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HOME NEWS

Experimental runs with a new engine have been conducted for some little time on the Federal Railway track between Winterthur and Frauenfeld.

This new engine has been constructed by Sulzer Bros., Winterthur; it is fitted with a Sulzer Motor of 250 h.p., enabling it to attain a speed of 70 kilometres per hour. Attached to this new locomotive are compartments capable of seating 70 passengers, while on tracks where the gradients are not too pronounced it is even possible to couple one or two of the ordinary passenger coaches to the engine.

The trials have revealed that the fuel consumption of this new locomotive, covering a distance of 32 kilometres, costs but fes. 2.20, and it is obvious that train traction will benefit immensely by this new invention, particularly as the Sulzer system can be adapted to any existing locomotive. It is therefore quite possible that the plans for the expensive electrification of the Federal Railways will be considerably modified should the authorities find the new Sulzer system entirely satisfactory, since the cost of running one of these engines proves to be 50 per cent. below that of an electrically propelled locomotive.

* * *

Eleven homes out of twenty were completely burnt to the ground in the little hamlet of Studen, near Einsiedeln, on Monday afternoon last. Most of the hundred inhabitants were away from home making hay, so that the flames, fanned by a strong wind, travelled practically unchecked from one house to another, the wooden structures falling an easy prey within two hours to the destructive fire.

It is suspected that children are responsible for the outbreak, through which 50 inhabitants have been rendered homeless.

All the property excepting some furniture was covered by insurance.

* * *

This year's International Six Days Motorcycle Trials, which are again being held in Switzerland by reason of her victory last year, began at Geneva on August 3rd (Thursday).

Switzerland is represented by A. Robert (Motosacoche 500), J. Morand (Condor 750) and E. Gex (Motosacoche with sidecar 1000), who won the International trophy in

1920, the two latter also being members of the victorious Swiss team last year. The time table and routes are fixed as follows:—

August 3rd, 8 a.m.—Departure from Geneva for Vallorbe, Verrières, Neuchâtel, Chaux-de-Fonds.

August 4th.—Chaux-de-Fonds, Soleure, Corcelles, Laufon, Bâle, Aarau, Baden, Zurich.

August 5th.—Zurich, Pfäffikon, Linthal, Altorf, St. Gotthard, Bellinzona, Lugano.

August 6th.—Resting at Lugano.

August 7th.—Lugano, Bellinzona, St. Gotthard, Altorf, Lucerne, Hettwil, Berne.

August 8th.—Berne, Interlaken, Meiringen, Gletsch, Brigue, Sion, Martigny, Aigle, Château d'Oex.

August 9th.—Château d'Oex, Broc, Bellegarde, Gstaad, Aigle, Montreux, Col de Sonloup, Ouchy, Nyon, Chambéry, Laconnex, Donzelle, Genève.

* * *

Toll of the Mountains.—Theo. Schneider, 30, solicitor, Berne; Albert Denhof, 24, from Edinburgh, employed at Berne; Miss Pauline Heck, president of the Frauenalpenklub, Berne; and Walter Minder, from Lauterbrunnen, who acted as carrier, ascended the Jungfrau (4,166 metres) last Sunday morning.

The party had reached the last rope leading up to the summit in the Rottalsattel, and two more parties were waiting to make the same passage after the four climbers mentioned above had passed; thus the latter became eye witnesses of an appalling disaster.

Schneider had succeeded without difficulty in climbing up to the top end of the rope, but Miss Heck, who followed him, slipped on the icy track. The sudden pull on the rope caused Schneider to lose his footing and he came down on Miss Heck, the two of them falling on Denhof and Minder. All four were hurled down to the Silberhornlauenen, 1,000 metres below, where the unfortunate alpinists met with instant death.

* * *

Mlle. Mottiez, 22, daughter of the president of St. Maurice, fell over a precipice on the Great St. Bernhard and was instantly killed.

* * *

The 57th Federal Gymnastic Festival, which was held in St. Gall from July 21st to 25th, has proved a great moral success, and it is hoped that, when the accounts are made up, the financial result will also give satisfaction.

It is 90 years since the first Federal Gymnastic Festival took place at Aarau. Then sixty gymnasts, representing five cantons, had assembled, and one can but guess what the feelings of these early champions would have been, could they have seen the proportions to which their initial efforts have developed in St. Gall, where over 15,000 Swiss gymnasts were present, 12,000 of them simultaneously took part in the obligatory exercises of the sections, which Herr