

Swiss broadcasts

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Public ownership of Swiss electric power stations. Of the 180 electric power stations in Switzerland, 120 are owned by municipalities, 14 by cantons and 45 by private companies.

Financially, 70% of the capital invested in these plants has been put up by cantonal and municipal authorities.

As regards distribution, 2587 localities, namely, 77% of all Swiss townships and communities, receive their electric power supply from cantonal and municipal-owned plants.

Street-cars are in fashion. Owing to the petrol shortage, public street conveyances are being used more and more in Switzerland.

The statistics shown by the Zurich Tramways - one of the most important municipal transport organisations in the country - are very significant in this respect. In 1942, more than 100 million passengers made use of the trams and buses in this city as compared with 93.4 millions the year before. The 1939 record - the year of the Swiss National Exhibition - has been exceeded by 5 millions.

Post-war commercial aviation in Switzerland. Before the war, Switzerland always endeavoured to develop her international air-lines by keeping the lead in technical progress in Europe, and by ensuring the comfort and security of her passengers. Switzerland was the first to introduce a fast commercial airplane with movable landing under-carriage.

As soon as the war is over, one of the first tasks "Swissair", the Swiss international airline company, will have to meet, will be that of re-establishing connections with the nearest world centres such as Paris, London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Budapest, etc., this will be done with its fleet of 14 and 21-seater Douglas planes. Later, "Swissair" will have to secure passenger, postal and parcel transport to airports situated along inter-continental routes, by means of powerful new long-distance planes.

The importance of Switzerland's trade relations with the chief countries of the world and the future great demand for swift means of communication, will certainly justify the linking of Switzerland to the terminal ports of North Atlantic lines in Portugal and Ireland, to South Atlantic air routes starting from Spain or Dakar and to Orient lines leaving Greece or Egypt. "Swissair" also proposes to establish direct air communications with Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

A shooting society celebrates its 500th anniversary. The Shooting Society of Schwyz recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of its foundation. There are documents extant to prove that it dates back to 1443.

A new achievement in Swiss locomotives building. The Berne-Loetschberg - Simplon Railway Company, one of the most progressive companies as regards the building of locomotives and light auto-motor engines, has ordered two new locomotives from Messrs. Brown Boveri in Baden, which revolutionize locomotive engineering. This new type will have only four axles and no supporting wheels. It will weight 80 tons and each axle will therefore have to support a weight of 20 tons. This locomotive will cross the Loetschberg drawing a 420-ton train at an average speed of 75 kms. per hour. It will weigh 60 tons less than the type of locomotive now in use.

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SWISS BROADCASTS: According to information received from compatriots in New Zealand, the twice weekly broadcasts to Australia and New Zealand, transmitted from the Swiss National Broadcasting Station at Schwarzenburg are now received very well again.

Wave length: 25.61 m and from the 21st December also on the 16 m band

Time: 7.15 to 9.00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

We would be pleased to hear from members what their experiences on the reception of these broadcasts are.