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and doing everything technically possible to abate the noise of jets. This is fortunately under way.

Nothing prevents people who are sensitive to noise from moving to another area, but this may perhaps be easier said than done. The next best solution should be to sound-proof houses. This is technically feasible, and should start with multiple-glazed win-

dows. The cost of such fittings should be paid by the State (this has recently been planned in the UK) with eventual contribution by aircraft companies, which could pass on part of the expense to passengers. This seems to be a better long-term alternative to closing Intercontinental airports at nights.

(PMB)

SWISS EVENTS

FEDERAL

Swiss mission in Brussels

As the Swiss prepare to vote on their association to the Common Market during a national referendum, their interest in Brussels are being defended by seven diplomats assigned to the *Mission Suisse auprès des Communautés Européennes*. This Mission, probably unique in the Swiss diplomatic service because of the highly specialised nature of its duties, and because it works not with one, but with several partners, is responsible for keeping Berne informed of Community developments. This involves 600 telex messages a year, and an astounding volume of diplomatic mail. The head of the Mission is Ambassador Paul Wurth, who has been in Brussels since the beginning of the Common Market negotiations. His chargé d'affaires is Minister Pierre Cuénod. At the head of the Chancery is a former Swiss diplomat in London: Mr. Pierre Bringolf. This team accompanied Mr. Paul Jolles, Switzerland's negotiator to the Common Market, during the lengthy negotiations which preceded the last July agreement. Much of the success of this agreement will depend to some extent on the kind of relations which this highly qualified team of diplomats will manage to maintain with the European authorities in Brussels.

Purchase of real estate by foreigners

New regulations for the purchase of property by foreigners living abroad are under study at the Department of Justice and Police. The orders implemented in the days of Mr. Ludwig Von Moos, and the 21st June Decree which has frozen since this summer all property transactions with foreigners, will give way to a generally more supple system but strengthened controls by Berne over individual cantons. The new regulations which Mr. Kurt Furgler, Head of the Department of Justice and Police, may decide to enforce are outlined in recently published proposals. Although purchase procedures will be simplified and made easier, foreigners will be expected to reside for over five years before buying primary residences. Cantons suffering from a "saturation" of foreigners or foreign owned property will be bound to put a stop on new demands. The Confederation will be entitled to cancel all authorisations delivered by Cantons which it considers unjustified. Solicitors and civil servants concerned with property transactions will be supervised more closely. Barriers for the investment of foreign funds in cheap and social housing will be lifted in those areas suffering from an acute shortage of housing.

1971 was a record year for property purchases from abroad. 4,849 applications were accepted and only four per cent of all applications had been

rejected. The previous year, 3,448 applications to buy land or buildings had been accepted.

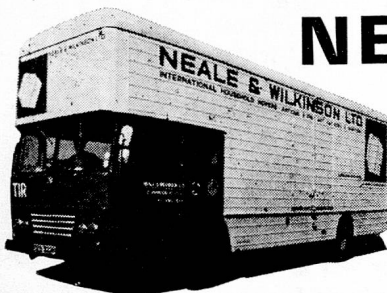
Tunisian minister in Berne

Mr. Mohamed Masmoudi, Tunisia's foreign minister, paid an official visit to Switzerland at the end of October. He was the first Arab foreign minister to come to Switzerland in an official capacity. Relations between Switzerland and Tunisia have been traditionally excellent. Mr. Masmoudi had talks with Mr. Pierre Graber and Mr. Kurt Furgler, whom he invited to come to Tunisia in the near future. These negotiations led to an agreement on an amendment of economic relations and a development of technical co-operation. The vice-director of the commercial division of the Department of Economy, Mr. Emilio Moser, will leave for Tunis next spring to work out the details of these new relations. The Canton of Vaud will undertake to set up topographical and civil engineering departments at the University of Tunis.

During a press conference, Mr. Masmoudi said that Switzerland should feel more concerned about the problems of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, quoting Churchill, he said "These areas were the underbelly of Europe." He said that Swiss meditation should go beyond the stages of good intentions, and be motivated by the desire of conciliating the positions of the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict.

Arms exports fall sharply

Swiss arms exports were sharply down on last year during the first nine months of this year. Preliminary figures show that exports to Latin America were a quarter of what they were during the same period a year before, and those to Africa almost a twentieth of their previous level. This seems to be a result of the federal order of 29th September, 1970 which tightened the screw on arms exports to politically troubled countries. Thus the authorised arms business with the third world has become almost insignificant.



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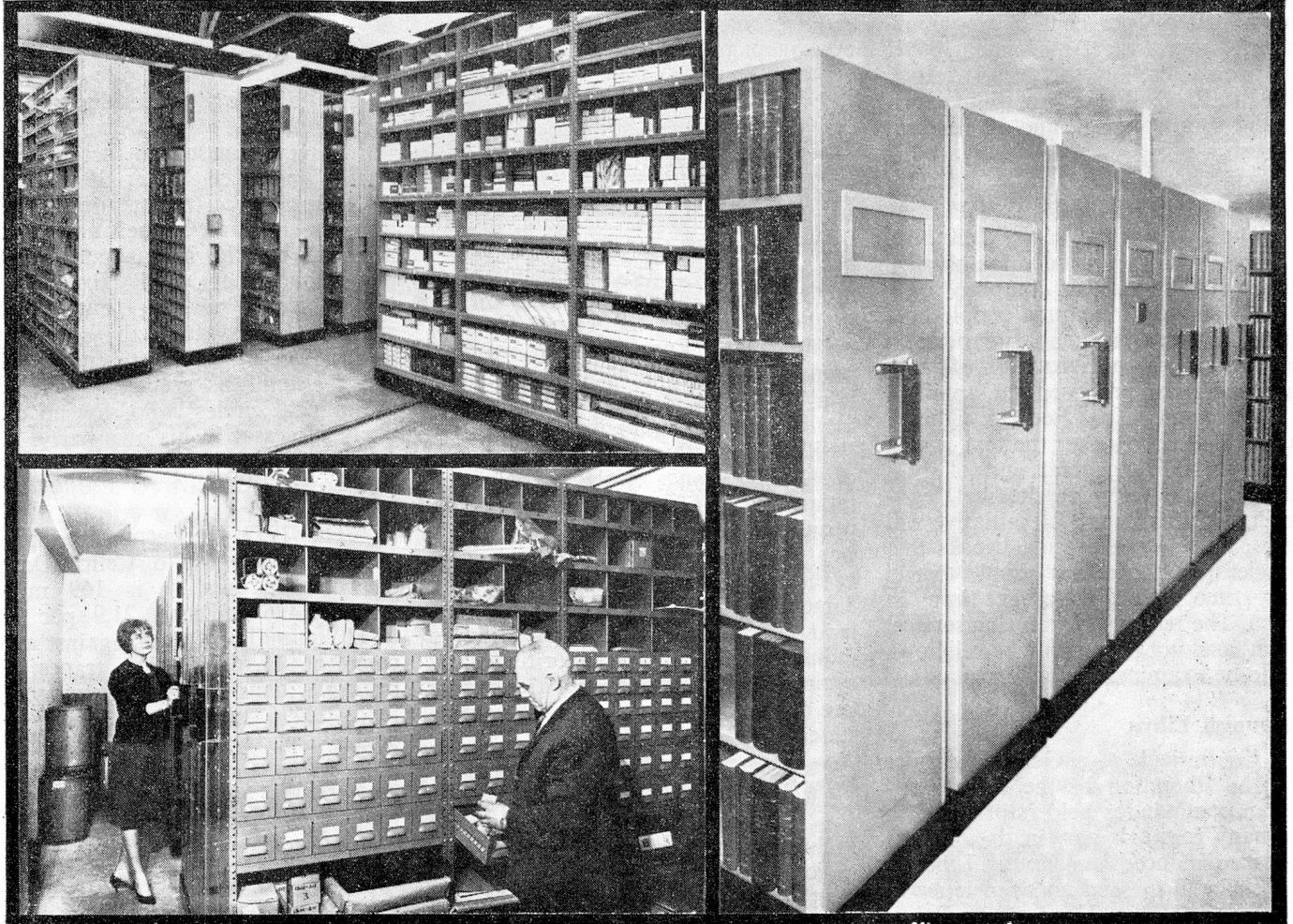


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EEC referendum

The Swiss people will be called to the polls on 3rd December to express their support on the free-trade agreement signed last June between Switzerland and the European Community. The campaign for this referendum has already begun and is largely in support. The union of Swiss farmers and Swiss trade unions have supported the terms of the Agreement at their recent assemblies. Recent opinion polls has shown that 59 per cent of the population supports the Agreement, 10 per cent are against any sort of association with the EEC, 19 per cent think Switzerland should join it, and 12 per cent have no opinion.

Munchenstein Initiative

The Munchenstein Initiative, which calls for the introduction of some sort of civil service, as compared with military service, for young people considering themselves unable to perform military duties on grounds of conscience will be proposed for approval to Parliament. The Federal Council has decided not to alter the text, which is in fact fairly general and offers a general framework for detailed legislation by Parliament. The initiative will thus lead to a referendum. It asks that conscientious objectors should spend their time usefully rather than in prison. The reasons for refusing service, which need not necessarily be religious, would be examined very closely.

To punish Libya

The hi-jack of a German airliner and the liberation of the three Palestinian commandos held imprisoned in Germany for their part in the Munich massacre induced the Young Liberals of Neuchâtel to send an open letter to Mr. Pierre Graber, Head of the Political Department, asking him to break diplomatic relations with Libya, where hi-jackers and the three freed commandos had found asylum.

Scientific evaluation of speed ban limit

The Federal Council has approved proposals for spending three million francs on the scientifically evaluating of the results of the 100 km speed limit which is going to be enforced on Swiss roads next year for a trial period. This had already been decided during talks between Parliament and road authorities before the speed-ban was announced by the Government. A study group set up by the Department of Justice and Police will be responsible for the enquiry.

Easier lot for seasonals

Some 12,000 seasonal workers (who have a yearly renewable work permit and may stay in Switzerland only nine months—without their families) may be promoted to the status of yearly workers. Seasonal workers are

the "underdog" least favoured category of foreign workers in Switzerland. They may stay only nine months a year without their families and must apply every year for new work permits. Yearly workers, without being considered as residents in their full rights, have at least the security of the right to live with their wives and children and more job security.

If all goes well, Berne may even favour a further 13,000 seasonals, bringing to 25,000 the number of foreign workers allowed to stay on a more permanent basis.

Relations with North Vietnam

After several weeks of inexplicable wariness, Hanoi's attitude thawed and Switzerland's new ambassador to North Vietnam, Mr. Pierre Chatelain, was allowed to present his letters of credence. For some weeks the establishment of diplomatic relations with Hanoi lay in the balance as the Hanoi Government made it known that it was not prepared to receive Mr. Pierre Chatelain, who is also Swiss Ambassador to Ceylon. In apparent retaliation, the Political Department had waived a gift of 450,000 francs' worth of humanitarian aid to North Vietnam. Some people believed that Hanoi's attitude was due to the new links which were at the same time being established with Saigon. As a neutral country, Switzerland felt it was not in a position to indulge in "political favoritism" by establishing diplomatic relations with one or the other of the two Vietnamese states.

Ugandan Asians in Switzerland

190 Ugandan Asians have arrived in Switzerland. Ten more were expected to join them from Britain later. They had landed aboard a Swissair plane at Kloten and were transferred to five small camps run by the Red Cross. They were expected to stay here from one to three months. 34 refugees were sent to Trogen, 23 at the Pestalozzi Village, 57 at Vaumarcus (Neuchâtel), 37 at Gwatt in the Lake of Thun, and 39 at Erlenbach, in the Simmenthal. All the expatriate families had been chosen prior to leaving for the country. The cost of their provisional upkeep is estimated at 500,000 francs. With the inclusion of transport and other costs, the Confederation will have spent 1.3 million francs on the whole operation this year. The Central Office for Aid to Refugees will help the Ugandan Asians in their assimilation to Swiss life. Plans will be taken not to disperse the families, which will settle down in groups in those cantons offering them refuge.

Anti-foreign initiative

The "National Action against the Over-foreignisation of Switzerland" has remitted 70,000 signatures to the Federal man in Berne in favour of a new

initiative. This calls for a new constitutional article 69-IV according to which only 4,000 aliens will be entitled to naturalisation every year. The foreign population in Switzerland would be limited to half a million and the proportion in any canton not to exceed 12 per cent, with the exception of Geneva, which has a right to 25 per cent. The National Action accepts the presence of 150,000 seasonals and 70,000 border workers—a slight reduction on current figures.

Celio stays in office

Nello Celio, our President for 1972 and Head of the Department of Finance, has announced that he would remain in office. After having previously expressed the intention to retire from the Federal Council and resume his legal activities in Lugano. He made the announcement to the Executive of the Radical (*Freisinnig*) Party. He is expected to stay until the end of the present legislature, due to end in 1975. His decision was gradually welcomed by political circles, who saw no other likely successor in his own party.

Federal Budget

The 1973 Budget has been presented by Mr. Nello Celio. Despite considerable cuts, it is 169 million francs (2,496 million), 21.9 per cent to 11,360 million francs, against an income of 11,164 million francs. The principle items are the following: Defence (2496 million), 21.9 per cent; Social Security, 21.7 per cent; Communications and Energy, 15.3 per cent; Universities and Research, 9.8 per cent; Agriculture, 9.6 per cent.

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No Nazis in the Tessin

The Federal Council had to reassure a National Councillor that there were no Nazi war criminals in the Tessin, a Canton which offers asylum to an important German community. Worried by the allegations of a Zurich weekly which named several German residents as having played important roles during the Third Reich, this member of parliament had asked the Government what it intended to do about this situation. The Federal Council said that an enquiry had shown the weekly's allegations to be without foundation. The author of the article, a Mr. Disler, had named several persons, two of them already dead, alleged to be either former Waffen SS or doctors in concentration camps. The federal enquiry showed that the people mentioned had formally been proved innocent. One of them was in fact not even residing in the Tessin. The only Nazi of note mentioned by Mr. Disler was Otto Skorzeny, who freed Mussolini. He is forbidden from entering Switzerland, and there is no knowledge of him having infringed that order, as stated by the article. Finally, Mr. Disler wrote that the writer Hans Habe, who

recently won a libel suit against Friedrich Duerrenmatt, had been liaising with foreign information networks. A confrontation between him and Mr. Disler proved that the allegations were baseless.

Railway accident near Aigle

Four people were killed in a railway collision outside Saint Triphon, near Aigle, as the Lausanne-Sion Express crashed with a goods train. The leading motor-coach collided with a wagon loaded with about 80 tons of fuel oil. It immediately burst into flames and the leading load of the express train was derailed and engulfed in flames. A thick black ball of smoke hung above for several hours. Four occupants of the leading coach, including the driver, were killed.

Lake Geneva cleaned by 1976

The Franco-Swiss Commission for the Protection of Lake Geneva held a session at Zermatt to review the progress accomplished towards purifying the Léman, one of the most polluted lakes in the world.

The two official delegations noted

with satisfaction that Lake's basin would soon be equipped in both countries with water purifying plants. They urged their respective governments to include phosphorous eliminating devices in the current programme so as to give a chance for the marine life of the Lake to pick-up. They expressed hope that it could be de-polluted by the end of 1976. The two countries have jointly launched a five-year plan to clean the Lake.

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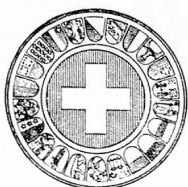
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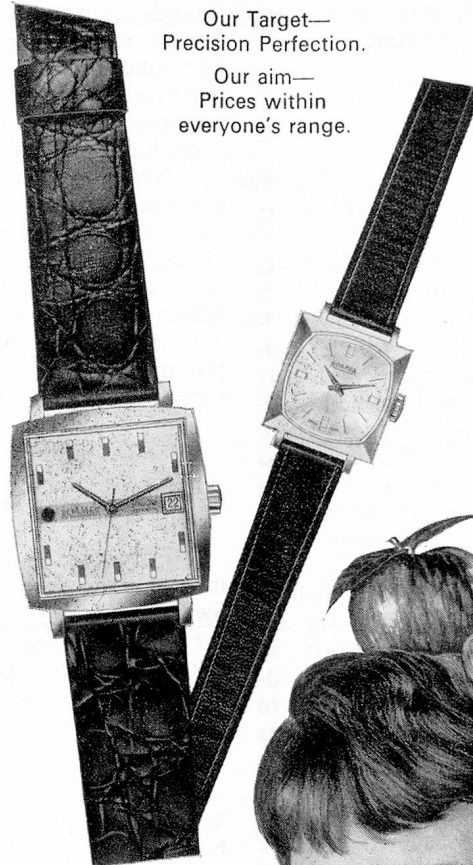
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Destruction of the Jungfrau Hotel

The Jungfrau Hotel was nearly almost completely destroyed by a gigantic fire in the middle of the night at the end of October. The glimmer from the fire could be seen distinctly from Interlaken. The Scheidegg-Jungfrau stretch of the Jungfrau Railway was closed to help the enquiry. There were not victims. The fifteen people who were at the hotel managed to scramble outside leaving their belongings behind. The hotel, which had been successively enlarged, opened in 1912 at the time when the Jungfrau Railway was built. It was the highest hotel in the world at the time.

MODERN LIFE

Swiss peasants organised for 75 years

The Union of Swiss Farmers celebrated its 75th Anniversary at its last Annual Assembly on 24th October. This organisation, which embraces the Swiss peasantry and acts as their spokesman, had invited Federal Councillor Ernst Brugger, Head of the Department of Economy, as well as two former Federal Councillors, Mr. Wahlen and Mr. Weber.

The Assembly welcomed the Swiss-EEC free trade agreement but expressed concern at the diminishing revenue of farmers. It called for increased subsidies and protection in various agricultural fields. In his address, Mr. Brugger painted a picture of national economic developments during the past 25 years. He called for increased agricultural specialisation and criticised those farmers who were hoarding animal foodstuffs to increase their price, and others who turned themselves into property speculators. He said that subsidies could not be considered as a panacea to all the ills of Swiss agriculture.

Marriage agencies controlled in Berne

Marriage agencies will be submitted to strict police controls in Berne and require a special licence. Marriage agencies from other cantons will not be allowed to advertise in Berne until they, too, obtain the necessary authorisation. The new regulations follow the unchecked growth of marriage brokers' offices, which are one of the consequences of the growing loneliness of urban life. The law also aims at stemming the creation of various dishonest businesses operating on the fringe of legality.

How to use medicine

In a recent seminar sponsored in Berne by the Swiss Academy of Medi-

cine, it was recalled that the medical profession was actually flooded by new products. Over 15,000 preparations are currently at their disposal and new ones, prompted by often incompetent salesmen, are foisted on them all the time.

This tendency, noted one speaker, reflected modern man's hate of any sort of suffering or physical discomfort. He resorted immediately to medicine to relieve them. This is all the more easy that 40 per cent of marketable medicines can be bought over the counter. Despite this profusion of drugs, pharmaceutical companies continually step up their research. They find it harder every year. Ten years ago, one in 500 synthesis lead to a marketable product. Now, over 5,000 attempts have to be made before something worthwhile emerges.

Nearly a fifth of the products that eventually come out of these laboratories are rejected by the Intercantonal Office for Medicine Control. Despite this stringency, France, Italy and Japan do not recognise Swiss tests. This makes the penetration of Swiss pharmaceutical products difficult in these countries.

55 drowned this summer

Fifty-five people (25 children, 28 men and two women) were drowned in Switzerland this summer, against 101 the previous year. This fall is attributed to poorer weather, new forbidden bathing sites and a safety campaign.

Winter Olympics: Sion expected to back down

Now that the voters of Colorado have voted against the 1976 Winter Olympics in Denver (during the presidential elections) the International Olympic Committee, whose Executive Commission was due to meet at Lausanne on 13th November, was expected to ask Sion whether it was still prepared to organise the next winter Olympics. Sion had been Denver's main contender for the 1976 Olympics and had hoped to be the venue of the last ones, which were held this winter at Sapporo, Japan. However, it seems that positions has since changed and that Sion's authorities will decline the offer in view of the exorbitant costs involved and the present financial restraint called for by the Federal government. Besides, is it more than likely Sion's eventual candidacy would be rejected by the people of the Valais. Even if Sion were to organise the Olympics, it could not offer the same kind of accommodation and massive equipment as Sapporo, a town of over a million. It was all the same prepared to go a long way to keep up with much larger rivals.

Plans had already been drawn up for a new ice rink and winter-events stadium.

International Agreement on School Co-ordination

The Conference of Cantonal Directors has decided to leave unchanged the Intercantonal Agreement on School Co-ordination despite the objections to the Agreement voiced this year by the peoples of several cantons. One of the most controversial provisions of the Agreement is to begin the school year in August, and not in Spring. So far twelve of the nineteen contracting cantons are beginning the school year in the Autumn. The Intercantonal Agreement is an attempt to settle the various distortions in the school system resulting from Switzerland's federal structure in by-passing Berne, and thus leaving intact the sovereignty of Cantons in educational matters.

"Purge" in the National Park

The French mass-circulation weekly *l'Express* had a two page report with pictures on the elimination of a thousand stags and deers in the National Park. The magazine claimed that this decision by the cantonal authorities of the Grisons, prompted by overpopulation and overgrazing in the Park, had caused a scandal in Switzerland. It recalled that there were 10,000 stags and deers in the Grisons, 2,500 of them in the National Park. This, according to the *l'Express*, meant a density of up to twelve animals per hectare. In order to keep this check, hunters were authorised to kill a quota of about 500 animals every year between 9th and 26th September. This year, hunting had been authorised during October to wipe out excess population of deers. Hunters were being paid a hundred francs for each animal killed. *L'Express* said that several French and Italian gaming reserves were interested in getting stags from the Grisons but had baulked at the high prices asked.

Meanwhile, the Grison's hunting office announced that three hundred deers had been killed during a post-season operation in the Lower Engadine and the Muentertal. Hunters had aimed primarily at the weakened stags and deers, young and sick animals. Eighty hunters took part in the operation.

Anti-army suicide

A young man picked out against his will to accomplish nine months of military duty as petty officer committed suicide in Vevey. This unusual and rather pathetic case caused a considerable upsurge in the area.



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PRO HELVETIA ACTIVITIES

The Pro Helvetia Foundation, one of whose tasks is to promote Swiss culture across the world, has supported a number of recent international events. The Foundation enumerated some of these in its September Press Circular.

Pro Helvetia and the Association of Swiss Musicians jointly sponsored the 28th International Contest of Musical Interpretation in Geneva. The Foundation helped to finance the composition of a piece of music for the sight-reading contest and an orchestra for strings and percussion.

The Herbert von Karajan Foundation invited the Berne Youth Symphony Orchestra to its 11th orchestral competition. Pro Helvetia helped the Orchestra, which was conducted by Bernhard de Quervain, to accomplish the journey. The Stadler-Quintet left on a tour of South America to perform works by Swiss composers, such as Robert Blum, Willy Burkhard, Rudolf Kelterhorn and Hans-Ulrich Lebman. Also with Pro Helvetia's support, the Geneva Ensemble of Contemporary Music left in September for Holland where it was invited to participate in the Dutch International Musical Festival. Swiss painter Hans Erni, well known for his horses and the elegance of his graphic style, will exhibit his works this coming December in Niamey (Niger) and Abidjan (Ivory Coast). From November to January,

the Tel Aviv Museum will display an exhibition of Swiss paintings and sculptures. Among the artists represented will be Giacometti and Sophie Täuber-Arb, both Swiss.

An exhibition of Swiss "Industrial Design" is currently waiting to be shown in Brazil at a forthcoming congress on the subject. It will then be moved during January-February to four Brazilian cities: Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Curitiba and Porto Alegre.

The exhibition of "Swiss Graphic Design", which was recently staged in the Royal College of Art, London, and will be shown at the Glasgow Art Gallery from 22nd November to 20th December, had previously travelled to Montreal with the support of Pro Helvetia. An exhibition of Swiss contemporary art is currently being held in Bochum, West Germany, and will probably be shown in the art museums of Lubeck and Graz.

Pro Helvetia subsidises books on Swiss matters. "The Swiss—A Panorama of Swiss Culture" by the American, Walter Sorell, was translated into German by Hugo Loetscher with the backing of Pro Helvetia monies. Six short Swiss films are at present being shown in various Norwegian towns.

The Peter W. Loosli puppet theatre, from Gossau, represented Switzerland last September at the international puppet festival at Charleville (France). His marionettes played an opera written by Stravinsky and Ramuz: "L'Histoire du Soldat".

BUSINESS

Canadian loan on Swiss market

The Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia has issued a six per cent, 15 year loan of 50 million francs on the Swiss market. The money will serve to develop the water supply system of this Canadian state. The subscription expires on 3rd November.

Higher premiums

The Swiss Touring Club has announced that car insurance premiums will increase next year by an average of 23 per cent over 1971. The Touring Club had earlier appealed to the Federal Court against this increase.

Slow growth of Swiss watch exports

Watch exports are rising slower than other industrial exports. For the first eight months of this year, exports of watches and movements have increased by 6.2 per cent in volume but by only two per cent in value. The watch industry expects this trend to improve somewhat in the short term. A revaluation of the Japanese yen would naturally be a boon to Swiss watch manufacturers.

Fall in orders at Sulzer's

Sulzer Brothers of Winterthur registered a notable reduction in their order book. Firm orders in September stood at 1.9 billion francs, compared with 2.2 billion francs at the same time in 1971. This 13.5 per cent drop was attributed to small investment demands in the principle markets, and to the hotting-up of competition. Monetary fluctuations have also been unfavourable to business, in particularly in the United States. Prospects have improved in Latin America, with the exception of Argentina and Chile, and in certain parts of Africa. Sulzer hopes that the enlargement of the European Community will help to strengthen its position in a highly competitive market.

Bührle to open to the public

The Bührle-Oerlikon Group, the largest privately-owned firm in Switzerland, has announced its intention of opening up to public participation. This might be as high as 25 per cent. A spokesman for the company said that a new shares issue had been postponed because of the coming vote on Swiss arms export. Now that the situation has been classified, it was possible for the company to take the necessary steps. The spokesman said that Bührle would henceforth concentrate its military production abroad.



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Saint Nicholas Customs in Switzerland

In many parts of Switzerland, ancient traditions are still alive around Saint Nicholas day (6th December). The protagonists, the "Kläuse" as they are popularly called, may differ in appearance from one region to the other, but their common namesake is Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, and as a tribute they wear a high head-dress, inspired by the mitre. Yet, the origin of these popular customs must be sought way back in pagan times, in the annual rites the purpose of which was to chase away the demons who haunted the long winter nights.

The most impressive spectacle of its kind may be seen every year at Küssnacht a/Rigi and at Arth on the lake of Zug, at the beginning of December.

Long before the great occasion, the boys and young men of the area go to work on the mitres, called *Infeln*, which often are more than three feet high. This head-dress is made of cardboard cut out in ornamental patterns which now also include Christian motives. On the inside, the open work is covered with coloured, transparent paper and illuminated by many candles. This work of art is fitted onto a wooden plate with two halves and has to be balanced on the head; for better support, it is further attached to a cardboard "top hat". The lightbearers, called *Yffeln*, wear long white beards and a long, white shirtlike gown trimmed with gold. The procession starts about 7 p.m. and is indeed a spooky sight because the ghostlike figures do not merely parade in even step but perform a sort of ritual dance. They are followed by the so-called Nicholas chasers, a crowd of boys and youngsters equipped with large cowbells, small bells, horns and long whips, all serving to make a hellish noise. Fully unperturbed by this pagan agitation, Saint Nicholas with *Schmutzli*, his servant, goes quietly about his business distributing presents in the homes. In the later hours, crowd, lights, noise and all, visits the homesteads and farms of the neighbourhood. The procession will pay special reverence to the big fruit trees, hitting their stems with the bells, in observance of an ancient fertility ritual.

In the small town of Kaltbrunn (Canton of St. Gall), Saint Nicholas is fêted every four years. Led by the saint with ass and driver, eleven white-clad figures (*Kläuse*) parade through the streets, symbolic of the twelve months in the year. Besides the ornamented and illuminated mitres which here cover the face and are carried on the shoulders, they have a huge cowbell attached to the broad belt. The dull, monotonous sound of the bells is most effectively contrasted by the cracking of whips which young men handle to sound like machine gun fire.

In some towns on the lake of Zurich and in the Zurich Oberland, tradition runs along very similar lines. Besides the ass which in itself is a faint recollection of Woden's mount, a further element are grotesque animals which hint at supernatural forces.

Even in Zurich, a Saint Nicholas tradition was revived some 45 years ago. On 6th December, the school children of Wollishofen have their own parade with home-made, illuminated head-dresses, cowbells and horns.

Seeing the pagan origin of these customs, the combined effect of light and noise to chase away the winter demons, it is readily understandable that they have survived not only on 6th December but, in many places, on New Year's eve when the evil spirits are driven out together with the old year.

The characteristic features remain the same as at Stäfa on the lake of Zurich where on the last day of the year four lightbearers (*Silvesterkläuse*), six men wearing wooden masks and the ass are driven through the streets by the whip-cracking driver. There is another figure, a clownlike character who meantime visits the houses to collect donations. In acknowledgement of the contributions received he will blow his horn for the whole group to gather and perform a circular dance with as much noise as possible.

In the Zurich Oberland, the *Kläuse* appear in the afternoon of 31st December, not in groups but individually, often accompanied by one of the typical animals. Their illuminated head-dress—here called *Nahrenangeli*—is of modest size, but attached to hips and shoulders they carry the full range of bells of a cowherd. They also dance or rather jump as high as they can, considering the weight, and try to sound the bells in harmony. They visit the homes and taverns wishing a happy New Year and asking for donations.

In some regions, these traditions are observed on 12th January, New Year's eve according to the Julian calendar of 46 B.C. As a matter of fact, the people of Appenzell, Glarus and the Grisons opposed the calendar reform introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 and kept to the Julian calendar up until the 1798 revolution—and to the present day, as far as these particular customs are concerned.

At Urnäsch and in parts of the Appenzell hill country, the young people inaugurate the nocturnal festival. Dressed in fantastic costumes with large wooden hats decorated with all sorts of little carved figures, hung with every kind of bell, they romp around wildly and make an infernal noise. This, however, is but the introduction to the parade of the *Kläuse*. There are the so-called *Schellenkläuse*, men whose head-dresses are intricate jig-saw masterpieces. Every kind of a thing is represented—houses, bridges, funiculars, viaducts etc.—according to how

far the individual's imagination roams. The women—called *Rollenkläuse*—wear highly artistic bonnets and waxen masks with a fixed smile. Counterpart to these "fair" personages who stand for fertility are the "ugly" figures representing pagan demons. Their costumes are made of every kind of material, fir branches, skins and rags, and they wear weird masks. While, theoretically, the two sexes are present, the actors are all young men. All the characters, fair and ugly, are covered with large round bells the clamour of which drastically underlines the strange rhythm of their dancing as they set out to conjure away a world of demons long vanished. There may be some 200 of them who make merry in their way they will visit the farms, bolt into the taverns with the long-drawn yodel, typical of Appenzell.

Symbolic expression of the people's attachment to the traditions of old, the "Silvesterkläuse" herald the New Year, thus linking past and future.

T. Sutter

(by courtesy of Swiss National Tourist Office.)

Swissair to introduce lower fares for Husbands/Wives in Europe

From 1st April, 1973 Swissair will introduce a 50 per cent cut on normal economy class return fares in Europe for husbands or wives travelling together. Eligible for the reduction is the wife or the husband, the other paying the normal return fare. The trip has to be completed within five days, excluding the day of departure, and husband and wife have to travel together both ways.



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