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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton Swiss Club

Please note our next evening will be held on the second Sunday, May 9, in the Old Boys Rugby Hall.

All members will receive a plan of the location of our new premises. Please come along and tell us how you like it.

Wellington Swiss Club

The film "Uli der Knecht," based on a novel by Jeremias Gottleif, and spoken in Swiss dialect, will be shown on Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m. in the Cinema Rivoli, Riddiford Street, Newtown, Wellington.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

BIG FOREIGN ORDER PLACED IN SWITZERLAND

The National Union of Sugar Producers in Mexico has entrusted the Swiss engineering firm of Buhler Bros. with the installation of a large plant for storing raw sugar and loading it on ships. The project includes the construction of a hangar in the port of Vera Cruz, big enough to hold 40,000 tons of raw sugar, as well as the necessary wharves for loading ships. The sugar is unloaded from railway cars and trucks at the rate of 400 tons an hour, while loading into ships is scheduled to take place at a rate of 800 tons an hour.

In addition to the main plant, the Swiss firm will supply 17 conveyor belts of a total length of 2800 feet and a capacity of 400 to 800 tons an hour; six conveyor belts of a total length of 1310 feet and a capacity of 400 tons an hour each and one travelling loader with a mobile outrigger and a trimmer with telescopic tube for capacities up to 800 tons an hour; a second loading tower is to be supplied later. The new plant will be put into operation this year; it is the third to be ordered in Latin America from the same Swiss engineering firm. (OSEC).

CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN BRAZIL

A Catholic institute in Lucerne (Switzerland) has undertaken to found the first training centre for social welfare workers at Goiana, capital of a particularly impoverished state in central Brazil, 40 per cent of the population being undernourished and infant mortality exceeding 50 per cent. The new training centre, which will be equipped with a boarding school with beds for 60, will train some 120 welfare workers of both sexes as well as domestic science instructresses; the centre will be run by a Swiss woman missionary who has lived in Brazil for many years.

The municipal authorities have shown great interest in this scheme. In view of the importance and scope of the work planned, the total cost of which is estimated at one and a half million Swiss francs, the Swiss government has decided to contribute a sum of S.Fr. 400,000 from the Swiss Confederation's new fund for technical co-operation with countries in the process of development. (OSEC).

CENTENNIAL OF THE AXEN HIGHWAY

On December 8, 1864, the Axen Highway between Fluelen and Brunnen was opened to traffic for the first time. Up to then, the trip had been made by ship on the Lake of Lucerne. The new road represented the final link in Switzerland's north-south highway network.

The initiative for construction of the Axen Highway had come in 1859 from the Federal Military Department, based on national defence requirements, and the military expert on the project was no less a personage than General G. H. Dufour. From the plans submitted, preference was given to those which allowed for construction of a future railway line between Brunen and Fluelen, since the Gotthard Line project had already been foreseen.

Completed in 1864, the road met the nation's needs for seventy years, until modern automotive traffic made an expansion necessary.

The Axen Highway was widened in 1939, in the process of which the world-famous Axen Gallery was circumvented by means of a new tunnel. Since then, a second renovation was carried out (in the 1950s), and today there is already talk of a second road to take some of the pressure off the present one. The automatic traffic-counters recorded a peak total of 367,000 vehicles on the road during July 1964, with a daily average of 21,212 (on August 1); highest one-hour count was 1521.

Although there are plans for another highway on the left shore of the Lake of Lucerne, as part of Autobahn N-2, the Axen Highway is almost certain to retain its importance as a traffic artery leading to Canton Uri. For this reason, studies are being made for a portion of the road to be further expanded.