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FACTS AND FIGURES.

By H. v. MAY.

According to statistics, the number of foreign workers employed in Switzerland towards the middle of February — a period during which relatively few foreign seasonal workers are to be found here — totalled 250,000. This means that there were 10,000, or about 4 per cent fewer than at the middle of February in 1958. This decline was mainly in respect of women workers, as also in that of labour employed in the metallurgical and textile industries.

* * *

The "Deutsche Lufthansa" has announced that, as from the 24th of May, it intends to open up a new direct line from Frankfurt to Geneva, with four flights per week, this service being carried out by "Metropolitan" aircraft, flying to Nice, from Geneva, without, however, being able to take on any passengers in Switzerland.

* * *

The members of the "Union pour la Coordination de la production et du transport de l'électricité" have just held their Ordinary Meeting in Zurich, when the situation in West Europe, in regard to its supply with electric energy, was discussed. All the member-countries of this Union (Belgium, West Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria and Switzerland) were represented at this Meeting. Their representatives provided information regarding the present and future problems connected with the production of current by means of hydraulic power and thermic power plants, and spoke of the possibilities for the exportation and importation of electric current. Furthermore, the work of bringing things up to date in the various power plants, which has to be done periodically, was co-ordinated. As a result of the conversations it became apparent that the marked increase in the consumption of electric power, which had been observed during the preceding years in all these countries, had suffered a decline during the last few months. Thanks to favourable weather conditions, it proved possible for all the countries, during the last winter, to cover their own requirements in electric current, both fully and independently. The starting of new generating plants, expected to take place shortly, and the improvement in transport facilities, as also the intensification of the voluntary exchange of electric energy between the various countries, should make it possible for the requirements in electric current to be covered without any difficulty in West Europe during the winter season of 1959/60.

* * *

At this year's Samples Fair in Lyons, in which 6,000 exhibitors from twenty-seven countries took part, Switzerland was once more represented by a pavilion of her own in which sixteen firms showed their products. Sixty-four further Swiss firms exhibited their wares in the various sections outside the National Swiss Pavilion.

* * *

With the coming into force, as from 1st April, of its summer flights schedule, the Swiss Air Lines Company Swissair has given up, on its North Atlantic flights, its former practice of serving sandwiches in the Economy Class, and now offers its passengers a complete cold meal. Furthermore, these same

passengers in the Economy Class will have newspapers placed at their disposal and will be able to buy customs-free cigarettes. These innovations are in accordance with a resolution passed by the IATA, the International Air Transport Association.

* * *

The Basle Air Lines Company Balair AG. has decided, in view of its purchase of two DC-4 aircraft and the extension of its flight services, to raise the company's capital from the present 750,000 francs to four million francs. The Swiss National Air Lines Company Swissair will participate in this increase in the capital to the extent of 40 per cent.

* * *

It is learnt from the recently published Annual Report of the Swiss Economic Archives in Basle that during 1958 this Institution received no fewer than 35,000 new applications. To-day the Archives possess, inter alia, 300,000 monographs, 20,000 volumes of newspapers and half a million newspaper cuttings, and they have thus become indispensable for all those who wish to obtain information regarding any branch of Swiss economy or on any question pertaining thereto.

* * *

The next trade event to take place in the Swiss Industries Fair exhibition buildings in Bale will be the ILMAC, "International Congress and Exhibition of Laboratory Equipment, Scientific Measuring Appliances and Automation in Chemistry", which will take place from 10th to 15th November 1959.

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The 14th International Music Festival "Septembre Musical" at Montreux has been scheduled for 2nd to 24th September 1959. The performing orchestras will be the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Paris Orchestre National and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande; the list of the soloists includes such famous names as Yehudi Menuhin, Nathan Milstein, Wilhelm Backhaus, Clara Haskil and Artur Rubinstein.

* * *

The principal Antique and Art Dealers of Switzerland will offer a wonderful selection of valuable articles at a Fair to be held at the Hotel Bellevue Palace in Berne, 9th to 19th October 1959. All periods, from Gothic to Napoleon III, will be represented. Exhibits will include rare pieces of furniture, porcelain, jewellery, beautiful carpets, old tin and copper ware, as well as old and modern paintings.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 26th June 1959, subject to conditions in the printing industry permitting. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Mrs. R. Hill, F. Dumont, H. Andrea, E. Wey, J. A. Reiber, P. Clottu, W. B. Sigerist, F. A. Brawand, M. E. Lichtensteiger, Paul Lambert, L. L. Portman, R. Dupraz, J. Jordan, E. Chatelain, X. Speckert.

BUNDESFEIERSAMMLUNG 1959.

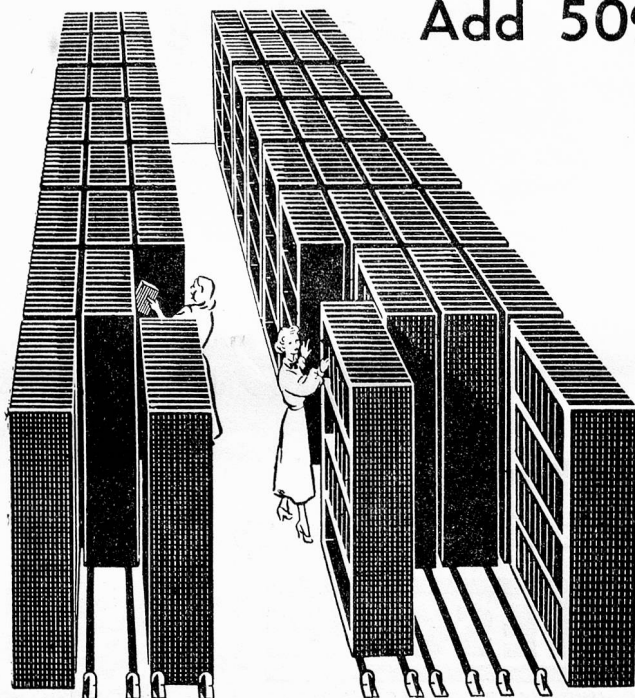
Am 1. Juni beginnt die Bundesfeiersammlung mit dem traditionellen Marken- und Kartenverkauf. Am 31. Juli/1. August folgt der Abzeichenverkauf.

Das Erträgnis aus diesen verschiedenen Verkäufen ist für die Schweizer im Ausland bestimmt. Sowohl in den vom Kriege heimgesuchten Ländern Europas und Asiens als auch in den weniger direkt betroffenen Gebieten Amerikas, Afrikas und Australiens sind unsere Schweizerkolonien infolge mangelnder Zuwanderung junger Landsleute blutleer und einsam geworden. Vom fremden Geiste umworben, wird ihnen die Aufgabe besonders schwer, ihre Kinder schweizerisch zu erziehen und auch für die Erwachsenen richtige und lebendige Verbindungen mit dem Leben in der Heimat zu pflegen.

Die diesjährige Bundesfeierspende will deshalb die Schweizerschulen im Ausland fördern und die kulturellen Bestrebungen des Auslandsschweizerwerkes der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft unterstützen. Das Schweizerische Bundesfeierkomitee bittet alle Schweizer in der Heimat durch rege Beteiligung an der diesjährigen Bundesfeiersammlung ihrer Solidarität mit den Mitbürgern in aller Welt Ausdruck zu verleihen.

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