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ONE SINGLE STRIKE IN 1967

The industrial undertakings in Switzerland numbered 13,499 at the end of 1967, a decrease of 409 in twelve months. There was only one strike in the whole year as against two in 1966. It affected the wood and glass industry, 65 men (38) and cost 690 days (62). The reason was the conclusion of a collective employment agreement, and the strike was settled by negotiation. This is the lowest number of strikes since 1927.

Nearly 43,000 entries were made in the trade register in 1967, bringing the total of 189,225 as against 184,940 at the end of 1966. There were 82,254 individual firms, 10,979 collective companies, 3,957 *Kommanditgesellschaften*, 53,367 joint-stock companies, 2,608 limited companies, 13,512 co-operatives, 131 public institutions, 1,562 societies, 17,428 foundations, 3,243 branches of Swiss and 365 of foreign undertakings.

[A.T.S.]

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- that 1.4 million kilograms of old telephone directories were collected in the year 1966/67, realising enough money to get 100 television sets for schools in poor Communes, 45 in the German-speaking part, 33 in the French-speaking and 22 in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland?
- that the Swiss cigarette industry produced 18.6 milliard cigarettes in 1967, of which 87.9% were filter "fags", and that the figure was much lower than that of the previous year when there had been a drop owing to an increase in tax of 40%?
- that the import of meat went back by 65% of animals for slaughter (from 23,000 to just under 8,000) and that of meat pieces and special cuts and specialities increased by 14%, and that import of poultry, game and rabbits went up 1% to 47,047.6 metric tons?
- that the number of match producers has gone back from 37 factories in 1895 to 16 in 1923 and to 3 at the present, though the number of workers employed decreased only from 388 to 300, and that every day some 32 million matches are used in Switzerland?
- that 1967 was an excellent year for tobacco growers in the Ticino, especially as regards the quality, and that the production value amounted to 1.2 million francs?
- that the consumption of bread has gone back considerably over the past few years, whereas that of pastries and other *Feingebäck* has gone up, and that the daily consumption per person is now 133 gr., as compared with the wartime ration of 250 gr.?
- that in 1966 2,779 candidates took part in the federal medical examinations for doctors, dentists, vets and pharmacists, and that the number went up to 3,067 last year, of whom 18.6% failed?
- that the 11 helicopters of "Heliswiss" spent 3,755 hours in the air both in Switzerland and abroad, which was an increase of 30%, and that nearly a third of those hours were used on transport flights, that the machines were chartered for 833 hours, that 599 hours were spent on surveys from the air, that over 122 hours were given over to the Swiss Alpine Rescue Service (*Rettungsflugwacht*), and that there was an increase in freight transport from 4.8 to 7.8 million kilos in one year?

[A.T.S.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

- Alfred Ryter (86), Spiez, former National Councillor (Socialist) and previously member of the Berne Cantonal Parliament (1922 to 1942); member of the Spiez Commune Council (1943-1947); train conductor.
- Georges Froidevaux (57), La Chaux-de-Fonds, for 26 years employed in a factory, but then he devoted himself completely to the art of painting and became well known.
- Manfred von Wattenwil (67), Berne, *Fürsprech*; for many years member of the Municipal Council and later of the Cantonal Parliament; Colonel of Artillery; Federation Secretary of the Swiss Boys Scouts Association from 1927 to 1967.
- Dr. h.c. Elsa Nerina Baragiola (87), Zurich, appointed teacher of Italian at the Zurich *Töchterschule* at the age of 20; she continued her studies, and on her 50th birthday, she was awarded an honorary doctorate for her excellent work as a teacher and her advancement of Italian literature; author and recipient of several literary prizes.
- Leon Savary (73), Neuchâtel, writer and journalist; member of the Swiss Press Association; for many years Paris chronicler of the "Tribune de Genève".
- Mrs. Edmond Guénat-Huelin (99), the oldest inhabitant of Sainelegier.
- Dr. Ernst Freivogel (67), Basle, *Bürgerratsschreiber* from 1938 to 1966; member of the Cantonal Government since 1944 (Liberal Democrat).
- Miss Renée de Coubertin (66), Lausanne, daughter of the founder of the modern Olympic Games.
- Jean Mueller (84), Willisau, Honorary Citizen of the Commune; generous supporter of many cultural, charitable and social institutions.
- Dr. Rut Keiser (70), Basle, historian and expert on French and German philology; teacher at the Basle *Mädchen-gymnasium* since 1928 and *Konrektorin* since 1947; active suffragette; died after a road accident.
- Prof. Dr. Ambrogio Longhi (68), Cassarate/Lugano, teacher of mathematics for 40 years.
- Dr. Eugen Dedual (68), Chur; former *Staatsanwalt* of the Grisons, elected 1944.
- Manfred Kuehner (66), Basle, emigrated to USA in 1925 where he worked in a private bank; in 1936, he moved to Montreal where he became the head of Geigy Canada Ltd; he retired to Switzerland two years ago.

[A.T.S.]

BROWN BOVERI AT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN LONDON

British Brown Boveri Ltd. will exhibit at the International Electrical Engineers' (A.S.E.E.) Exhibition at Earls Court, London from 27th March to 3rd April.

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Swiss Federal Railways prototypes will be on show at the Model Railway Exhibition at New Horticultural Hall, S.W.1, on 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th and 15th April. Also two models of the gaily decorated MIGROS vans.