

Tourist news

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The first English minister to speak at these monthly services was the Rev. David E. Lewis, Minister at Claremont Mission, Islington, who was to preach on 20th April. There being no visiting Minister available on Sunday 18th May, Past. Uli Stefan, Minister at the Swiss Church, will be taking over the Service in English. On Sunday 8th June, the Rev. John Bickersteth, in charge of the Ashburnham Fellowship Centre will preside over Services at the annual outing of the Swiss-German Parish to Ashburnham Place. The Rev. Donald Black, Minister at the American Church in London, is to preach on Sunday 6th July.

At their last meeting in March, the Parish Council of the French-speaking

Swiss Church felt it inadvisable to join this scheme. The main reason put forward was that it would yet further deplete the ranks of those who turn up on Sundays.

P.M.B.

DEPARTURE OF MR. FRITZ ADAMS

An exceptionally well attended reception at the Ambassador's Residence on 26th March was given by departing Consul-General, Fritz Adams, to say farewell to the Colony. This function followed closely on those already given in honour of Ambassador Juerg Iselin, ex-First Counsellor at the Embassy and Mr. Franz Birrer, former Cultural

Attaché. They have respectively left London for new assignments in Berne and Cologne. Mr. Adams has left for New Zealand, where he is now head of the Swiss Diplomatic Mission. The enormous attendance at his reception witnessed to the importance of his work and to his popularity in the Colony.

EMBASSY: CORRECT NAMES

Two names were mis-spelt in the list of Swiss Consular officials published in our last Special Issue. To put the record straight, Mr. Horace Jaques is Consul-General in Manchester and Mr. Max Wegmüller, Vice-Consul.

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GRAND PRIX DE BERNE FOR CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

More than 100 of the world's top clay pigeon marksmen will be competing in Berne from 2nd to 4th May for the 14th annual Grand Prix de Berne. The event is being organised by the Berne Shooting Club at its Bergfeld grounds at Berne-Hinterkappelen – reputed to be among the most beautiful in the world. Incidentally, non-members can also upon request use the club's grounds and facilities; the address is obtainable from the Berne City Tourist Office.

Lake Geneva region with its vineyards and villages, and the peaceful Emmental with its secluded footpaths.

BERNE GETS READY FOR GOLF

Preparations for the coming season are under way at Berne's golf course – the beautiful grounds of the Blumisberg Golf and Country Club. The course is situated amid wonderful woodland and offers a magnificent view of the

impressive alpine chain. The course is barely 11 miles from the city, lying to the west along the road to Fribourg. And it meets the highest technical requirements. It is an 18-hole course over 6,636 yards, with a restaurant, bar, showers, swimming pool and all the other facilities that go to make the glorious game of golf the relaxing pursuit it is. The Club and its many facilities are open to tourists and other non-members, but it is advisable to make prior reservation through the Berne City Tourist Office.

CITY TOURS – ON LAND AND WATER

The popular daily tours of Berne are again being held from 1st April to 31st October. The one-and-a-half-hour tour by comfortable coach takes the visitor from one attraction to another with a running commentary by one of the City's many multi-lingual guides. Tour commentaries are given in German, French, English, Italian and also – upon request – in Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Swedish and Japanese.

Visitors can also make a round city trip with a difference – by boat. From 1st May to 15th September a modern, comfortable (and unsinkable!) boat makes the trip along the river Aar. It leaves Schwellenmätteli at 18.45, finishes up at the Kappelenbrücke and along the way passes under no less than 12 of Berne's bridges.

BERNE – THE IDEAL CENTRE FOR EXCURSIONS

In preparation for the forthcoming summer season, the Berne City Tourist Office has just published its new Excursion Programme. The attractive and richly-illustrated brochure lists a variety of very worthwhile excursions and day trips in all directions – the Bernese Oberland with its awe-inspiring snow-capped peaks and glaciers, the sunny Valais in the heart of the Alps, the

SPORTS NEWS

SWITZERLAND END A GOOD SKI SEASON

Switzerland can view the 1974-75 World Ski Cup with satisfaction. The ladies' team performed particularly well and placed three girls among the first ten. They are Marie-Therese Nadig (fourth), Bernadette Zurbriggen (sixth) and Lise-Marie Morerod (seventh). The Cup was won as expected by the Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell. Hanni Wenzel (Liechtenstein) and Hanni Wenzel (West Germany) were second and third.

The best Swiss man was Bernard Russi (11th) followed by René Bethod (12th), Philippe Roux (14th) and Walter Tresch (15th). The Cup was won by the Italian Gustavo Theoni after a tight match with Swede Ingemar Stenmark and the Austrian Franz Klammer.

In a far less physical type of winter sport, Switzerland has caused a complete surprise by winning the World Curling Championships at Perth (Scotland). The team led by Otto Danieli beat the U.S., Canada, Sweden and Scotland in that order.

SWISS ECONOMY 1974 – IN RETROSPECT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Last year, Switzerland's economic activity tended to slow down. However, as can be read in the December report put out by the Swiss Credit Bank, the weakness of the home market, which was more marked than the previous year, was offset until the summer by the heavy demand from abroad. Thus, during the first half of 1974, industrial production again exceeded that of the corresponding period for the previous year by 4.5%. As the number of people employed in industry continued to drop slightly, it would seem that considerable progress has once again been made from the point of view of productivity. After the middle of the year, orders from abroad fell considerably however as a result of the general slowing up of economic activity in the world and a new de facto revaluation of the Swiss franc. In spite of the slackening of the situation, the rise in prices did not mark time. Overall, the real gross national product should have advanced about 1% to reach some 145 billion francs. The general change in the situation was particularly noticeable in several sectors of the textile industry, in particular cotton, as well as in other export-oriented branches of the consumer goods industry. But the equipment goods industry also suffered the repercussions; orders on the books of machinery and

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