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OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES.

ST. MORITZ 1948.

Federal Councillor Celio who next year will be the President of the Swiss Federal Council has informed the Olympic Committee that he has accepted its invitation to be Honorary President of the Winter Games 1948. Members also of the Honorary Committee will be Dr. Kobelt, Chief of the Swiss Military Department and General Guisan.

The number of countries competing has risen to fifteen, as Canada and Holland have announced their entries.

In the meantime the Technical preparations are advancing rapidly. The definite site of the Ski Long-distance races has been agreed upon and the measuring of this locality is now in operation. The long-distance races commence and finish at Salet. The chosen course is hilly and leads mainly through forest between St. Moritz-Bad, Stazersee, Celerina, Pontresina, Olympiaschanze and Sarlej. The route of the Military Patrols Race is passing over the high Alps but also ends at Salet. The renovation of the Olympic Jumping Hill has already begun. The definite decision about the course of the Downhill race can be expected within a few days and the Ski associations will soon receive the plans and outlines of all the skiing stadiums.

As all the Ice-hockey Games cannot be held at the Olympic Ice Stadium some will take place on the play grounds near the Palace Hotel and the Suvretta-House.

The technical committee for the Bobsleigh and Sleighing competitions recently met at Montreux under the direction of its president, Dr. Cattani (St. Moritz). The bob-run as well as the Crestarun, must be made passable very soon after the first fall of snow. Every competing nation is allowed to enter two two-seater and two four-seater bobsleighs and also four skeleton competitors. The bob-races will be held in four laps and the tobogganing competitions in three runs from Junction and three from Top. The total time will be counted. The Swiss bobsleigh crews will be - Feierabend-Waser (two-seater) and Feierabend-Endrich-Waller-Waser (four-seater). The two other teams will be selected after two special coachings which will begin on the 10th of January. The coach of the Swiss crews is Joseph Beerly (Engelberg).

C. Water, Fischbacher, Baselgia and G. Olinger have been chosen as Swiss skeleton competitors.

Members of the jury are Comte De La Fregeoliere (Paris), Albert Mayer (Montreux) and Donna Fox (U.S.A.).

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SUNDRY NEWS.

The Norwegian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Jkystad, has paid an official visit to the town of Schaffhausen, in order to convey to the town Council the thanks of the King of Norway and the Norwegian Government, for the hospitality the town of Schaffhausen had given to 76 Norwegian soldiers who were transferred from the Concentration Camp of Dachau.

The Minister, after a short address in which he thanked the population for their friendly action towards his countrymen, handed to the Mayor a Diploma and the "Liberation Cross," the former bears the signature of King Haakon.

Mr. Bringolf, Mayor of the town of Schaffhausen, thanked the Minister for the presentation, which he said was proof of the friendly relations which have always existed between the two countries.

The Catholic Women's Association of Schwyz have protested against the sale of the 1st of August emblem depicting a woman in the nude, describing it as being indecent. (A.T.S.)

The Austrian Foreign Minister, Karl Gruber, at present on a holiday in Switzerland, was received in Berne, by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Etter and Federal Councillor Stampfli.

The well-known painter and producer of historical plays, August Schmid, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Zurich.

A club called "Airlines Representatives Club of Switzerland" has been founded in Zurich. Members are agents of ten different International Air Line companies. Director Eugen Groh of "Swissair" has been elected as honorary member. (A.T.S.)

The new Swissair Travel Bureau in the railway station building in Zurich was opened by Ulrich Keller, sub-manager of the Swissair. The newly opened office employs a staff of 50 employees. (A.T.S.)

The well-known "Concertgebouw" orchestra from Amsterdam has arrived at Interlaken. They are giving a number of concerts at the Kursaal, under the conductorship of Eduard van Beinum, with the soloist, Jacques Thibaud (violin). The opening concert was attended by Federal Councillor von Steiger and members of the cantonal government. (A.T.S.)

Sigriswil, the picturesque village above Gunten (Ct. Berne) has celebrated its 600th anniversary. The Bernese government was represented by its President, Dr. F. Feldmann, Dr. Gafner, Arnold Seematter and H. Siegenthaler. (A.T.S.)

Admiral Bernhard Bieri, commander of the American Mediterranean fleet, has arrived at the "Schatzalp" (Berne) for a short stay. The admiral is a son of Bernhard Bieri, who was born in Brienz and later on emigrated to America. (A.T.S.)

A Bernese alpinist, Willi Roth, together with the mountain guide Emil von Allmen, have made the first ascent from the Tschingelfirn via the south-side to the summit of the Gspaltenhorn (3,437m.). (A.T.S.)

The University of Basle has honoured Friedrich Sauter, the founder and head of the firm Fr. Sauter A.G., manufacturers of electrical apparatus with the decree of doctor honoris causa. (A.T.S.)

A large contingent of Scottish boy scouts have arrived in Basle, they will spend a holiday in our country. (A.T.S.)

The death is reported from Buchtalen (Schaffhausen) of Dr. h.c. Jakob Wipf, for many years pastor of the community of Buchtalen, at the age of 76. He was the author of a work dealing with the history of the Reformation in the canton of Schaffhausen for which he received the title of doctor honoris causa. (A.T.S.)

The couple, Wieser-Niederer at Altstätten (St. Gall) have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, at the age of 83 and 84 respectively. (A.T.S.)

The death has occurred at Wohlen (Aargau) of Dr. Oskar Hedinger, who, for 30 years held a leading position in the straw hat industry of the canton of Aargau, at the age of 68. The deceased was a member of the Grand Council for many years, over which he presided in 1919. (A.T.S.)

The founder of the University Clinic in Leysin Dr. Louis Vauthier, who has been for the last 25 years in charge of this institution, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Dr. Vauthier, who is a "Neuchatelois" made his studies at the University of Geneva. (A.T.S.)

The village of Roumaz (Valais) was partly destroyed by fire, a large part of the harvest was also lost; it is believed that the fire was started by children playing with matches. (A.T.S.)

More than 8,000 boys from various schools throughout Switzerland will

voluntarily spend their holiday by working on the land. In addition, a large number of students from different universities will also spend parts of their vacation on farms.

The 62nd Federal Gymnastic Festival took place in Berne from the 18th to 21st of July. 1,187 sections with together 30,000 gymnastics have taken part. The last Federal Gymnastic Festival took place in Winterthur in 1936, and the participation at this year's festival is considered to be the highest ever recorded.

Three separate processions numbering between 6 - 7,000 men marched through the gaily decorated town in beautiful sunshine, and were enthusiastically greeted by thousands of spectators.

On the last day, the general exercises took place at the Allmend in which 22,000 men took part, this imposing spectacle was watched by 100,000 spectators. Dr. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, addressed the gathering. Amongst the official guests were members of the Federal Government, General Guisan, members of the Diplomatic Corps and delegates from many Foreign Gymnastic Societies.

On the 25th of July, it was two years since the first batch of American holiday making soldiers arrived in Switzerland. Since 1945 about 300,000 soldiers have visited our country, and it is estimated that they have spent an amount of about one hundred million francs during their stay.

Thirty-four countries with 1,380 delegates were represented at the International Esperanto Congress which opened in Berne on the 27th of July. The opening meeting was addressed by Federal-Councilor E. v. Steiger, who welcomed, on behalf of the Swiss Government, the delegates.

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ELECTION OF NEW PARLIAMENT.

The term of office of the Swiss National Assembly expires this year and new elections take place on the 25th and 26th of October. We expect to be in a position to give results in the November issue of the "Helvetia."

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HAPPY COUPLE.

We have much pleasure in announcing the coming marriage of Miss Annette Cassidy to our compatriot Louis Hofer. The Best Wishes of the Swiss throughout New Zealand, especially those resident in Wellington, are extended to this pair.

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