

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1969)

Heft: 1582

Rubrik: Swiss News

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YOUR NEXT "SWISS OBSERVER"
will be published on . . .

Friday, 12th December. we shall be glad to receive all articles and reports by Tuesday, 2nd December. Short news items only can be accepted later.

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month, and consequently, your next copy but one will be out on 9th January, 1970. Contributions for that issue should be to hand by Tuesday, 30th December.

The next number counts as double and will appear alone in December.

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**Foreign workers in Switzerland sent
1,740 million francs out of the country**

In 1968, foreign seasonal workers and those residing all the year round in Switzerland transferred to their home countries some S.Fr. 1,105 million (\$256,97 million), i.e. 40 million more than the previous year. Border workers on the other hand, took home S.Fr. 635 million (\$147,67 million), which represents an overall total of S.Fr. 1,740 million (\$404,65 million). Although the number of foreign workers has fallen off by 0.8%, their income has increased by 5.1%, i.e. 280 million (\$65,12 million). This increase is due mainly to improved wages, but also to certain changes of employment.

(OSEC)

What's new in Swiss Philately?

The Swiss General Post Office—in answer to an often expressed wish—has decided to issue a number of postage stamps depicting famous Swiss citizens. The new portraits will be done in a very modern style. The 1969 set, which has just been put on sale, commemorates among others General Henri Guisan (1874-1960), Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army during the second world war and the Zurich reformer Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531). Music and letters are represented respectively by the composer Othmar Schoeck (1886-1957) and by Benjamin Constant's friend and mentor, the writer Germaine de Staël (1776-1817).

(OSEC)

News in brief

Devoted mainly to the machinery industry, the 11th International Fair at Brno in Czechoslovakia awarded prizes to two Swiss firms. Two of the thirty-three gold medals awarded went to *Sulzer Bros.* of Winterthur (canton of Zurich), for a high speed shuttleless weaving loom, and to *Feintool Co. Ltd.* of Lyss (canton of Berne), for a fine cutting press.

(OSEC)

Adolf Saurer Co. Ltd., Arbon (Switzerland) has just issued a manufacturing licence to the Japanese factory Enshu Ltd., Hamatsu for the construction of the 100 W type weaving looms known all over the world for their great quality. The Japanese weaving loom firm hopes in this way to help improve the infrastructure of the Japanese textile industry, which the Tokyo government is subsidizing for the purpose of modernizing it.

(OSEC)

A Swiss scientist honoured in Canada. At the recent 7th International Congress of Clinical Biology, in Montreal, the annual prize of the Canadian Clinical Chemistry Society (Warner Chilcott Award) was awarded to Dr. Manual Sanz, Head of the Medical Engineering Laboratories at the Battelle Institute in Geneva, for

his work on medical ultramicro-analysis.

(OSEC)

A 430-page book, entitled "Literatura chevetsarii", has just been published in Moscow. This volume, of which 2,300 copies were printed, presents a survey of Swiss Literature and has been written by 14 Russian authors.

(OSEC)

The Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) has opened two agencies in Australia, in Sydney and Melbourne. The increasing growth of trade between Switzerland and Australia as well as the ever growing importance of direct investments in this part of the world and its stock market is the reason behind this step. In addition, the *Swiss Credit Bank* has opened a new agency in Hong Kong.

(OSEC)

(Office Suisse d'Expansion Commerciale)

WHERE THE "PILATUS" GO

On August 22nd, the "Tagesanzeiger" of Zurich alleged that Pilatus Porter aircrafts produced at Stans had been used in military operations in Vietnam. The Swiss Embassy in Bangkok was charged with inquiring into the matter and has found that the Porters were not used in any military operations. The "Continental Air Services Inc." an American airline with a branch in Laos had bought 17 of these planes but was only using them in relief operations. The planes were used to bring supplies of food and medicine to Laotian refugees, but owing to the confused situation brought about by the war between the Pathet Lao and government forces, it was possible that soldiers may have been transported in some of those flights. The Porters are not insured against military risks. The company that runs them is a commercial business and has no advantage in using them for military purposes. On the other hand, the American Government has guaranteed that the planes were not and would not be used in Vietnam for military operations.

(ATS)

INGLORIOUS STUNTMEN

An outdoor show near Yverdon had a limping start, a number of incidents and flaws in the programme having put the 3,000 spectators in a bad mood. Then one stuntman crossed a wooden fence covered with blazing straw while lying on top of a car and received a wood splinter in the process. He had to be carried off to hospital. This scared his colleagues and they refused to perform their number. The crowd got angry and pushed twenty stock-cars in the river Thielle. The police arrived and put the cash-box at the ticket-office in a safe place (it contained ten thousand francs) and organised the orderly reimbursement of those who desired to be refunded.