

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1969)

Heft: 1569

Rubrik: Recent appointments

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Recent Appointments

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Colonel Hans Trautweiler, Lauenberg, has been appointed new Commandant of **Frontier Division V**, in succession to the retiring *Oberst-divisionär* Karl Walde.

The **Swiss Federation for Civil Defence** elected National Councillor Dr. Leo Schuermann, Olten, as new Central President, in succession to the former Councillor of States Dr. Gion Darms, Chur, who relinquishes the post after eight years.

The new **Linth Engineer** is Dipl. Ing. ETH Peter Meier (Lachen), son of the late Dipl. Ing. ETH Jacques Meier, formerly in the same post.

The new President of the **Swiss Countrywomen's Association** with its 43,317 members, is Mrs. K. Gerber-Gugelmann (Lengwil, TG), in succession to Mrs. M. Ott-Ulrich (Zug).

Prof. Dr. med. S. F. Gruber, Basle, has been elected President of the **European Society for Experimental Surgery**.

Mr. Ernst Mayor has been elected new President of "**Montres et Bijoux**", successor to Mr. Jacques Ketterer.

(By courtesy Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

SWISS CANDY THAT NO LONGER SPOILS THE TEETH

At work, while travelling or relaxing, candy is a faithful companion giving discreet pleasure and ideal refreshment. There was however always one big snag to this otherwise harmless consumption: the dentist's veto. Sugar has always been blamed for dental decay, although some people disagree. Whatever the case, two Swiss confectionery firms, working independently, have found a neat solution to this problem after many years of research. Within a few weeks of each other, they launched on the market sugar-free candy, which has been approved by the Institute of Dental Medicine of the University of Zurich. One of the firms solved the problem by incorporating in traditional candies a substance known as "lycasin", which is found in potatoes, corn and wheat. A common feature of these two novelties is that owing to their composition and their method of manufacture, they have no harmful effect on the teeth and can even be considered as beneficial to them. The result of long study, an incalculable number of experiments and large-scale public tests, these candies are bound to be extremely popular.

(O.S.E.C.)

NEW PRUNING SHEARS

Everyone knows the risks of accidents and the loss of time involved in cutting or pruning trees when ladders are used. In co-operation with a specialised works in the Canton of the Valais, a Swiss engineer has succeeded in solving the problem in a particularly clever way. The 5-SM pruning shears make it possible, from the ground, to cut all branches and parasite growths up to a height of 20 feet, or more if a special tube and cable are used. For summer pruning in particular, it is possible to cut the branches gently and accurately, without damaging the fruit that has already formed. Simple and functional in design, these shears are light and very handy to use, their total weight being only just over 2 lbs. A pressure of 20 to 80 lb. on the lever is converted into 120 to 480 lb. on the secator blade, which turns automatically in the right direction for cutting. All joints on the instrument are mounted on self-lubricating bearings, with the exception of the secator screw which needs to be oiled from time to time. This invention, which won two gold medals at the Brussels Inventors Fair and the New York Inventors Fair in 1968, has already met with considerable success in Germany and France. It will render invaluable service not only to arboriculturists but also to public departments responsible for pruning trees, and it cannot fail to arouse the interest of importers or foreign firms wishing to manufacture it under licence.

(O.S.E.C.)

Owing to delay in the Mail, we have no last minute information to hand.

IMITATING ANTIQUES

The first KOPANTIQUA was a great success for visitors as well as for exhibitors. The INTEXPO St. Gallen, Society for International Fairs and Exhibitions has invited applications for a second marketing event for Antique Copies. The Retail Trade Fair will be held from 31st May to 8th June at the Fairgrounds of St. Jakob in St. Gall; the Wholesale Professional Fair from 5th to 8th June.

Exhibits are limited to copies of antique objects, such as furniture of all periods, glass ware, china, ceramics, tin, copper and brass ware, pendulum clocks, jewellery, sculptures and plastic art, fabrics, carpets, tapestries, wrought iron works, printers' and bookbinders' products, and many other things.

(S.N.T.O.)

SWITZERLAND IN THE BLACK

This editorial is reprinted by courtesy of "Weekly Tribune" Geneva.

The presentation of national accounts is rarely a particularly joyous occurrence. The nation usually sees just what plight the exchequer is in and just what new calls will have to be made on its pocket-book, while governments frequently have to admit that they were not quite pessimistic enough in their budgeting.

An exception to the general rule was presented with the recent publication of the Swiss national accounts for last year. Instead of the budgeted deficit of 180 million Swiss francs, the Finance Department was able to show a surplus of 157 million, the active balance on consolidated accounts amounting to 558 million and not only 92 million as forecast.

The federal income had jumped much faster than planned — by 886 million francs over the year — to put the books well in the black and reduce the Confederation's debts outstanding by much more than one sixth.

But the Federal Council, gratified as it is at the unexpected results, views with concern any tendency on the part of the tax-payer toward dancing in the streets or the burning of bonfires.

In a press conference in Berne on Tuesday, Minister Nello Celio dampened undue rejoicing with all the powers at his eloquent command.

The improvement, he said, was part of a normal development, contained numerous elements of chance and should in no way be overestimated. The balance for a single year was insufficient as a basis for the assumption that the state had got over its financial bottleneck.

The reason for this squelch to the optimistic lies in the fact that the Confederation, faced with soaring costs, is determined to introduce a new structure for state income by the beginning of 1971, aimed at a 500 million-a-year hike in federal takings.

Although the planned rates will now probably be toned down a little, the reform must go through, says Dr. Celio, promising that the Swiss will not be overtaxed in the process.

He is doubtless uneasy at the thought of euphoria spreading about before the referendum of autumn, 1970.