

A project for new Swiss bank notes

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Building Workers (29,423); the Christian Union of Engineering Workers (27,623).

The Union of Civil Servants launched a campaign to improve the safety of the working man. There are 1000 industrial accidents a day in Switzerland, at least one of them is fatal and 20 lead to the partial or total invalidity of their victims. Only a quarter of Swiss firms belong to the Swiss Accident Assurance Fund, which last year had to lay out 419 million francs to the 75,000 member firms. These accidents cost the economy some 1.5 billion francs a year in lost production.

The Union of Civil Servants believe that trade unions have an important role to play in ensuring the safety of industrial workers and in persuading employers into adopting measures to improve physical and hygienic conditions of work. Very little has been done in Switzerland so far in the field of work medicine.

The solution of industrial accidents, which already enjoys a complete legal framework, will lie in the willingness of large firms to employ doctors and specialists on the shop floor to implement the better conditions of work. It would mean an expenditure perhaps not directly related to productivity but which would soon repay itself by better individual performance.

A Project For New Swiss Bank Notes

The first bank notes issued by the Swiss National Bank remained in circulation for 45 years. The present series of 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 10,000 franc notes have been in circulation since 1956 and 1957.

Now, after only 15 years of circulation, these bank notes are to be substituted by a new series which will include a 5000 franc note.

Mr Hay, Director of the Swiss National Bank, explained that the change was necessary in order to discourage forgeries and to keep pace with technical development. A smaller format was also felt necessary, as the notes above 100 francs are inconveniently large. The future 10,000 franc note will have the width of the present 20 franc note.

The Swiss National Bank had decided that the face of these notes should carry the portrait of a Swiss scientist. It had chosen 16 possible candidates.

Among them were: Leonard Euler, the 18th century Basle mathematician; Morace-Benedict de Saussure, the Geneva 18th century geologist and meteorologist; Konrad Gessner, 16th century physician and naturalist; Francesco Borromini, a 16th century architect from Ticino; August Forel, a 19th century psychiatrist and entomologist and the physicist and explorer Auguste Piccard.

The National Bank invited 14 well known artists to choose

one of the 16 proposed scientists and design a pattern for the back of the bank note bearing some relation to the life and work of the chosen scientist. A special jury examined the drafts presented by these artists and awarded the first prize to Roger Pfund of Ostermundigen, who picked the mathematician Leonard Euler.

The basic themes and designs of the future series of seven bank notes has therefore been adopted by this jury, whose choice was based on both aesthetical and technical considerations. There will now be five years of detailed and technical work before the new notes are distributed to the banks. They will have a watermark of the portrait they bear on the left-hand upper corner of their face to make imitation impossible.

An important novelty will be the printing of the normal indications in four languages. On the recommendation of the authorities of Graubunden, the Swiss National Bank has decided to use "Surmiran", the Rheto-Romanic dialect of the Oberhalbstein.

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: SUNDAY, 4th JUNE, 1972
(Sunday of Queens Birthday Weekend)

Place and Time: NEWMARKET CLUB, TEED STREET,
NEWMARKET, AT 1 P.M.

A G E N D A —

Welcome by the President
Apologies
Appointment of Scrutineers
Minutes of last A.G.M.
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Helvetia Report
Shooting Report
Group Travel
Election of Officers
General Business
Venue of next A.G.M.

Would all members please ensure that they attend this Annual General Meeting of THEIR SOCIETY and advise the Auckland Club as soon as possible of their intentions, specially if they come from further afield.