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JANUARY 1985. NUMBER 1 - A NEW JOURNAL.

Welcome aboard the Swiss Express the new journal of the Swiss Railways Society. The Swiss Railway News has been retired from service and we go forth in 1985 with a new style of journal under a new editorship.

The circumstances surrounding the change have been fully discussed in committee and no doubt the "why and wherefore" will come under the scrutiny of the membership at large in the course of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. The most important point to establish is that the Society must have a journal which can be relied upon to appear at regular intervals. The new journal will be published four times a year starting with January then April, June and October. Each edition will be numbered consequently with this issue being number one.

The Swiss Express will incorporate regular features relating to prototype and model railways and it will also record the activities of the Society. In dealing with the Railways of Switzerland one cannot escape from the natural beauty of the landscape in which the railway is set against. Therefore it will not be inappropriate to include articles relating to the Swiss environment. This might include advice on interesting places to visit and noteworthy hotels and camping sites (especially where they provide a good lineside location).

Members frequently request prototype track layout plans and I shall therefore include at least one plan in each edition. (If any member has good copies of original plans or well drawn sketches then they may care to submit them for publication). If a photograph or drawing can accompany the plan then so much the better. I shall also be looking for modelling ideas, including layout plans whether theoretical or those actually tried in practice (Plans and drawings which are submitted for publication must be in ink, preferably black).

Articles relating to funiculars, trolleybuses and tramways and the modelling thereof are

welcomed.

In addition to feature articles about the prototype there will be space set aside for member's notes and observations of the current rail scene in Switzerland. This can take the form of engine listings, train formations or merely whatever you saw occurring at the places you visited. A lot of what you observe may seem "old hat" but remember many members have only limited experiences of visiting Switzerland and some have never seen the country. Therefore the most basic information will have an appeal to a considerable number of members.

In future all members requiring information will have their requests published. It will then be left to individual members to reply at will. Preferably any reply should be sent to me so that it can be published in the Swiss Express for the benefit of all members.

The Swiss Express is only one of the many mediums through which we can gain information about the railways of Switzerland. Professional magazines published in Britain, Germany and Switzerland provide a constant flow of articles relating to our hobby. With such a profusion of magazines these days it is virtually impossible to read every one even if you can afford to purchase them all! To keep members aware of what is being said about Swiss railways in other magazines I will provide space to run an index in every edition. In doing this I will need the assistance of members to draw my attention to relevant articles. The best way to achieve this will be for a small number of members who are avid magazine readers to send me regular "press reports". Any volunteers? Apart from the obvious magazines ad hoc articles are likely to appear in the journals of such organisations as the Stephenson Locomotive Society and Locomotive Club of Great Britain. So keep your eye on the press and please keep me posted !

Editors note: This is a verbatim reproduction of the first page of the first Swiss Express.