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TOURIST NEWS

The Maggia Valley is worth a discovery trip

The Maggia valley is more suited for adventurous travellers than for hasty and luxury-loving people. At Cavergno, the valley divides itself up into the Val Bavona to the west and the Val Lavizzara to the east. One hour's drive away from Locarno leads you to Fusio which already has an Alpine character about it. A ride by aerial cablecar takes you from San Carlo right at the back of the Val Bavona to the top of the Robiei (5,604 feet). Bosco-Gurin, the highest situated community of the Ticino (4,521 feet), is the only region in southern Switzerland where German, a Walser dialect, is spoken. The Maggia valley which branches out in different directions, offers many possibilities in the way of walking excursions. A brochure with 17 hiking suggestions is obtainable at Maggia Tourist Office. In summer, it is also possible to go over the Passo di Naret and the Passo di Christallino in the Bedretto valley. This region is equally a paradise for anglers — and for bathers in high summer — as it has no less than 40 crystal clear rivers and mountain lakes. Art lovers can find many treasures here: the "Madonna delle Grazie" church at Maggia with its valuable frescoes and votive pictures; the recently renovated charnel-house at Coglio; the "Madonna del Ponet" church at Cevio with its wonderful baroque stucco-work. There is also a local museum at Cevio (opening times: 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. except for Mondays) in a large house built in the Villa Borghese style. The museum at Bosco-Gurin displays only handicraft. There are no modern hotels as yet in the Maggia valley. There are, however, small and reasonably priced hotels and pensions as well as camping sites at Gordevio and Avegno in the middle of the woods and near to the water. Gourmets can try typical Ticinese specialities such as "formaggio della paglia" (cheese matured in straw) etc. It has a good road network but drivers who are not used to mountain bends should avoid the narrow and winding road from Peccia to Fusio.

Mineral Springs abound in the Grisons

A large proportion of Switzerland's mineral springs are in canton Grisons where small spas are still well-known today. This is because mountain spas have an all-round effect on sick, convalescent and healthy organisms thanks to their intensive stimulants influenced by the climate. The era of spa hotels of former days is over. People feel today that body therapy in an indoor pool, gymnastics, regular walks and mountain excursions in summer and skiing, curling and skating in winter are just as important as actually taking the waters. The famous "Valser" waters at

the modern health resort of Bad Vals are used for drinking, inhaling and bathing in. With its 25°C temperature, it is also an important part of the first modern Kneipp-Thermal-Mineral spa as well as the first high Alpine thermal mineral open-air swimming pool with artificial waves. Other modern spas are at Passugg and Andeer. The springs of St. Moritz Bad which were already used by the Romans are the highest in Switzerland (5,325 feet) whereas different kinds of treatments can be followed at Scuol-Vulpera such as: drinking, bathing, climatic and ground cures. The first "pista sana" in the Alps was completed in the skiing region of Motta Naluns.

Spring skiing courses in the Swiss Alps

Skiing holidays are all the more enjoyable in spring when days are longer and the sun shines stronger. Spring skiing courses will be held at *Arosa* from 1st April till the end of the season. These cost Fr. 370. — upward for seven days' hotel accommodation, ski vouchers and 12 half-day lessons. There will be a special Easter programme on the 17 mile long ski runs of *Lagalb* costing Fr. 165. — upward for four days' hotel accommodation (half board) and ski vouchers. Spring skiing courses will be held at *Zermatt* from 28th April to 5th May; ski instruction and ski vouchers cost Fr. 195. — and hotel accommodation

(half board) costs Fr. 230. — upward. "Ski packages" will again be available at *Murren* from 14th to 23rd April and seven days half board accommodation and a seven day ski voucher cost Fr. 307. — upward. All inclusive rates can still be had till 14th April at *Les Crosets*, *Champery*, *Planachaux* and *Val d'Illiez* in the new skiing region with about 130 miles of ski runs between France and Switzerland known as "*Les Portes du Soleil*". Prices there for 7 days' half board accommodation and a general ski voucher range from Fr. 300. — upward. A "Teen Ski" programme for young people will be held at *Saanen-Gstaad* from 31st March till 25th April. Accommodation at *Camp Egli* with full board, skiing instruction, free transport, evening entertainment and insurance cost in all Fr. 900. — for two weeks.

Attractive Swiss Museums for Children

The collection "Treasures of North American Indians" which is being exhibited in *Zurich*, will no doubt be very thrilling for lots of children with its many hunting and war weapons, feather decorations, masks, pipes, tomahawks, saddles etc. This exhibition, which is free of charge, is being held at the school building on *Feldstrasse 89* on Saturdays from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. and on Sundays from 10.00 to 12.00 in the mornings. There is a new



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museum of natural sciences in *Frauenfeld*. The collection is divided up into different categories and also has live exhibits. Besides stuffed animals of all sorts, you can also watch how an anthill is built and listen to stuffed birds singing by pressing on a button. The museum is open free of charge on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Girls will especially appreciate a visit to the museum of *Riehen* near Basle where dolls' houses, rooms, kitchens, puppet theatres, tin dolls, miniature railways, wooden toys etc. are on show. The museum is open free of charge on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00 a.m. The car museum in the castle of *Grandson* is also something special with its collection of veteran cars. This is open daily from 9.00 to 6.00 from Easter till November.

NEW EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEE

The National Council voted in favour of a better system of export credit guarantee to protect Swiss exporters from defaulting customers. The former system covered only a fixed percentage (of a maximum of 85%) of the exporter's production costs. The new system will apply to the invoiced value of the goods or services supplied by the Swiss firms concerned. Similar systems elsewhere are even more generous, as they cover up to 90 per cent, or even 100 per cent, of the invoiced value of deliveries. The Swiss system of export guarantees

only cover against political risks. Companies are expected to assess commercial risks themselves. As for political upheavals and nationalisations, the Swiss State undertakes to offer adequate cover. For these reasons, nearly three-quarters of applications for cover come from firms wishing to export to developing countries. The system of export credit guarantee is also designed to protect against monetary fluctuations. Although Swiss firms try whenever they can to establish their prices in national currency, they must sometimes accept deals in foreign, and less stable currencies, on grounds of competitiveness. Many firms have suffered severe losses through subsequent devaluations of the pound and the dollar. The new scheme, which has already been adopted by the Council of States, was originally proposed to guard against such risks.

Forthcoming Events

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE:

Open Meeting at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, NW3, on Thursday, 21st June, at 7 p.m. Talk in English by Dr. Carlo Jagmetti, Press Attaché at the Swiss Embassy, "MEMORIES OF A STAY IN VIETNAM". Dr. Jagmetti was Chargé d'Affaires at the Swiss Embassy in Saigon for two months at the end of last year. All Swiss and their friends are welcome. The talk will be illustrated by slides.

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD:

Will take place at St. Gall from 17th-19th August. Please reserve the date. Details will be given later.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION:

Shooting at Bisley on the following Sundays: 3rd June, 17th June, 1st July, 26th August.

ANNUAL LANDSGEMEINDE OF THE SWISS OF THE NORTH:

Sunday, 17th June, at Hebden Bridge (details published later).

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL:

Jazz Evening at the St. Hilary Hotel, Wallasey, Wirral on the 1st Friday of each month.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY:

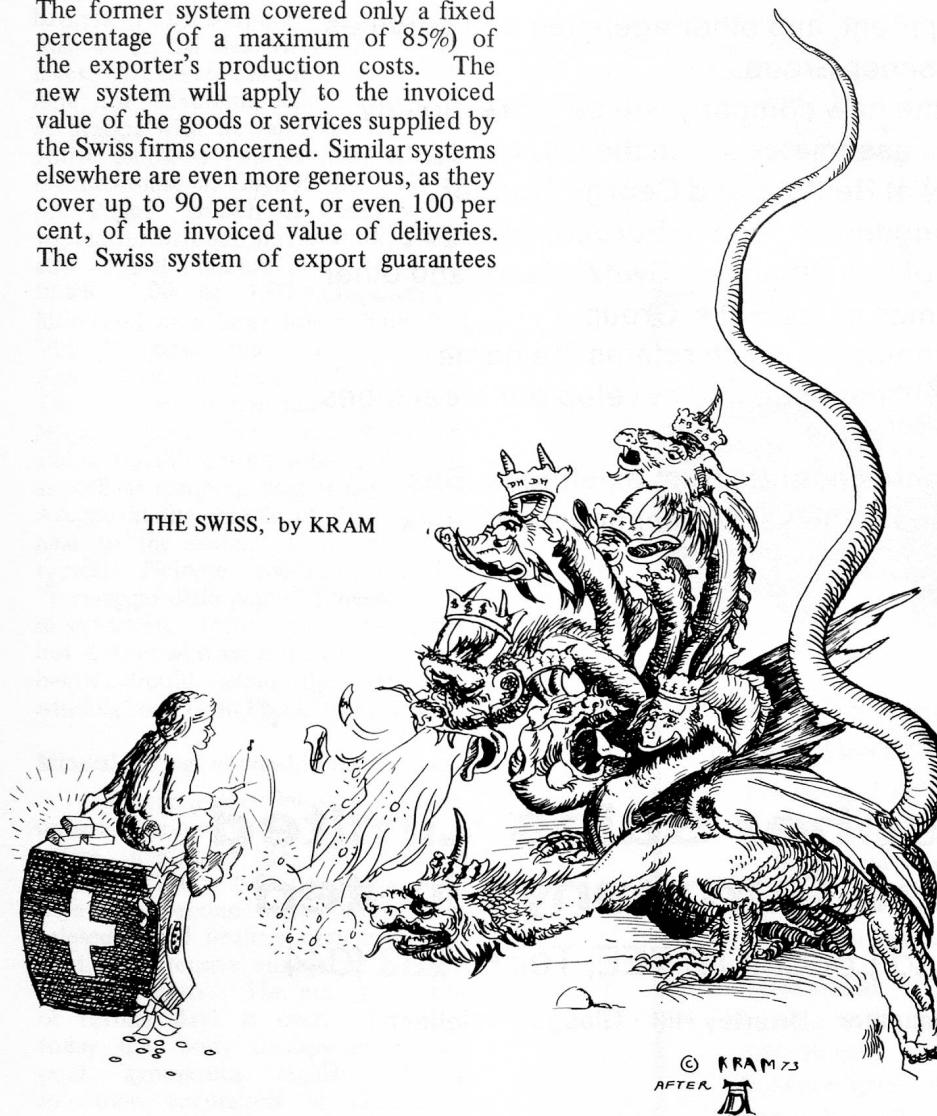
Silver Jubilee Dance on Tuesday, 12th June, at the Hurlingham Club (Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6) at 7.45 for 8.30 p.m. Please apply for tickets from the Secretary not later than Friday, 8th June.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Friday, 29th June, Member's Evening.



THE SWISS, by KRAM



Poor little Gnome!

HOLIDAY FLAT PART OWNERSHIP SCHEME

A correction is required to our report on a new scheme for buying apartments for two weeks in every year in Switzerland and elsewhere (23rd March). Owing to a printing error, it was not made clear that these apartments can be bought by remitting full payment upon acceptance. This will attract a 4 per cent discount. The apartments can also be bought with a 25 per cent down payment and 3 equal quarterly payments or a 20 per cent minimum payment with 24 subsequent equal payments.

The scheme was described to us by Mr. F. Habegger, who is not only a member of the London Tourist Board, but also a Swiss citizen. Anyone interested for more details please contact Mr. Habegger at 01-903 2859 or 01-584 2089.