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Volksbank, Bern: 5 per cent, (1952: 5%); Leihkasse Neumünster, Zurich: 5 per cent, (1952: 5%); Hypothekarkasse des Kantons Fribourg: 6 per cent, (1952: 5%); Schweiz. Hypothekenbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent, (1952: 5%); Schweiz. Bodenkreditanstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent, (1952: 6%). [A.T.S.]

During 1953, 2,224 Swiss emigrated overseas. (1952: 3,626). [A.T.S.]

The first Swiss Customs launch to be equipped with radar is now patrolling Lake Geneva searching for smugglers between the French and Swiss shores.

The Swiss Confederation issued 161,219 work permits to foreigners last year, an increase of 12,471 over 1952. Building took most foreign workers, with 41,600 followed by the hotel industry with 31,000 and agriculture with 28,300.

Hugo Koblet, champion Swiss racing cyclist has been elected honorary president of Glasgow Stella Racing Club, membership of which is limited to 20.

A surprising demand was recently refused by a Berne suburban municipality. The Chinese Legation had sought permission to erect a new building for a 50-room Communist diplomatic school.

It is now stated that the school was not intended for educating and training Communist diplomatists but was to be a centre where these staffs and their dependents could be lodged. In fact, the Chinese Legation has 43 members, the Polish 29, the Czechoslovak 43, and the Russian 60, and the so-called school was intended to have been a hostel where staffs and their dependents could have lived a collective life under the care and control of special agents.

Max Angst and Jules Hug, the Swiss bobsleighers, won the St. Moritz Boblet Grand Prix. They had an aggregate time of 5min 42.4sec for four runs.

The Federal Supreme Court has made known its judgment in the case of the Zürich journalist and art critic Karl Seelig, to whom the management of a local cinema — dissatisfied with one of his articles — refused admittance, even after he had paid for a seat. In his appeal he had asserted that he had a right to be admitted with his Press card, or with a free or purchased ticket, and that the cinema was under an obligation to give or sell him a ticket.

The Supreme Court rejected these claims. The Press card, it said, does not mention the right of free admittance, but merely shows that the bearer is a professional journalist who may benefit from the usual facilities, which can be suspended or cancelled. The judgment added that the liberty of the Press, as established by the constitution, only concerns the legal relations between the State and an individual. The State must refrain from preventing or hindering the Press from carrying out its mission, but it is not under an obligation to intervene actively on behalf of a journalist to safeguard his interests. The court therefore held that existing legislation makes it impossible to admit the journalist's claim, and that the only solution would be an amicable arrangement between the two parties, failing which new legislation should be introduced.

SWISSAIR EARNINGS FOR 1953 SHOW AN INCREASE OF 25%.

Swissair's earnings in 1953 soared to 86 million Swiss Francs, representing an increase of 25% over 1952. Substantial additional costs for technical materials, petrol and additions to personnel have, however, to be taken into consideration, together with expenditure for training of personnel — mainly crews — which amounted to 3.7 million Swiss Francs; more than half a million over and above that of the previous year.

Streamlining of the system of working and a better utilisation in general made it possible to reduce the costs in the offered ton-mile, although on the other hand earnings have been reduced due to the introduction of cheap Tourist Class fares.

Characteristic of Civil Aviation generally — considerably improved results which are reflected in our statistics against those of the previous year are undoubtedly due to the substantial increase in traffic by the introduction of the Tourist Class fares over the European network.

Whilst the offered ton-mile has been increased by as much as 45% and point to point passengers by 45%, mail by 40% and freight by 29%, this increase has been effected without any appreciable addition to the Swissair fleet.

STATISTICS.

Europe, Near East, North Atlantic & Special Flights.

	1953	1952
Flown Miles	8,179,016	6,454,669
Offered Ton Miles	37,789,833	26,205,964
Point to Point Passengers	425,309	292,341
Freight lbs.	10,977,594	8,534,156
Mail lbs.	5,404,653	3,861,304
Average Utilisation	69.4%	70.0%
Regularity	97.9%	98.7%
Utilised Passenger Miles	206,189,579	139,076,937
Utilised Freight Ton-Miles	3,164,974	2,350,953
Utilised Mail Ton-Miles ...	1,532,129	1,101,324

VIOLIN RECITAL.

MARIE-MADELAINE TSCHACHTLI.

We draw our readers' attention to the Recital of the talented young Swiss Violinist, Marie Madelaine Tschachtli at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, 27th March, 1954 at 7.30 p.m.

Miss Tschachtli possesses a remarkably clean technique and first-class musicianship which puts her in the front rank of Lady Violinists and the critics especially praise the beauty of tone and rhythm in her playing. She studied in Switzerland with André de Ribaupierre and for two years in Paris where she obtained the only First Prize at the Conservatoire National de Musique, a rare and outstanding distinction. She has played with great success at Concerts under Ansermet, Scherchen and Balmer and her Recital in London is an event which music loving friends should not miss. Mr. Hans Willi Hausslein is to-day considered as the outstanding Swiss accompanist.

We wish Miss Tschachtli success in her debut in London and hope that many of our compatriots will take this opportunity of hearing this sincere artist in a most interesting programme.