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Forthcoming Events

● HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The Hamilton Swiss Club **Annual Picnic** will be held on Sunday, 23rd February, combined with the Society Shooting Competition, at Mr & Mrs Risi's residence, Ngaruawahia.

● TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB

The **Annual Picnic** will be held at Te Ngutu Domain, Ahipaipa Road, Okaiawa, on Sunday, 9th February at 11 a.m. Visitors will be made very welcome.

● WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

The Taranaki Swiss Social Club will hold their Annual Picnic on February 9th, 1969. Some members of the Wellington Swiss Club will go up there and camp on the picnic grounds on the 8th and join in the picnic. If you would like to come too, please get in touch with Mr Frick.

Camping at Riversdale: February 22nd - 23rd, 1969.

News from Switzerland

GOLD MEDAL FOR SWISS TIMEKEEPING

The organising Committee of the 19th Olympic Games decided to award a gold medal to the Swiss watch firm of Omega in token of their gratitude for the excellent work it performed in timing the 19 Olympic events in the Mexico programme. The timekeeping team comprised 45 specialists using over 600 electrical and electronic timing and recording apparatuses. (osec)

EVOLUTION OF THE SWISS TEXTILE INDUSTRY

During the last ten years, the Swiss textile industry has become one of the branches of the economy in which capital plays the most important role. This evolution is due to the growing rationalisation and mechanisation of factories, which calls for much heavier investments on machinery that will permit a large increase in output accompanied by a saving in manpower.

During the last ten years, it has been possible to reduce the number of spindles in the textile industry from 350,000 to 128,000 and the number of looms from 3000 to 1630, with a drop in personnel of 14%. Output, on the other hand, has increased on an average by 5%, the average wages of the workers by 85% and exports by 70% and more. (osec)

SWITZERLAND'S CONSUMPTION OF TIMBER

In Switzerland, timber conversion firms each year consume about 3 million cu.m. of timber, two thirds of which are accounted for by the sawmills and a fifth by the paper mills. 87% of the timber consumed is Swiss and 13% comes from abroad. It is mainly the paper mills and the veneer factories that require foreign timber; they absorb on an average 50 to 70% of the tonnage imported.

The annual average of Swiss timber imports, over the last few years, was 900,000 tons. Thus timber comes third in quantity, in the Swiss imports statistics, immediately after liquid fuels and coal. If to this amount are added the 100,000 tons that are exported, it can be seen that timber represents a quantity of one million tons in Switzerland's foreign trade. (osec)

TYPING IN JAPAN

“Kanamoji” is a shortened form of Japanese writing devised for typing, which is more and more widely used in business, government administration and schools in Japan. At the 15th Kanamoji Typing Contest in Tokyo, the three prizewinners all used Hermes typewriters. In the team award, the first two schools had also adopted Swiss Hermes typewriters with Kanamoji characters. (osce)

A REMARKABLE STAMP COLLECTION

Opened in 1907, the Swiss Post Office Museum, which has known its ups and downs, now contains the largest collection of postage stamps in Switzerland. A perfect system of steel cabinets with sliding and pivoting panels, especially designed by a Swiss manufacturer, has room for the display of 220,000 stamps. Of the 20 cabinets containing display panels, 10 house the general collection of foreign postage stamps, which is probably unique of its kind for it contains the postage stamps of about 560 countries and territories.

Other special cabinets offer the space for temporary displays. Needless to say these treasures are protected against fire and theft by a number of highly perfected safety devices. (osec)

AERIAL CABLEWAYS IN SWITZERLAND

Whereas in 1938 there were only six aerial cableways in the whole of Switzerland licenced by the Confederation, in 1967 the figure amounted to 259. To these should be added 63 aerial cableways with a cantonal licence and 737 ski-tows of one kind or another. At the same time the number of passengers transported has also increased to a very large extent. In 1967, the Federal licenced installations carried 47.1 million people, i.e. over five times as many as in 1948. No other means of public transport can show such an increase in passengers in the last few years. (osec)