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Wellington Swiss Club

On Sunday 6th November, 9.30 a.m., we start to play tennis again at Hataitai Park and we will continue throughout the summer months. Everybody is welcome.

Basketball will be played one evening during the week, we still have to decide about this.

News from the Embassy

FEDERAL Councillor Dr W. Spuehler, Chief of the Federal Political Department, has agreed to a proposal of our Embassy in Wellington to open an Honorary Consular Agency in Auckland and to appoint Mr Ernst Merz as Honorary Consular Agent and delegate in Auckland of our Embassy.

Our Charge d'Affaires, Dr J.-P. Weber, has now sent to Mr Merz the letter appointing him to this post and the recognition by the New Zealand authorities.

Mr Merz, whose commune of origin is Leimbach, Canton of Aargau, and who settled in New Zealand in 1925, has over the years displayed a great activity in favour of our community, as co-founder and secretary of the then Swiss Benevolent Society and as honorary de facto correspondent in Auckland of the Consulate, later on Consulate-General (now Embassy) in Wellington. His new responsibility is a well-deserved tribute and we extend to him our very best wishes in his new functions.

===== News from Switzerland =====

WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS WILL HOLIDAY IN APPENZELL

Appenzell: Enthusiasm for the World Championship football match in England extended even to Appenzellerland, the two demi-cantons of Appenzell-Inner-Rhoden and Appenzell-Outer-Rhoden in Northeastern Switzerland. Using the Northeast Swiss Tourist Association and the Swiss Football Federation as go-betweens, the enterprising owner of the largest hotel in the town of Appenzell has invited the entire British team, the 1966 World Champions, to spend a winter holiday in the attractive village at the foot of the Saentis. The reply was surprisingly fast in coming—and it was positive. But the Secretary of the British Football Association asked that the generous host be patient until June or July of next year, since the team, hurrying from one match to another, has no chance to think about vacations during the busy winter season.

THE MEN ARE IN THE MINORITY IN SWITZERLAND

At the end of December, the Federal Statistical Office published its findings regarding the male and female population in Switzerland. They are based on the census taken in December 1960. These statistics show that there are approximately 100,000 more women in Switzerland than men. Counting Swiss citizens only, the picture looks even more unfavourable to women—180,000 more than men. Foreign residents change the proportion, for there are 80,000 more foreigners of the male sex than there are women aliens. For every 1000 men 1038 women, for every 1000 Swiss citizens 1077 “citizenesses”! But for every 1000 foreign male nationals only 768 female aliens.

The age groups most responsible for this disparity are those between 20 and 59. Amongst children up to 11, there are still more boys than girls (1000:958, only Swiss 957). The picture changes soon after 20, and the preponderance of women increases as age goes on. Over 60, there are 1345 (1337 only-Swiss) women to every 1000 men.

Just how far the foreign population influences the proportions is shown by the fact that normally, the surplus of male births produces an excess of men in the younger age groups. This gradually declines owing to higher life expectancy of women. In old age women are far more numerous than men. But now, because large numbers of foreign girls and young women employed in domestic service, catering and the textile industry, already at 22 there are more women than men in Switzerland.

As to Cantons, Central Switzerland, Fribourg, the Grisons and Valais show a surplus of men. In the industrial Cantons Baseland and Aargau, it is only the foreign residents who dip the scales in favour of more men. Basle and Geneva, on account of the mainly female foreign workers, show the highest numbers of women inhabitants. Most towns have a similar surplus of women, with the exception of Winterthur where the population is balanced. In the Ticino, the high number of women is still due to the traditional exodus of male workers.

Strangely, the Protestants show a surplus of 77 women to every 1000 men, whereas the Roman Catholics have 4 more per thousand. This is almost entirely due to the stronger share of R.C. foreigners, mainly Italians.

Since the beginning of the century, the proportion of married women has gone up (326 to 448 per thousand), that of single women has decreased (608 to 480 per thousand). This is due to an increase in the number of marriages. There are many more widows and divorced women than men, mainly because men who have lost their partners remarry far more frequently.

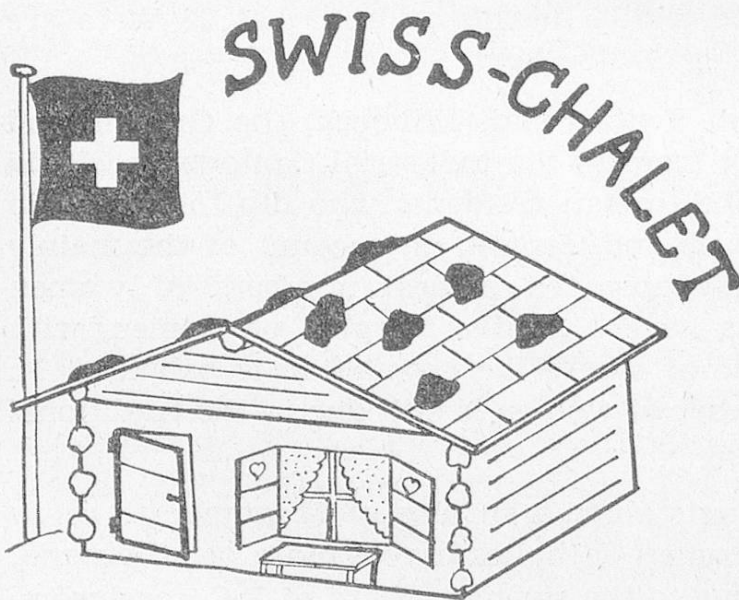
The figure of 62,000 men as against only 29,000 women who live separated from their wives (husbands), is due mainly to the many foreign workers whose families are not in Switzerland.

Married Swiss women surpass the number of their male "colleagues" by 27,000; 24,000 of the total number are married to foreigners. 3000 more women than men live alone. In 1960, 62 per cent of men under 25 had never been married, but only 37 per cent of women. At the age of 30, the figures are 30 per cent of men as against 20 per cent of women. Of people over 65 years of age, every tenth man has never been married and every sixth woman.

The number of widows (235,000) is nearly four times that of widowers. Fewer than 4 per cent of men below 60 are widowed, and it is only at 84 and later that half the male population is widowed. At 55 already, every tenth woman is widowed, at 61 every fifth and at 74 every second. Thanks to the decreasing rate of mortality in men, these figures are going down gradually.

In ten years, the number of divorced people has increased from 15 to 17 per thousand. In all age groups, there are fewer divorced men than women, again due to men remarrying more frequently. In towns there are decisively more divorced people than in the country. The smaller the Communes, the lower the percentage.

(ATS)



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SWISS AIR RESCUE SERVICE

St Gallen: In 1965 the Swiss Air Rescue Service carried out 220 rescue operations with a total of 1081 flights, on behalf of people in dire need. During these operations the SARS transported 189 individual and picked up 39 corpses. 140 of these operations were carried out with helicopters, 63 with fixed-wing aircraft, and 17 with both types. Most frequent calls for the Air Rescue Service's help came as a result of mountaineering accidents (68) and skiing accidents (62); in addition there were 40 medical transport flights and 20 search flights carried out. The Swiss Air Rescue Service currently has 9 specially equipped aircraft at its disposal, and it owns 26 fixed-wing planes and 12 helicopters.

Several of the largest Swiss tourist offices recently received gifts of a Cresta Vauxhall automobile each, from General Motors Suisse in Bienne. The vehicles are meant to lighten the ever-increasing burdens of the tourist offices, and they are tangible proof of the interest taken by a huge international corporation in the Swiss tourist industry.

THE WORK OF THE SWISS RED CROSS DURING 1966

The Swiss Red Cross which recently celebrated the centenary of its foundation has a full programme of permanent activities and emergency aid. In addition to the numerous services provided by this organization within Switzerland, mention should be made of the assistance it gives abroad in its contribution to international solidarity. The work to its credit includes aid to Tibetan refugees, the dispatch of medical teams to the Congo and the Yemen, the provision of emergency help to countries hit by natural catastrophes or requiring immediate assistance, such as Algeria, Greece, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somaliland, Turkey, Burundi, Kashmir and Yugoslavia. In Morocco, the Swiss Red Cross in cooperation with the Confederation, has helped to develop the young sister association of the Moroccan Red Crescent. (OSEC)

SWITZERLAND TAKES PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN GREECE

The Greek Government recently called in Electro-Watt Electrical Co. Ltd in Zurich, for the planning and execution of a scheme for developing the Plain of Thessaly, in cooperation with Greek engineering offices. This plain, covering an area of almost 800 square miles, is one of the least economically developed parts of Greece. The Greek Government plans to develop this region by promoting the growth of agriculture and the industries dependent upon it. Several large dams will make it possible to collect water during the winter for use in summer by farmers and industrialists through a widespread network of canals. The investments estimated for the development of this territory will amount to some 500 million francs (\$318 million). (OSEC)

GROWTH OF TELEVISION IN SWITZERLAND

For the first time the number of Swiss Tv. licenceholders exceeds the 700,000 mark. In the month of July there were 706,534 licenceholders, 503,571 of them in German-speaking Switzerland, 169,228 in French-speaking Switzerland and 33,735 in the Italian-speaking part of the country. For the first seven months of the year, the increase amounted to 85,751 subscribers. At the end of July 1966, Switzerland numbered 1,666,097 radio licenceholders, including 460,853 licences for reception by telephone wire. (OSEC)

THE MENUHIN FESTIVAL

The Menuhin Festival in Gstaad, which will feature concerts in the Saanen Church on August 14-26, has announced its provisional program. Soloists will be: Yehudi Menuhin, Hepzibah Menuhin, Eliane Shaffer, Nadia Boulanger, Yaltah Menuhin, Maurice Cendron, Alberto Lysy, Caspar Cassado, Ernst Wallfisch, Fou Ts'ong, Joel Ryce, and many others. There will also be concerts by the Zurich Chamber Orchestra under Edmond de Stoutz and the Bath Festival Orchestra under the baton of Yehudi Menuhin.

A CITY OF THE FUTURE

A city of the future is due to be created soon near Yverdon, a wide-awake industrial town on the Lake of Neuchatel where the famous pedagogue and writer Heinrich Pestalozzi had an educational institution from 1800-1825. Thanks to private initiative, the town has laid plans for the construction of an "ideal city" to house 6-10,000 people in the nearly 20 square miles of lakeside territory known as Champ-Pittet. The terrain was purchased from a realty company four years ago, with the intent of erecting a planned "City of the Future". The Yverdon authorities have already approved an initial credit of 7 million francs for the first phase of the project. Starting this coming fall, there will gradually be erected the first 5-600 apartment units, a shopping centre, a school and parks.

AMERICAN GRANTS FOR ANTI-CANCER RESEARCH

For the fifth time, a group of research workers at the Zoological Institute of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich has just been allotted a big grant which will enable them to continue research in the fight against cancer. During the last few years this group of scientists has received almost 100,000 francs from the Damon Runyon Memorial Fund, a private American Foundation with its headquarters in New York, devoted to the encouragement throughout the world, by means of grants and appropriate technical aid, of research into the causes of cancer and the means of combating it. This American financial support for this highly specialized scientific work illustrates the value of the research in this field carried out in Switzerland. (OSEC)