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SWISS EVENTS

Switzerland ahead of foreign investors in West Germany

Investments coming from Switzerland were ahead of all foreign investments in West Germany during the first six months of the year. The money settling in Germany from Switzerland during that period totalled 761.3 million Deutschmarks. The next investing countries were United States (679.2 million); Netherlands (386.1); Great Britain (322.7); Belgium and Luxemburg (171.1) and France (151.1). Switzerland is the second greatest investor in Western Germany and controls 5,847.4 million Deutschmarks of plant and property in that country, behind the United States (15,933) but ahead of the Netherlands (4,991.1), Great Britain (3,930.5), Belgium and Luxemburg (2,133.5), and France (2,033.5).

West Germany invested only 185.7 million Deutschmarks in Switzerland during the same six months placing the Confederation in sixth position among the countries where the Germans put their money. The first five were the United States, France, Brazil, Belgium-Luxemburg and Spain.

"Zeppelin Post" at Berne's PTT Museum

The Swiss PTT (Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs) Museum in Berne is showing from 14th January to 20th April a special "Zeppelin Post" exhibition. The exhibition is topical because of the preparatory work currently in progress for the issue during 1975 of a new stamp publicising the new hall of air and space travel at the Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne. The Berne exhibition shows some of the proposed designs and the stages of preparatory work for the new stamp, as well as historic pictures and other items from three valuable private collections which have been donated to the museum. The Milton Weil collection contains documents relating to the Lucerne Airship Station in 1910 and numerous philatelic items from the first German Zeppelin flights over Switzerland in the 1920s and 1930s. Dr. Pagani has donated technical photographs showing the construction and operation of airships. And the Dr. Bosch collection contains philatelic items from almost all the flights carried out by German airships in and over Switzerland.

Congress in Berne - "Switzerland and Women's Year"

Women's organisations in Switzerland are staging a joint congress in Berne from 17th to 19th January as a prelude to the United Nations Women's Year. The congress will discuss the role of the

women in public, professional and private life, and there will be a report from the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mrs. Helvi Sipilä. The three-day programme will also include film and theatre evenings and practical sessions in a specially-prepared studio where participants can try their skills at various types of handwork under the guidance of expert instructors. In addition, there will also be free consultation sessions at which participants can obtain advice on a wide variety of matters. This important congress is being staged under the patronage of the Swiss Interior Minister, Mr. Hans Hurlmann, and will bring together more than 80 women's organisations throughout the country. It promises to make a valuable contribution towards improving woman's role in society.

Coin Collectors choose Berne for World Congress

The International Numismatic Congress in 1979 is to be held in Berne. Some 400 participants are expected and there will also be a big exhibition.

A Weekend in Berne - for just over Sw.Fr. 100!

Berne's Official Tourist Office - in co-operation with the West German, French and Belgian national railways - is again offering special all-in weekend arrangements in the city this winter. Following the success of the scheme in previous years, tourists from any of these three countries wishing to visit Berne up and including April, 1975, can benefit once more from a really bargain-priced package offer. Under the arrangement, the visitor travels to Berne on the Friday and returns on the Sunday (although the stay can be extended for a further night). The price? From barely over Sw.Fr. 100. The arrangement includes the second-class return rail journey, two overnight stays in a first-class Berne hotel, two breakfasts, free vouchers for two

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day's unlimited travel on Berne's buses and trams, all service charges and taxes, and detailed documentation on the city and its main attractions. Each visitor also receives a free booklet of "Berne - à la carte" vouchers, entitling him or her to free entry into various nightclubs, museums and other attractions, reduced price theatre tickets, a free plate of tasty Swiss cheese in a local restaurant, and a free portion of bearfood for the animals at Berne's world-famous bear-pits. Further details of this special weekend offer are obtainable from the ticket offices of the West German, French and Belgian national railways and, of course, from Berne's Official Tourist Office.

Berne City Excursions - also in winter

Weekend visitors to Berne this winter can take advantage of the ever-popular two-hour city sightseeing tour. The luxury coach trip, which includes the services of a multi-lingual guide, costs only Sw.Fr. 11 and starts every Saturday morning at 10.00 from just behind the Holy Ghost Church near the main railway station. From next April, the excursion tour will again be resumed on a daily basis (except Sundays), starting at 14.15. From 15th April there will also be a 10 a.m. tour.

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SWISS INVESTMENTS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A survey carried out in the Swiss private economy sector showed that the direct investments made by it in the developing countries during the year 1973 totalled 255 million francs. Investments last year were therefore slightly lower than those made in 1972, which amounted to a total of 281 million francs. The total aid given to the developing countries in the form of direct investments over the last five years has been calculated to be 1.25 billion francs.

GREAT ST. BERNARD ROAD TUNNEL

1964 saw the opening of the Great St. Bernard road tunnel, the first transalpine tunnel connecting the north and the south of Europe by a road open all the year round, every hour of the day and night. For ten years now, without a moment's interruption, the Great St. Bernard tunnel has guaranteed the safety of motorists driving beneath this pass which, in the past, was practicable only five months in the year owing to the difficulty of access, snow conditions and the altitude. From the moment it was opened to traffic, the tunnel, run by a mixed Italo-Swiss firm, has met with

growing success. The number of vehicles passing through — there have been 4.25 million so far — is divided into several categories, viz. private cars, motor coaches and commercial vehicles, with the latter gradually increasing in proportion.

Jura: Signature collection of a Half-Canton

A manufacturer from Court has launched an initiative for the establishment of an autonomous half-Canton comprising the three anti-Separatist districts of the Jura (Moutier, La Neuveville and Courtelary). The 15,000 signatures required for a referendum were collected in record time and deposited at the Bernese Chancery before the Great Council opened its December session to discuss further steps to be taken under the complicated procedure leading to the creation of a new Jura. Although the majority of voters in the southern districts were in favour of remaining "Bernese" at last June's plebiscite, the idea of a separate half-Canton, distinct from Berne and the three northern districts, is gaining increasing interest in the area.

New Publications by the Swiss National Tourist Office

The brochure "Events in Switzerland — Winter 1974/75" compiled by the Swiss National Tourist Office has just been issued. It is 72 pages long and contains information in alphabetical order on new means of transport, indoor swimming pools, ski-hiking runs, hotels, travel tickets, etc., in over 160 Swiss winter resorts. 95 all-inclusive ski-packages and cross-country skiing possibilities are equally described. A new catalogue has also just appeared on institutes and private schools for young people in twenty-five winter sports resorts during Christmas and Easter Holidays. Both these brochures are obtainable from: SNTO, Talacker 42, CH-8001 Zurich.

News About the Panoramic Corvatsch Mountain Ski-ing Region

Skiers will need less than a quarter-of-an-hour to travel to the upper terminal (9909 ft. a.s.l.) of the Corvatsch railway in cabins (maximum load: 80 persons) which recently underwent safety tests. The brand new 2-4 mile long cross-country ski-ing run, which lies at a height of 8100 ft., is intended for beginners, advanced skiers and for people training for the 30-mile long Engadine Ski Marathon from Maloja to Zuoz. One of the Corvatsch mountain's special attractions is the moonlit run which will take place during full moon on 26th January, 25th February, 26th March and 24th April. Moreover, a sports bus will be running every quarter-hour as from 22nd December on the following route: Lagalb-Diavolezza-Pontresina-Punt Muragl-Celerina St. Moritz-Champfèr-Silvaplana-Corvatsch-Sils-Furtschellas and back.

SKI-ING NEWS

Cross-country Ski-ing in the Jura

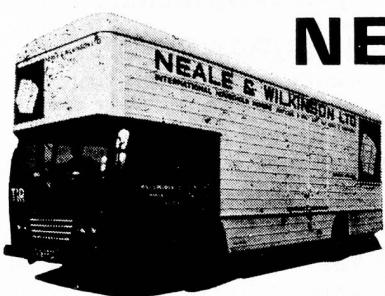
It's a worthwhile experience to go cross-country ski-ing through snow-covered Jura meadows on the high plateau of the Franches Montagnes. The 40-mile long cross-country ski-ing itinerary which was opened last winter follows well-marked routes going from La Ferrière (easily reached both by rail and by car) via Les Bois, Le Noirmont, Saignelégier, Montfaucon, Lajoux, Bellelay, Les Genevez, Les Breuleux and back to La Ferrière. The following stretches: Saignelégier — Les Reussilles (4 miles) and La Ferrière — Les Breuleux (9 miles) are especially worthwhile. Most of these places can be reached with the Jura railway. On weekends and holidays, the day tickets costing Fr. 9 (children up to

16 years, Fr. 6) are issued for unlimited travel on all rail and postal coach routes. The train stations at Berne, Basle, and Biel also offer special excursion tickets. There are cross-country ski-ing schools at Peu-Péguinot and Vacheries-des-Breuleux. Ski-hiking and cross-country ski-ing weeks will take place from the beginning of December till March at Sonceboz. Two nights in a double room at "Le Grillon" Motel with full board and guided excursions cost Fr. 105. "Ski hiking weeks through the Jura" is the name given to guided tours. Skiers won't have to think about their luggage which will be transported separately from one stopover to another. These tours, which will take place from 10th to 22nd February, and from 23rd February to 1st March, cost Sw.Fr.360 per participant. For additional information contact "Pro Jura", CH-2740 Moutier.

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