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# Features

to work out the five pages of local news for those countries where circulation would be too small to warrant printing there.

## Abroad

Many countries have been publishing their own information bulletins of many kinds already for decades. They range from a paper and duplicated circular to a magazine. Unfortunately, a number of these publications have ceased to exist in the course of the years, so that it became necessary to build up a comprehensive system of information, which takes into account the still existing Swiss papers abroad. This is also the reason why the «Review» has so many different names (see page 5). Many of these publications appear monthly, some even fortnightly or weekly.

Four times a year, the editors of these bulletins and papers receive a set of offset films of the 19 pages prepared in Berne. They are in the language most often used by our compatriots in any particular country. In the meantime, the editors gather material for local news and publicity for their region and prepare the five pages left to them. In some countries there is so much local news that more than

five pages have to be used (i.e. France and the Federal German Republic).

As you see from the summary on page 3, the Swiss in those countries where only few of our compatriots live, send their local news directly to Berne.

As soon as the offset films have been prepared, the issues are printed and sent to the Swiss diplomatic and consular missions. They are entrusted with the distribution, for they alone are in possession of the necessary addresses.

The distribution to approximately 320 000 compatriots all over the world is thus dealt with by the 191 Swiss embassies and consulates. As you can well imagine, such a gigantic system, however simple it may be in its conception, creates considerable difficulties for example finance. The Executive Committee has to deal with the following points: recruiting editors abroad, choice of languages, addressograph machines, address card-indexes, publicity, avoiding duplication of texts, deciding on the volume of local news, choice of lettering and format of the «Review», technical peculiarities in printing in the various countries, quality of paper, translations, keeping to headlines, postal rates

and administrative regulations in every country, quite apart from unforeseen incidents such as strikes, loss or damage of films, wrong deliveries etc.

In order to simplify these problems and to distribute the tasks somewhat, agreements have been made with those countries in which the «Review» is printed on the spot (or will be concluded in the near future). These are tripartite agreements, between the umbrella organizations of the Swiss communities, the Federal Political Department and the Commission of the Swiss Abroad. The main task of the umbrella organizations is to appoint an editor, in order to assure the quarterly publication of the «Review».

Thanks to the often honorary cooperation of Swiss abroad, it is possible to let you have the «Review», a copy of which you have in your hands. May we ask you to support the efforts to develop further the «Review», either by supporting it financially (by way of subscribing to the periodical in your country of residence) or by making editorial contributions.

On behalf of the Executive Committee  
Lucien Paillard

## Sport

### Curling

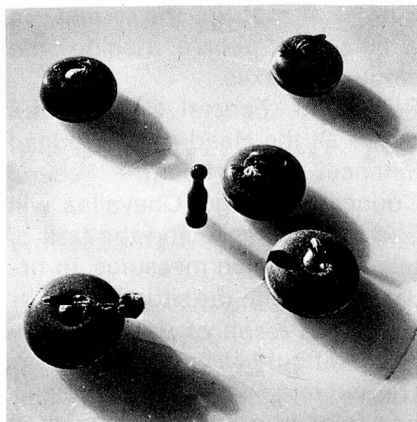
Peter and Bernhard Zimmermann, Jürg Geiler and Mathias Neuenchwander – four names which would arouse doubt even with the greatest sports fans if one mentioned them separately.

The Curling Club of Duebendorf is an uniform team. Four friends who have come out of their anonymity for more than a week, who have made headlines in the press and

who have filled with enthusiasm the whole country. Annoyed by the adverse way things turned out at the world skiing championships at St. Moritz, the fanatic Swiss threw themselves on this piece of luck. Four of their representatives very nearly became world champions, had it not been for an insignificant trifle. Nevertheless, this achievement revived spirits, called forth questions:

Curling, after all, is not just a sport for the rich, a game taken from an old and dusty history book. Its origins do actually go back a very long time. The first traces were found in 1510. At that time, Curling was played on Scotland's frozen lakes. The first club was founded at Kilsyth, near Glasgow. Gradually only, one began to realize how heavy the stones were: 52 kg. So the athletic side

# Features



of this sport must also be considered, and it would be wrong to maintain that it is nothing more than a pastime to which only weakly old men adhered, even though the stone has lost considerably in weight since 1775 and now weighs 20 kg with a circumference of 0.915 m. Even so, the demands are still great.

Due to the daring and determina-

tion of the four Duebendorf players whose average age is not above 21 years, this sport was discovered anew and made «fit for society» again. Enough of that banter about «the man and his broom», enough of those petty allusions about the «game for the rich»! Justice was done, and suddenly one remembered again that officially acknowledged Curling championships took place at the Olympic Games at Chamonix in 1924. Is there possibly a chance that this particular case might have a continuation almost 60 years later? The fact that the next Olympic Winter Games will take place in Canada is favourable, for most of the adherents of this sport live there. About 100 000 people find pleasure in trying to reach the goal, 38.40 m away, as near as possible. The four Duebendorf club pals have done pioneering work. They wear their hair long, look like students and are always ready for pranks. In spite of this, they are aware of their strength and will make a serious effort to prove

themselves also in future. Specialists believe that this should not create too many difficulties.

By choosing the four players as sportsmen of the year in team games, new talents may be discovered. Even a few years ago, one would have ridiculed such a choice. Today one realizes that Curling has its justification amongst other games, for it demands typically athletic abilities as well as quick reaction and a sense of strategy. It is not the purpose of these lines to exaggerate the qualities of this sport in order to puff up the merits of the Duebendorf players. But it was necessary to mention a few home-truths which one had tried almost deliberately to forget.

Whatever the future of the four sportsmen is like, they have definitely made a big contribution to the importance of Curling. Their pleasure in playing is so great that one will not speak of them much in future; that is where the secret of big success lies.

Bertrand Zimmermann

## No to a compulsory sickness insurance No to an increase in taxes Yes to a brake in expenditure

On 8th December 1974, the Swiss people were called to the poll in order to give their opinion on two vastly different proposals, which had, however, one thing in common: finance.

### Compulsory sickness insurance

The people's Initiative launched by the Social Democrat Party, which had as its aim the creation of a compulsory sickness insurance and the counterproposal by Parliament to improve the existing

insurance were rejected by the Swiss electorate.

Voting participation was only 39.7 percent; the Initiative was rejected by 1 010 103 to 384 155; the counterproposal got 457 922 yes and 883 179 noes.

In view of this double no, reactions were not slow in coming: some think that the people wish a pause in the expansion of the welfare state; others believe that the voter has spoken in favour of an improvement in the sickness insurance in principle, but does not

wish interference by the state. Federal Councillor Hürlimann, Head of the Federal Department of the Interior, has stressed how urgent it is today to improve benefits, especially removing the time limit for benefits in cases of hospitalisation and the reduction of the age limit for joining. This should be made on the basis of the Constitutional Article of 1911.

Thus the position of the Swiss abroad has not changed. Deadlock remains; though the problems of sickness insurance for our com-