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NEWS IN BRIEF

In Berne, the traditional "Zibelemärit" — onion market — this year takes place on 25th November. This is always a great day, the basic idea of which is that the town housewives can buy their winter stocks of onions and other agricultural produce which the farmers bring in, and there is also much fun and entertainment of all kinds.

The "Grand Théâtre" in Geneva, which has been completely redecorated is starting its new season with outstanding performances on 15th and 17th November, when the company of the Paris Comédie Française is to perform "Maria Stuart" by Schiller.

It was twelve years ago that the first six-day bicycle race was organized in the Zurich Hallenstadion. This sports event has since gained an international reputation and is a major attraction of the winter season. The notable "Six Days" this year are 28th November to 4th December.

St. Martin's (11th November) is a special day in Sursee (Canton of Lucerne), for it marks the ancient custom of the "Gansabhauet", the cutting of the goose. The challenge is, blindfold, to cut loose with one stroke of the sword a dead goose hanging from a rope, the so-called "Martini goose".

Above Lausanne on Lake of Geneva, in lovely wooded country, Chalet à Gobet offers a most modernly equipped riding centre. Besides riding lessons there is also the possibility of taking French courses as set by the Paris Alliance Française. Horsemen who do not wish to live in may obtain information from the management regarding favourable living quarters near by.

Following the example of Saas-Fee, other resorts in the Valais, such as Champex, Leukerbad and St. Luc, are now also contemplating how to arrange for parking areas outside the villages so as to protect inhabitants and guests from noise and the fumes of petrol.

The first Curling championship for ladies is to be held from 21st to 23rd January 1964 in Grindelwald, the Bernese Oberland resort where the first ladies' Curling club was founded eleven years ago. Ladies' clubs now exist also in Basle, Berne, Zurich and Thoune, while many other clubs have ladies' sections. Thus, a good number of teams have registered for the forthcoming tournament.

[S.N.T.O.]

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SWISS MACHINERY FOR GREECE

In the face of very keen international competition, the Swiss firm of Brown Boveri of Baden was awarded the order for the construction of the third generating group at the Ptolemais power station in the Greek province of Macedonia; this power station is fuelled by lignite. The Swiss engineering firm and its sub-contractors will supply 25 million francs' worth of machinery, which represents approximately half the total cost of the plant, the boilers being supplied by a number of German firms. Brown Boveri had already, some time ago, supplied the first generating group for this power station. The third group is to be put into operation within approximately three years and will increase the Ptolemais power station's output of energy by some 900 million kWh per year.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISS GARBAGE INCINERATION PLANT ABROAD

The destruction of urban refuse, as well as the protection of the air and water from pollution by impurities, is a problem that is increasing in importance daily. Thus, to take but one example, Von Roll Ltd. of Zurich is at present building twelve refuse incineration plants for different towns and industries and is making out plans for a great number of projects in eight countries. These plants are capable of disposing of 25 to 1,200 tons of rubbish per day.

After Brussels, Hamburg, Helsinki, Vienna, Osaka and Frankfurt, the German towns of Ludwigshafen on the Rhine, and Darmstadt, as well as Leyden (the Netherlands) have just placed orders with this big Swiss firm for the construction of works for the incineration of town refuse. While at Leyden the heat will not be recuperated, the Ludwigshafen and Darmstadt projects provide for the heat produced to be used for the heating of hospitals and schools as well as for the production of electricity.

[O.S.E.C.]

SKI-TEACHERS AT FINISHING SCHOOL

Ski-teachers from all over the world will meet in St. Moritz from 1st to 22nd December 1963 for the world's largest ski-ing course in the ideal setting of this renowned resort where numerous skilifts, funiculars and cableways offer easy access to interesting runs. Classes will be supervised by Swiss licensed ski-teachers and there will be six different grades. Some 2,500 to 3,000 participants are expected, who will be able to enjoy not only the classical slopes of Corviglia but also the many and varied facilities offered by the new cableway to the Corvatsch. Cost of course S.fr. 274.— to 421.—, depending on category of hotel desired.

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