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CATERING AND THE RAILWAYS

At present the establishments leased out on contract by the Swiss Federal Railways, together with their related services comprise 68 station buffets, 450 kiosks selling newspapers, provisions, flowers, tobacco, etc., 20 hairdressing-salons, 18 garages and petrol pumps, as well as station cinemas, telephone booths, slot machines, dining-car and sleeping-car management, and itinerant sales. No other railway company in Europe places so many facilities at the disposal of its passengers. Swiss station buffets total seating for some 20,000. The biggest station buffet in Switzerland is the one in Zurich; each year it consumes 172 metric tons of meat, as well as 16 tons of pork-butcher products, 870,000 sausages and over 17 tons of fish. Its patrons also eat 275 tons of potatoes, 130 tons of apples, bananas and oranges, 3,300,000 small cakes, and 40 tons of bread; in addition they drink 440,000 litres of coffee, 380,000 litres of milk, 100,000 litres of apple and grape juice, 780,000 litres of beer, 220,000 litres of wine from the barrel, 11,000 litres of wine in bottles and 560,000 bottles of mineral water. These figures should be multiplied by five to gain a rough idea of the total annual consumption in Swiss Federal Railway station buffets throughout the country. In its 40 dining-cars and buffets, the Dining Car Company last year served about 400,000 breakfasts, approximately 540,000 mid-day and evening meals and some 750,000 coffees and teas.

Laugh a little . . .

"It is most annoying, every time when I park in town I find a traffic cop ticket on the screen wiper."

"Why don't you do as I do!"

"Well, what do you do?"

"Simply leave the screen wiper running."

* * *

The traffic cop catches a lady cyclist, who had ignored the red traffic light, and asks her reproachfully: "Did you not hear me whistle?"

"Sure, but I already have an appointment."

* * *

Kobi was in town with his bicycle. "They have something new—special light signals against noise," he tells his cronies over the nightly glass of beer in the pub. "When I crossed a green light everything was quiet, but as soon as I passed a red light they were allowed to blow their horns again."

—NEBELSPALTER