi which have been in use till now, can be exchanged for new ones up to March 31st, 1976, at the Swiss National Bank.

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