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~~~~~ Forthcoming Events ~~~~~

Auckland Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Swiss Club will be held on Saturday, 23rd April, in the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Road.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Pine Lodge on the third Sunday in April (17th April, 1966) at 8 p.m., and not on the 10th as previously stated.



CONGRATULATIONS . . .

to Mr and Mrs Rinaldo Rust, a daughter; to Mr and Mrs Franz Krieger, a son; to Mr and Mrs Brian Schnuriger, a son; and to Mr and Mrs Louis Schnuriger, also a son.



~~~~~ News from Switzerland ~~~~~

SWITZERLAND AND THE AUTOMATIC DRIVING OF TRAINS

In spite of the existence of a certain number of experimental devices on the railway lines of various countries, the automatic driving of trains is still a new field. The management of the Bodensee-Toggenburg railway has the merit of being the first in Switzerland to have introduced a regular service of trains driven entirely automatically, which will make it possible to gain invaluable experience in the field and contribute to progress in the running of railways.

They are shuttle-trains in which the normal equipment with manually operated switches is partially replaced by an automatic device made by Brown, Boveri and Co., in Baden (Switzerland) carrying out the following operations: speed setting, i.e. maintenance of the pre-set speed whatever the slope and load, with gradual acceleration, deceleration and braking according to a previously set programme, reduction and restoration of speed in accordance with the demands of the journey (magnets placed on the track automatically operate the reduction and restoration of the set speed, in case of work on the line and other factors) and finally automatic braking at the destination. This braking, which is also controlled by magnets on the track, brings the train to a stop in the station at the required spot, without any help at all from the enginedriver.

The new equipment frees the driver from a number of manual operations; he can thus devote all his attention to watching the line. In this way the automatic driving device helps greatly to increase the safety of trains, particularly in the case of fog or

snow. It represents an important factor in the running of railways, in view of the present tendency to increase speeds and to use main lines to full capacity. (OSEC)

REVENUE FROM SWISS AGRICULTURE

According to the provisional figures published by the Swiss Farmers Secretariat, the gross revenue from the Swiss agriculture in 1965 amounted to S.Fr. 3,969 million, i.e. practically the same amount as in 1964 and made up as follows: vegetable production S.Fr. 875 million, equals 24% (cereals, 6.5%, arboriculture 5.7%, vinegrowing 4.3%, market gardening 3.3%, potatoes 2.6%); animal production S.Fr. 2,821 million equals 76% (milk 34%, cattle for fattening 19%, pigs 18%, poultry 4%). (OSEC)

STRIKES IN SWITZERLAND IN 1965

In 1965, there were three collective labour disputes in Switzerland, only two which involved a stoppage of work exceeding one day. The third lasted only a few hours and involved workers in foreign firms. The two disputes lasting longer than a day (compared with only one dispute in 1964) each concerned a single firm.

The number of workers affected amounted to 23 in all (350 the previous year), which represented a loss of 163 working days (4,550 in 1964). From these figures it can be seen that the labour peace introduced into Switzerland more than a quarter of a century ago still holds good. (OSEC)

SWISS WATCHMAKING EXPORTS

The last annual report of the Swiss Watchmaking Federation (Swiss Federation of Associations of Watchmaking Manufacturers), approved by the general meeting, has just been published. It shows that from October 1964 to September 1965, Swiss exports of watches and movements amounted to 51 million items valued at S.Fr. 1567 million, which represents an increase of 9.2% in quantity and 10% in value compared with the previous period.

The geographical distribution of the exports has changed slightly: consolidation in Australasia, considerable recovery in Africa, decrease in Asia, advance in the Middle East, stabilisation in South America, increase in North America and, finally, growth in Europe, particularly with regard to the mean value of the watches and movements sold. (OSEC)

FROM WILLIAM TELL TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The cross-bow, the legendary Swiss hero William Tell's trusty weapon, was chosen a long time ago as the distinctive label to guarantee the Swiss origin of the products to which it is affixed. In the light of the present economic boom and the efforts being made everywhere with a view to the liberalisation of trade and the integration of markets, it may be wondered whether the use

of a national trade mark is still indicated. However, not only is competition becoming increasingly keen in the international level but it has been noticed that foreign buyers are glad to find the cross-bow trade mark on products, representing as it does a guarantee of traditional Swiss quality.

The existence and the use of the cross-bow trade mark on both home and foreign markets are thus completely justified.

At the end of 1965, the Office for the Swiss Mark of Origin (the Cross-bow) numbered 1,511 individual members and 43 collective members (associations). The Office therefore continues to fulfill its task of information in Switzerland and abroad by means of advertisements, articles in the press, exhibitions at fairs, shop-window displays, etc. (OSEC)

SWISS CHOCOLATE EXPORTS

In 1965, the Swiss chocolate industry increased its sales both at home and on foreign markets. Thirty per cent of Switzerland's exports of chocolate go to Germany and 20% to the United States. Exports to EFTA countries have increased slightly; sales in Great Britain totalled about 8% of the total export of this branch. (OSEC)

SWITZERLAND'S FIRST AIRLINE: 55 YEARS AGO

Lucerne:—Headquarters for summer vacationers in Switzerland, the city of Lucerne is also frequently referred to as "the heart of the nation." But few people are aware that it was also the birthplace of Swiss pleasure flying. More than fifty-five years ago, on February 10, 1910, in an appeal for subscriptions to stock certificates, the city's Tourist Office wrote: "Fellow Citizens! The great moment has arrived to make of our dear Lucerne the site of the first Swiss airship station."

Along with the Zeppelin Organisation, German Airways Ltd., "Aero Lucerne" became the world's first commercial aerial undertaking. Between 1910 and 1913 it gave sightseeing flights in airplanes and airships to 827 passengers without a single accident. But the enterprise's financial returns were so poor that it collapsed before World War 1.

Today, the historic beginnings of Swiss commercial aviation are commemorated by photographs, documents and posters in the Swiss museum of Transportation in Lucerne.

NEW SWISS AIR PURIFIER

The Swiss "Minotaur" air purifier, which won a gold medal at the 1965 Inventors Fair in Brussels, is now manufactured industrially and offers an effective means of overcoming the pollution of the air in various industries such as watchmaking, metallurgy, chemical and food products, in foundries, spinning mills, quarries,

etc. The "Minotaur" is a universal machine for capturing dust, vapours, and in general all substances in suspension in the air. The capturing process combines hydraulic, cyconic and centrifugal means. The flow of the gaseous content passes through seven different cycles, producing really astonishing results. Whether the dust is heavy or light, mineral or vegetable, it is caught and kept in the apparatus until evacuated.

The uses of this appliance are manifold; it is really suited for removing dust given off by industrial activities as well as for capturing the oil and solvent spray produced by screw-cutting and spray-gun painting. Several dozens of this appliance are already in operation in industrial premises where they are giving complete satisfaction. (OSEC)

MODERN GARAGE WILL HELP PARKING PROBLEM

Zurich's most modern parking garage recently opened on Farberstrasse. Its name "Parkhaus Utoquai," indicates its proximity to the Utoquai which runs along the shore of the Zurich Lake. The complex includes a large service station and an automatic car-wash installation. The 200 parking places, created by private initiative, will help alleviate the city's shortage of parking space.

THE SWISS AT THE INVENTORS SALON

The 15th International Salon of Inventors held in Brussels from March 11th to 20th, with 20 countries taking part, was attended by some 150,000 buyers and visitors from both near and far.

It is interesting to note that out of 1,000 new inventions presented at the Fair, 100 of them were the work of Swiss citizens, which places Switzerland well up among those who took part, i.e. 3rd after France and Italy, both considerably larger countries.

(OSEC)

APARTMENT BUILDING IN SWITZERLAND

In the 65 towns in Switzerland which the Federal Office for Industry, Arts and Crafts and Labour in Berne covers in its statistics, a total of 22,048 new apartments was built last year (not taking into account conversions), compared with 20,873 in 1964.

In the five biggest towns, a total of 8,001 apartments was built as opposed to 7,468 the previous year; the number of building permits however has decreased. Even so, 20,660 permits were granted, 8,001 of them in five big towns. (OSEC)