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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, L.S. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

Counsellor of Legation, Dr. Guido Keel, until now Chief of the Information and Press service has been transferred to Rome as first assistant to the Swiss Minister in Italy.

He is the successor of Monsieur Jean de Rham, who has been entrusted with another mission.

Dr. Keel was born in 1906 in St. Gall, he went to school in St. Gall and studied at the Universities in Vienna, Zurich, Bordeaux, Rome and Bern. As Dr. phil. of the University of Berne he entered into the service of the political Department in 1934. In 1944 the Federal Council promoted him to Departmental Secretary and in 1946, on his taking charge of the Information and Press department he was promoted to Counsellor of Legation.

The Federal Council appointed Dr. Walter Hofer as Swiss Chargé d'Affaires in Pakistan. Dr. Hofer was until now accredited in the same capacity in Sofia. He will replace Dr. Rezzonico in Karachi. Dr. Rezzonico left Karachi last year and was appointed to another position.

Dr. Hofer, from Walkingen (Berne), born in 1901, studied at Burgdorf and Berne and became solicitor in 1926. For five years he was in the service of the Federal Military Insurance. In 1929 he entered the political Department, where he was first as second class juridical employee, afterwards being promoted to the first class. On November 1st, 1941, he was appointed departmental chief 2nd class and placed at the head of the juridical section of the political Department. After being promoted to 1st class in 1946 he took part in several international negotiations at home and abroad. He was sent to Sofia in 1948.

The Federal Council has decided to appoint Minister Franz Kappeler, who is Swiss Minister to Lebanon, Syria and Irak, also to be Minister to Trans-jordan. Minister Kappeler resides in Beirut.

According to messages from the Swiss Consulate in Kingston, there were no Swiss amongst the victims of the tornado in Jamaica.

An assembly of experts on road signalling was opened in the League of Nations Palace in Geneva. There experts are studying the introduction of a universal road signalling system and the drafting of an agreement in which this system is fully explained.

The findings, which the experts are submitting to the assembly are based on experiments made in their own countries and are referring to a uniform system of warnings and directing signals, to traffic signals by the police as well as Laboratory research on the human reaction to certain colours under different sighting conditions.

The experts elected Mr. André Rumpler (France) as the president of the assembly which might last about 4 weeks.

\* \* \*

An innovation in the order of recruiting is to come into force on January 1st, 1952. This is in connection with the medical examination which is to conform more with present day requirements. In a general way the present system has been serving Swiss circumstances well enough, but it is expected that a more extended medical examination should prevent so many releases of recruits from the recruit-schools owing to the inability to stand the strenuous training. It is expected that by the new system many men may be saved from injury to health in later years. The physical examinations at recruiting is to be handed over to the federal gymnastic and sports school.

\* \* \*

As from January 1st, 1952, all small arms' carrying troops in Switzerland will again receive personal ammunition for which they are responsible and which have to be taken to all services, mobilisation or inspections. The ammunition is in sealed packets which must only be opened in cases which are stated on the labels which are sealing these packets.

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The SBB accounts for the first half year 1951 show a working surplus of about 96.1 million francs. It is by 48.2 mill. frs. higher than the one shown in the first half of 1950. The quarterly report of the board of management of the SBB states that in this increase the workings result of 46.8 mill. and the running costs of 1.4 mill. are included. The receipts of the goods traffic are the highest ever attained in the first six months of any year. Also the results of the last twelve months July, 1950, to June, 1951, are by 22.8 mill. higher than the record in goods traffic attained in 1948. Despite the increased traffic, the working costs were 1.4 mill. lower than in the corresponding six months.

The cost of cloth and the making of uniforms and service clothing amounted to 1,079,818 frs. in the last quarter under review.

The preparatory work for the electrification of the line Sissach Läfelfingen Olten is continuing and the electrification of the line Winterthur Wald is in hand.

In the quarter under review 15,488,000 kw. hours more current was used compared with the same quarter last year which is caused through increased passenger train service as well as the greater goods traffic. The total current for running the railways was 236,687,000 kw.h. for the 3rd quarter.

The military motor cyclist Association met at Aarau for a shooting competition. This was the first time such a meeting was arranged. The cantonal government was represented by Councillor Dr. Bachmann, military director of the Canton of Aargau, Colonel Frick, commander of the 5th Division and Colonel Ruf from the Department for Army Motoring were also present. In their addresses they emphasized the importance of such out-service activities.

The World Sanitary Organisation has informed its member states that it is prepared to buy for them at its own costs the insecticide DDT from the U.S.A. Indeed the American Government has granted the permission to export DDT for sanitary and agricultural purposes. This organisation received from the U.S.A. a general export licence for quite a number of products, but above all insecticides. Based on these licences the World Sanitary Organisation as well as the Pan American Sanitary department has priority for the export of DDT from the U.S.A.

Some months ago the director general from the World Sanitary organisation sent a letter to the government of U.S.A., Canada, Great Britain, France and Switzerland (principal producer of DDT), in which he emphasized that in the countries which the programme for combating swamp fever is in action, any interruption of the delivery of DDT would mean jeopardizing the health of about 450 million inhabitants.

### Cantonal

At the end of July the residents in Zurich numbered 393,388 or 6,575 more than a year ago. The number of live births was at 442 ten below July, 1950, and was considerably below the 1949/50 average of 475. The number of deaths rose slightly. In July, 1951, 3,198 people moved to Zurich, whereas 2,613 people left the town. The increase of 585 was therefore three times as high as in July, 1950. Marriages at 364 were somewhat higher than in July, 1950.

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On August 16th the opening of the Handeck Power plant II took place amidst a numerous assembly of officials and guests. At the official part at the Hotel Grimseil the representatives of the cantons Berne and Baselstadt, the town authorities of Berne and Zurich and the commune of Guttannen, the federal representatives were welcomed by the president of the Directorate, Dr. E. Moll.

The works, started in 1947, were partially handed over to production in 1950, and thanks to the energy of all who were employed the undertaking has been completed now, instead of 1953 as foreseen.

The new reservoir at the Räterichsboden is formed by a dam 84 m. high, and contains 27 million cubic metres of water. Added to this is another smaller reservoir containing 3 million cubic metres of water in the Gauli district. The whole of the power plant of Handeck II is underground.

After the close of the great World Jamboree at Bad Ischl in Austria, a great number of groups of foreign Scouts are coming to Switzerland. Particularly the "little permanent Jamboree" at Kandersteg is well frequented, where, in their own International Scouts Home Delegations from Canada, Brazil, Egypt, India, Australia, Finland, the Philippines as well as several groups from England, France, Italy and Germany are arriving in close relays. At the same time, the alpine tours weeks for Scouts alpine clubs have again started, where Swiss mountain guides are instructing Rovers from all parts of Europe in the technique of mountaineering.

The radio corporation of Basel submitted to the authorities of Baselstadt and Baselland a request for financial aid for experiments in television, as under the concession granted to the corporation, no monies for radio must be used for such experiments. Baselstadt is asked for frs. 55,000.—and Baselland for frs. 20,000.—. It is intended to give the inhabitants of Basel and its surroundings television programmes and by practical experiments to study television and elucidate such questions which enter into the structure of cultural life. The recording cameras, the emission and reception are put free at the disposal of the corporation by the Philips Works in Eindhoven. The sender is to be installed on the belvedere on the Gempenstollen. It is hoped to start experimental emissions by the end of December, so that by February the first public transmissions can take place.

Although the traffic on the Rhine was stopped for a time owing to the July floods, the activity of the Rhine harbour attained 437,930 tons, almost the same amount of turnover as in June when 438,265 tons were recorded. This is considerably higher than in July, 1950, when 346,738 tons were registered. The total traffic from January 1st to 31st July, 1951, amounted to 2,737,819 tons, more than double the amount at the same time in 1950. Rhine upwards 410,915 tons were landed, down stream 27,015 tons. The goods arrived in 760 ships, of which 606 arrived over the Rhine. Exports left in 112 ships, via the Rhine.

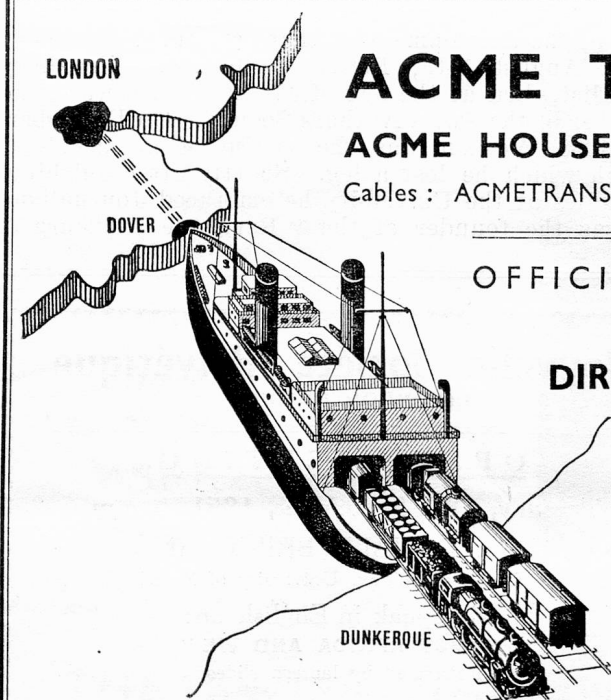
Following the catastrophic disaster of the avalanches in the winter 1951, the news that another

calamity has overtaken the canton of Ticino has stirred the minds of the Swiss people. The conditions in the Calanca valley are desperate and it is considered that a catastrophe of such an enormous extent has never been known in human memory. Not only is the valley completely cut off from all traffic, but the mere existence of the inhabitants is threatened. With a very small exception all the bridges in the valley are destroyed. The road has at several places, (at one place for a distance of several hundred yards), been washed away right down to the bare rock. Houses as well as industrial buildings have fallen victims to the raging element.

A Committee "Pro Calanca" has been formed from representatives of the valley which has asked the authorities for sufficient assistance of troops to help in the restoration of communications, clearance and safety measures. As the catastrophe has caused an almost complete destruction of the fertile meadows and pastures, the existence of the whole agricultural population of the valley has been ruined. Those working in industrial undertakings have equally been robbed of their livelihood, as the places of their activities are no longer existent and it is feared that the whole of the population eventually will have to emigrate, if assistance of the most lasting character is not at once forthcoming.

The interrupted railway lines in the Ticino have now again been opened for traffic between Cadenazzo and Locarno. This was made possible by the erection of three temporary bridges near Riazino.

The telephone connection with the Calanca valley



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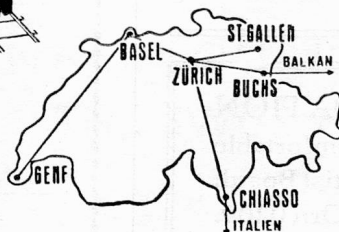
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has partly been restored by means of Radio transmission.

\* \* \*

The cantonal government of Neuchâtel has decided that the old stone bridge across the Areuse at the entrance to Travers be declared a historical monument. The Government is of opinion that by retaining this bridge the correction of the Areuse is in no way impeded and to replace it by a modern structure would neither improve the correction nor would it lessen the danger of floods. The traffic across the bridge is of small importance. Originally the removal of the bridge was foreseen, but the numerous protests against the removal of this monument of antiquity caused the above decision.

\* \* \*

A mountaineering accident happened on the Allalinhorn when the guide Odilo Zurbriggen with a lady tourist, Miss Elmée Beuret from Corcelles, fell from the north wall of that mountain. The accident was caused by an overhanging snow-roof just above the party suddenly giving way and sweeping them by a protruding rock, thus stopping the two climbers from further falling onto the Kessien glacier. Both climbers lost their lives soon after being swept from the face of the North Wall. The bodies of the two badly mutilated victims have been brought down to Saas-Fee where the guide was buried, whereas the body of Miss Beuret is being taken to Corcelles.

This is the first occasion that a Saas-Fee guide fell a victim to his profession in his own district.

\* \* \*

On the cantonal road near Guntmadingen (canton Schaffhausen) a new tank-cart borrowed by the Canton, which heats and at the same time evenly sprays the tar over the road, suddenly exploded and caught fire. The attendants were just in time to run to a safe distance, but the cart was completely destroyed. The tarred road also caught fire, but after some time the Fire brigade summoned from Schaffhausen was able to extinguish the fire. The damage is estimated to be well over 50,000 frs.

\* \* \*

When digging a foundation for a new dwelling-house in Witznau, Solothurn, a layer of peat was found. In this layer and immediately below it, neolithic tools and a decayed human lower jaw were discovered. The archaeologist Theodor Schweizer from Olten, in charge of the excavations declared the findings as remains from an old moor settlement of about 5,000 years ago. According to his views an arm of the Aare went through there at one time as is still visible by a natural slope which formed the bank.

\* \* \*

A twenty-two gun salute heralded the official celebration of Schaffhausen's 450 years as Swiss territory. On August 11th, 1501, the messengers of the Confederates brought the documents to Schaffhausen, declaring

that the town and its villages had been received into the Confederation. The flags are out and the town is beautifully decorated with flowers to commemorate that event.

\* \* \*

As a result of the floods and destruction in the Grisons in the early part of August, a Committee of inhabitants of Poschiavo and Brusio has been formed with the object to press for the essential rebuilding of the Bernina pass. During the disastrous days of the early part of the month the Bernina pass was for some days the only passable road which connected the holiday resorts of the Engadine and the Grisons in general with Italy. The increased traffic on this occasion has amply proved that the pass does not come up to the requirements of modern transit. The Committee is getting in touch with the cantonal authorities in order that the reconstruction of the Bernina pass should be taken in hand at the earliest possible moment.

\* \* \*

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Eduard Torrettini, who met with a severe motor-accident near Moirans succumbed to his injuries. He was born in 1874, the son of Theodor Torrettini. During the year 1926-1933 he was a member of the Geneva States Council. Since 1921 he was president of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and President of the Geneva Employers Federation and of the Society for physical instruments. In the Army he held the rank of Colonel. He was Commander of artillery of the 2nd Division.

The death is reported of Alfred Sudans in Broc. He died in his 81st year. During the years 1903 to 1942 he was a member of the Communal Council of Broc and during 14 years its president. He was very active in the development of that commune.

On August 14th, Pierre Verdon, the Fribourg Journalist, died at the age of 47 years. He was also a member of the Swiss Authors Society. On December 31st, 1938, Verdon was the victim of an accident through which he lost a leg. Shortly after finishing his studies at the University he embraced Journalism and was the founder of the "Revue de Fribourg".

## Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

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which is now merged with the "Fribourg Illustre". Verdon published poems, novels and plays.

In Freidorf, near Basel, the publicist and scientist, Paul Reiwald, died in his 56th year. The deceased was private lecturer for social economy and social questions at the University of Geneva and has made a name for himself as a writer of psychological works.

Prof. Dr. phil. Andreas Sprecher died in Zurich at the age of 80. Born in Chur, he was, after being first private lecturer, professor extraordinary at the Agricultural Department of the E.T.H. in Zurich.

Mrs. Adele Biedermann, who recently died in Schaffhausen has left a legacy of Frs.80,000 for public welfare and to assist necessitous single persons.

The author and editor, Alfons Wagner, died in Aarburg on August 18th. He was born in 1898 and was Editor of the "Unterhaltungsblätter" which are published by Ringier in Zofingen and are read by a large number of people in Switzerland. He was greatly interested in the movement "Pro Senectute".

\* \* \*

The following anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:—

On August 11th, Dr. Oskar Lehmann commemorated his 80th birthday in St. Gall. As a lawyer he was also public defending Council and later on a member of the Court of Appeal. He was a member of the Town Council from 1906 to 1918 and from 1906 to 1921 a member of the Grand Council when he sat as a liberal. He was president of both Councils for one year.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Liechti-Blaser celebrated their diamond wedding at Zurich Oerlikon. Mr.

Liechti is 80 and his wife Anna is 79 years of age.

On August 11th, 1851, Clara Bost was born in Reims. She was directrice of a Pensionat in Lausanne and for 56 years occupied the position as voluntary librarian to the cantonal hospital. On entering her 101st year she received from the commune of Lausanne a bouquet of flowers and from the canton de Vaud several bottles of wine. Despite her age Melle Bost is still very active.

Dr. Margarethe Schwab-Plüss, the well-known writer and poet from Baselland, celebrated her 70th anniversary in splendid health. After having passed her examination as school teacher, she studied at the University in Basel and obtained her doctorate in 1909 in Berne. During her studies as well as after her marriage to Dr. Schwab in Sissach, she published works in prose and poetry.

Mr. Jules Meillard-Donat, age 86, and his wife, age 83, both citizens of Payerne, celebrated on August 15th the 60th anniversary of their wedding at their daughter's home in New York. The couple lived first in Payerne, then in Paris and later on in New York.

The well-known painter and drawing master at the Real and Arts and Crafts schools in Basel, Eugen Niederer, celebrated his 70th anniversary on August 22nd.

—:o:—

A third preparatory course for school teachers from the southern part of Italy was started in Locarno under the leadership of Professor Guido Calgaris. The course is organised by the Swiss help for Europe. The 50 participants are studying the organisation of Swiss schools and institutions so as to be able later on to

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\* \* \*

A serious accident occurred during the venetian night at Rapperswil when a boat coming from Meilen in which were 40 people, ran into a rowing-boat near the island Lützelau. Although the large boat carried the proper lights, the three people in the rowing-boat did not see it. The elderly couple and a young girl of 17 were thrown into the water. Two of the victims were able to be saved by a motor-boat, but the 62 year old wife, Mrs. Meta Huber, from Pfäffikon (Schwyz), was drowned.

\* \* \*

The ski-hut, two and a half hours above Mels which was built in 1932 and which had room for 50 people was burnt to the ground owing to the chimney catching alight. It was the property of the New Alpine Club of Zurich. The damage amounts to about 50,000 frs. On account of the drought the fire could not be put out by the eight people who were actually in the hut.

\* \* \*

Hans Forrer, age 32, whilst cutting hay on the Alp Gamplüt near Wildhaus (Toggenburg) fell over a precipice. He died of his injuries on the way to hospital.

\* \* \*

The town of Zofingen is celebrating its 750th anniversary in the first three days of September. It will do so with a great Folks festival and on Sunday will have a procession showing episodes from the time of the Romans, the foundation of the town 1201 and right up to the present day. An open-air play will be produced in front of the church.

\* \* \*

On September 8th and 9th a Costume Festival will take place in Lucerne at which some 6,000-7,000 persons in Swiss national costumes will attend. The procession is to include 30 bands, some groups of fifes and drums, 80 cars and 300 horses.

Three outdoor plays in the Park of Tribschen are foreseen and Jubilee play on Sunday afternoon, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Folks Costume Association. Federal Councillor Steiger and General Guisan will support Dr. Ernest Lauen, the president of the Association.

It is expected that 100,000 people will witness the procession.

\* \* \*

When demolishing the old church in Büsserach, old tombs were discovered. Experts recognise under the sand-flagstones an alamanic burial place dating from the 7th or 8th century. A well preserved skeleton was uncovered. Further finds are expected as the work proceeds.

\* \* \*

At the excavation for the power works, Wildegg, another well preserved bronze axe was dug up from the Aare. This is the third similar find. Experts believe them to be derived from a vanished island settlement in the Aare of about 1000 B.C.

\* \* \*

Fieldmarshal Montgomery was in Zurich for a few days incognito and visited Sir Stafford Cripps at the private clinic of Dr. Bircher-Benner. Sir Stafford Cripps has greatly improved in health in the last fort-

night. He is able to go for short walks and went last Sunday with Lady Cripps and his son by car to Baden.

\* \* \*

In the first six months of this year 40,000 passengers more were carried by Swiss Air than in the same time last year. This proved to be an increase of 49.2%. A further proof of the increased use of air travel is the fact that the number of passengers of Swiss Air in the first half of 1951 is 10,000 more than for the whole of 1948. The weight of cargo sent by air in the first half of 1950 increased from 925,813 kg. to 1,689,139 kg. in the first semester 1951. The amount of increase represents 19.6%.

\* \* \*

Two men, Charles Seilaz and Roland Poffet, when fishing in the lake of Greyerz caught several so-called Canadian trouts, one 24½ inches long weighing 2.8 Kg., another 24 inches weighing 2 Kg. and another 2.1 Kg.

\* \* \*

On August 19th the 17 year-old Ernst Stüssi, from Netstal, slipped whilst picking Edelweiss on the Wiggis. He was taken to hospital in Glarus by four hunters. Soon after admission, however, he died from his injuries.

\* \* \*

Federal Councillor Nobs and Federal Chancellor Leimgruber received a delegate from about 600 American Scouts who took part at the great Jamboree in Bad Ischl. An American Swiss from Berne, Sturzenegger, resident in the U.S.A. for about 30 years came to Europe as chief leader of a party of scouts.

He handed to the Federal Council on behalf of the American Scouts, a small reproduction of the Statue of Liberty in New York which bore the following dedication in English: "A present from the American Scouts to the Swiss people. August, 1951." The delegate expressed at the same time the thanks of the American Scouts to the Swiss people and its Government, particularly to the Federal Council for all that they had done during the last war and since for the victims of the war, and for the maintaining and furthering of peace in the sense of democracy and the protection of human rights. Federal Councillor Nobs

## ALBERT FERBER (SWISS)



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replied and accepted the presentation in the name of the Federal Council thanking very sincerely the donors.

\* \* \*

The managing secretary of the economic commission for Europe of the United Nations, Gunnar Myrdal is in conference with experts of the west and east European countries, to investigate the measures for furthering the commerce in some particular kinds of grain and forest produces. At this conference are experts from Denmark, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Poland and the Soviet Union. When opening the conference Myrdal expressed the hope that this would lead to a strengthening of inter European trade and commerce.

\* \* \*

The gaming tables of the casino in Constance, which were opened with a great beating of drums and a gigantic propaganda, no longer exist. They were at the time announced as a branch of the casino in Baden-Baden.

The concern which was mostly frequented by Swiss people and where stakes of 2,000 D.Marks could be placed, has made an inglorious exit. A one-time croupier has lodged a complaint, claiming 17,300 D. Mark arrears of salary. He gave proof that the town of Constance had been defrauded of 365,000 D.Marks, as she was to have 50% of the gross takings. He likewise uncovered technical mechanical arrangements which always caused the game to go against the players.

Following these discoveries the owners closed the bank and disappeared.

\* \* \*

An Italian student, Luigi Messa, from an institute in Champéry, went for an excursion on his own in the direction of Planachaux, without informing anyone at the institute. As the 14 year-old boy did not return in the evening, a life-saving column went out. The body of the boy was found at the foot of a rock between Champéry and Planachaux.

\* \* \*

A new recreation room for soldiers was opened in Fribourg next to the Poya barracks. The building was given by the Institution Social Romand. Town Councilor Glasson expressed the town's thanks to the institution for their work on behalf of the soldiers.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

The next

### MONTHLY MEETING

preceded by a Dinner (6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.) will take place on

**Tuesday, 2nd October, 1951,**

at the

**DORCHESTER HOTEL,**

**Park Lane, W.1.**

We shall then have the pleasure of a talk by Mr. F. T. WYNYARD-WRIGHT, M.A. Cantab.

CH. GYSIN,

Hon. Secretary.

A set of triplets were born to Mr. and Mrs. Beltrametti-Mathys, in Altdorf. Mother and the three boys are doing well. Mr. Beltrametti is employed at the Federal munition factory and has already six children.

\* \* \*

The Swedish Association of Hospital personnel have decided to make exchanges with personnel from Swiss hospitals. Exchanges of hospital employees is being arranged between the countries.

\* \* \*

The Swiss National Tourist Office has just published a booklet which will be greeted with pleasure by the initiated and with interest by beginners or laymen. Fishing on the banks of the innumerable springs, torrents, lakes, rivers and waterways in Switzerland has an attraction all of its own. The length of the Swiss waterways amounts to some 20,000 miles, whereas the lakes cover an area of about 520 square miles, which are big figures for such a small country. For years, angling enthusiasts and famous experts from England, France, Italy and elsewhere faithfully spend their holidays in Switzerland, casting their flies and congratulating themselves on finding so many solitary spots so marvellous for the exercise of their favourite sport. Switzerland in fact offers in this connection an extremely varied range of climatic possibilities. Fishing is popular in the Valais or the Jura at the end of winter whereas in the autumn and spring, preference is given to the Plateau or the Ticino. In summer, the mountains are in favour with their small perfectly clear lakes. Switzerland has always paid much attention to re-stocking its waters and millions of trout, grayling and pike have been used for this purpose.

This new booklet which is published in English, French and German gives very accurate information regarding the fishing resources of the various districts arranged in alphabetical order stating the type of fish, equipment, bait and flies, waterways and means of access. All the twenty-five pages make excellent reading.

\* \* \*

This new booklet, published in three editions, German, French and English, will meet with the greatest success. Magnificently illustrated with coloured drawings by the talented Pia Roshardt and with other drawings by Rudolf Moser, it will take its place amongst the best publications in the long series of successes of the Swiss National Tourist Office. The text is above the signatures of two experts, Messrs. Fluckiger and Lesch, and the adaptations in French and English have been entrusted to mountain-lovers, Alpine climbers and experienced poets.

The titles of the chapters make it unnecessary for us to say anything more about the interest of this publication: The birth and development of Alpine Climbing; Man and the Mountain; Why Alpine Climbing?; Alpine climbers are real-life artists; Alpine climbing becomes easier; The Swiss Alpine Club and its huts; The Flowering Mountain; Our Guides; Your Guide; The Alpine Winter; Spring ski-ing Maps, Guides and Manuals; "Glasscutters" in the Swiss Alps; tariffs for Guides.

\* \* \*

The facilities at the disposal of visitors to Kandersteg in the Bernese Oberland situated on the Loetschberg at an altitude of 3,940 feet have just been



increased by the addition of a cable-way from the Stock, that rocky promontory which dominates the entrance of the Gasterenthal with its high walls and around which the Gemmi road circles its highest point (5,990 feet). Thanks to this new method of transport, six minutes are sufficient to cover the 2,000 feet difference in height between Kandersteg and the Stock. Access from the charming Valais thermal resort of Loèche-les-Bains lower down will also be made easier. Furthermore, it will open up a wonderful variety of excursions for walkers in the summer and to ski-ers in the winter.

\* \* \*

Everyone remembers those fine exhibitions which were held in the All Saints' Museum in 1947 of the Masterpieces of the Primitive Germans and in 1949 of Rembrandt. This year, to celebrate the 450th anniversary of its entry into the Confederation, the town of Schaffhouse has organised a remarkable exhibition of works from the former Frederick the Great Museum in Berlin which are at present in the possession of the Government of Hesse, to which is added a selection of masterpieces from the Vienna Art Museum. To give an idea of the value of the paintings exhibited, it is sufficient to say that they have been insured for 25 million Swiss francs. In this unique collection, there are to be found the universally well-known names of Altdorfer, Dürer, Fra Angelico, Breughel, Cranach, van Eyck, Holbein the Younger, Mantegna, Memling, Titian, Raphael, Rogier van der Weyden and Konrad Witz.

This exhibition will therefore be in the first rank of the great events organised this year in Schaffhouse (July/October) and will attract numerous art lovers.

\* \* \*

The Swiss National Tourist Office has published a new booklet on Swiss health resorts in collaboration with the Swiss Spas Association. The 23 main watering places in Switzerland are each given a brief, yet comprehensive description. It contains useful information on climatic conditions, types of springs, treatment, how to get to the resorts and what kind of lodging arrangements can be expected, as well as a complete picture of facilities for sports and entertainments. On top of the many advantages of taking a cure at a Swiss spa is the beneficial tonic effect of the pure Alpine air, the intensity of the solar radiation, and the charm of a countryside where patients find rest and renewed confidence.

Illustrating the booklet are fine old prints which seem to breathe the unhurried calm of their time — a calm which in these days is so necessary for the success of a cure — and some of the latest aerial photographs. It also gives details of the therapeutical treatments available at the different spas and a chemical classification of the springs at the 23 resorts that are members of the Association.

\* \* \*

The Lötschberg, Switzerland's highest railway tunnel and the third longest in the country, was pierced 40 years ago, when two parties, one working from the north and the other from the south, first made contact at a point 3,000 ft. above the sea. The tunnel, built in connection with the independent Berne—Lötschberg—Simplon railway, which connects Berne, the Swiss capital, with Brigue, runs beneath a towering 6,000-ft. mass of rock and snow. It was several months after the opening of the great 12½-mile Simplon tunnel that

work started simultaneously at Goppenstein, in the picturesque Valais, and at Kandersteg, then a remote village, now a famous holiday resort in the Bernese Oberland. For the first time workmen used electrically-operated compressed air drills which worked wonders with the tough rock. They had to blast their way through different types of rock from chalk to granite, but they kept up a steady advance of more than a dozen yards a day, only interrupted by the disastrous inrush of glacial debris which brought about a curving course in the tunnel as finally completed. To do so, they needed 370 tons of dynamite. Exactly a year after the pilot tunnel was completed, the running tunnel was big enough to allow for construction of double track, and in July, 1913, the Lötschberg line — the first standard gauge mountain railway with electric traction — was opened. It not only meant the opening of a region rich in art treasures and incomparable mountain scenery, but also the introduction of a speedier access to the international Simplon line for much of Switzerland and Europe.

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### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

*"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).*

Deux Suisses pilotant des motos Condor ont enlevé les première et seconde places du rallye de Monaco. L'équipe Condor la mieux classée a remporté le challenge du Prince de Monaco et la coupe-challenge de Monte-Carlo. Le succès de notre industrie de la motocyclette est d'autant plus remarquable que la concurrence étrangère était plus forte.

\* \* \*

La fabrique de machines Th. Bell & Cie. à Kriens, a livré 2 turbines hydrauliques de 32,000 HP. chacune au Pérou et a reçu une commande du Salvador de 2 turbines de chacune 21,000 HP.

Les nouvelles cabines Bell pour téléphériques emportent beaucoup de succès.

\* \* \*

Un journal madrilène déclare que la distribution des envois postaux par exprès est, en Suisse, d'une incroyable rapidité.

\* \* \*

Le 16 juin 1951, le service phototélégraphique public a été ouvert entre la Suisse et la Norvège, par l'entremise des postes phototélégraphiques de Zurich et d'Oslo.

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La "Herald Tribune" de New-York dit un grand bien des performances des autocars des P.T.T. suisses et de leurs chauffeurs.

Des forestiers finnois ont déclaré, après un voyage d'étude dans notre pays: "Chez vous, en Suisse, tout est prêt pour 200 ans".

Au cours des derniers cinq ans, on a construit 110,000 nouveaux logements en Suisse.

Une affiche des P.T.T., dessinée par Herbert Leupin (Bâle) est considérée comme l'une des meilleures de l'exposition internationale d'affiches de Londres. A propos de l'exposition d'affiches suisses à Washington, la presse écrit qu'il s'agit d'une véritable révélation pour l'Amérique.

La flotte commerciale suisse de haute mer vient de s'accroître de deux nouvelles unités: le "Général Dufour" mis en service à Rotterdam et le "Baden" à Gênes.

Le Professeur Sauser-Hall (Genève) a été nommé arbitre pour régler un différend survenu entre deux états ex-belligérants.

Le zoologue et professeur d'anatomie Guyenot (Genève) vient d'être nommé membre de l'Académie des sciences de France.

La Fondation Carnegie a décerné son prix de la paix pour 1950 à "l'Institut des hautes études internationales" de Genève.

Au festival du film de Berlin; le film suisse Praesens: "Quatre dans une Jeep" a reçu le 1er prix. La projection de ce film a été autorisée même les jours fériés, il peut être vu par la jeunesse, ceci sur tout le territoire fédéral.

L'Oeuvre suisse des lectures pour la Jeunesse" a édité 400 brochures en 20 ans, avec un tirage de plus de 8 millions d'exemplaires. Elle lutte ainsi contre l'envahissement de notre pays par une littérature malsaine.

L'Armée norvégienne a acquis la brochure "Attention Chars!" éditée par l'Association suisse des sous-officiers et l'a traduite littéralement.

La Suisse est l'objectif de vacances des touristes égyptiens. Cela démontre qu'aujourd'hui la France et l'Italie sont plus chères que la Suisse.

Après des essais étendus avec les produits de nombreuses marques concurrentes, une firme française d'automobile — de même qu'une maison italienne — a prévu de doter ses nouvelles voitures de l'équipement complet Scintilla: allumage, éclairage et démarreur.

L' "Interfrigo" (association des administrations ferroviaires européennes pour le trafic avec wagons frigorifiques) a commandé 175 wagons frigorifiques à la fabrique de wagons Schindler à Pratteln. Cette entreprise suisse a été la première à pouvoir présenter un prototype de ce wagon et c'est elle qui a fait l'offre la plus avantageuse.

Grace à l'installation au Jungfraujoch d'une station de relais pour téléphone à ondes dirigées on a pu établir 24 relations radio-téléphoniques Berne — Lugano.

Lors d'un débat sur le service des postes, au Sénat des Etats Unis, on a relevé que les postes suisses assurent des prestations supérieures à celles des postes américaines.

La garde suisse du Pape à Rome, vient d'être équipée de pistolets mitrailleurs suisses du dernier modèle.

A l'occasion de notre dernière fête nationale, le gouverneur de l'Etat de New York a déclaré qu'il était encourageant de voir comment la nation suisse, grâce à son gouvernement courageux et intelligent, a pu maintenir sa liberté malgré la situation critique où elle se trouvait pendant la guerre.

Un observateur allemand qui a assisté à la fête fédérale de gymnastique a déclaré que ces journées de Lausanne ont montré que nos gymnastes ont atteint un niveau certainement sans égal actuellement.

Madame Lucy Cattaneo, originaire du Tessin a été chargée par le gouvernement philippin d'étudier les constructions publiques en Europe et en Amérique.

Le Dr. H. Tromp, ingénieur forestier à St.-Gall, a été nommé chef statisticien de l'organisation des nations unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Le chef d'orchestre suisse Paul Klecki dirige les concerts de clôture de la saison symphonique de la Scala de Milan. Une œuvre du compositeur suisse Arthur Honegger est au programme. Paul Klecki dirigera, en outre, à Londres, un concert au début de septembre dans le cadre du festival de Grande Bretagne.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 28th, 1951. (Donations will be acknowledged later.)

# Panda

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