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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

YOUTH AND RAILROAD

This year two extraordinary inexpensive railroad passes will be made available on a trial basis to get young people more interested in railroad travel. From the beginning of March until the end of November, 1972, young people up to the age of 21 may have the popular half-fare pass at very low cost. The half-fare pass is to be sold for 20 (instead of 50) Swiss francs, valid for one month of travel on most railroads, ships and buses in Switzerland. Special supplementary tickets enable the holder to use the youth-pass as a general pass on certain days of his own choice. A supplementary ticket with three general pass sheets in second class costs 50 Swiss francs, with five general pass sheets, at 70 Swiss francs.

"Inter-Rail 72": In addition to the "Rail Europ Junior" (REJ) passes already issued in previous years, which entitle the holder up to the age of 21 to a 25% reduction on international train tickets, during the 50th anniversary year of the International Railway Union (UIC) young people will be offered a pass called "Inter-Rail 72" which enables them to travel all over Europe at an

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unusually low cost. Young people up to the age of 21 may buy a monthly European general railroad pass for 275 Swiss francs, which entitles the holder to any number of trips in second class cars of most European railroads and to the purchase of tickets at half-fare on the Swiss Federal Railways as well as several Swiss private railroads. This privilege is also granted from the beginning of March until the end of November.

FACTS ABOUT SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLANDS universities shared in the conflicts handed down from the days when the Helvetic republic was first established. In 1832 Basel's flourishing Hochschule was raised to the ranks of a university, while that at Zurich already existed since 1823. The gymnasium of Berne, originally established under the teaching of Ulrich Zwingli, developed, in 1934, into a university with all the faculties. As early as 1586 Lausanne had been a noted school for the education of Protestant ministers but it was not until 1806 that the chairs of philosophy and law were established, while those of science and literature were soon added, and later still, that of medicine. Finally in 1891 Lausanne was constituted a university. At Geneva the famous academy of the 16th and 17th century became a university in 1876. With this was also incorporated an earlier school of science. Fribourg university, founded in 1889, began with only two faculties, those of law and philosophy, to which came one of theology in the following year.

- Women were admitted to lectures in Zurich in 1872, and later at Berne and Geneva, and in 1892 they were permitted to lecture.

- Architects study at the Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich, the "Ecole Polytechnique de l'Universite de Lausanne" or at the "Ecole d'Architecture de l'Universite de Geneve" for 4 to 5 years.

- The libraries of the universities of Basel, Berne, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, and the Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich, hold almost one third of the collected books in Switzerland.

- Zurich's Federal Institute of Technology was founded in 1855. Among its famous pupils were Wilhelm Roentgen and Albert Einstein.

- Lausanne's university was an academy since 1537. Among its former teachers were Theodore Beza, Conrad Gessner, J.-P. de Crousaz, Charles Monnard, Eugene Rambert, Juste Olivier.

- At Geneva the university is situated in the Promenades des Bastions. Founded by Calvin in 1559 the old academy became a university in 1872. There are rooms housing the Calvin and Rousseau collections.

- The university of Basel was opened in 1460 under the auspices of its own citizens. Its chairs were held by eminent professors, among them historical scholars such as Sebastian Brant, Jakob Wimpheling, and many others.

SWISS MACHINERY EXPORTS

In 1971, the part played by machinery and instruments in Switzerland's overall exports amounted to 35.9%, as compared with 35.2% in 1970 and 34.1% in 1969. The machinery and instruments industry has therefore once again very convincingly confirmed its position as the leading export branch of the Swiss economy. The value of machinery, appliances, vehicles and instruments exported in 1971 totalled 8486 million francs, which compared with 1970 represents an increase of 692 million francs or 8.9%. However, both in value and as a percentage, the rate of growth is comparatively lower than that of the previous year which amounted to 971 million francs, i.e. 14.2%. The total weight of the machinery and appliances exported (359,000 tons) increased by 12,685 tons (3.7%) compared with the previous year when it amounted to 346,000 tons. Exports of machinery and mechanical appliances in 1971 amounted to 5601 million francs, i.e. an increase of 487 million francs (8.2%) compared with the previous year.

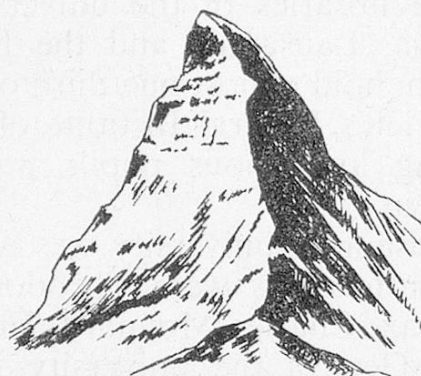
The "Electrical Machinery and Appliance group reached a new all-time high by exporting 1530 million francs' worth of goods, i.e. an increase of 136 million francs (9.7%) over the figure for 1970. Exports of vehicles in 1971 totalled 201 million francs, i.e. an increase of 20.1% or 39 million francs.

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