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As representative of a Swiss firm, Mr. A. Furrer from Zürich, spent some six months in this country, travelling through the north and the south islands. He was amazed at the scenic beauties offered by this country. He also greatly appreciated the hospitality he enjoyed here.

Mr. W. Haensli was here as a ski instructor at the invitation of the New Zealand Government. Although the snow conditions were not too favourable this winter, comments heard indicate that the undertaking proved a great success.

Some Swiss people living in New Zealand also take a long awaited opportunity to pay a visit to the old homeland; among them is Jack Fischbacher, who proposes to leave for Switzerland on December 13th.

#### CHANGES AT THE CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN WELLINGTON

The newly appointed Swiss Consul to New Zealand, Mr. Henri Blanchard, is due to arrive in Wellington at the end of January. He will be accompanied by his wife and a daughter aged four years. Mr. E. Fretz, chancellor of the Consulate, has received advice of his appointment to the Swiss Legation in Washington. He will, presumably, leave New Zealand in April, 1950. He will be succeeded by Mr. Oscar G. Oesch, who, accompanied by Mrs. Oesch and their two children aged 10yrs. and 12yrs., is travelling with Mr. Blanchard.

#### WEDDING BELLS

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at St. Matthews Church, Auckland, when Miss Luriel Kew was married to our compatriot Mr. Beda Bücheler. Congratulations from the Swiss throughout New Zealand, and especially those resident in Auckland are extended to this happy couple.

#### SUNDRY NEWS

##### INAUGURATION OF MUSICAL CONSERVATORY IN SION:

On the 21st of October, Professor Georges Haenni opened the "Conservatoire de musique de Sion". Two hundred and fifty students were enrolled.

##### BERNESE ARTIST ABROAD:

The Bernese violinist Theo Hug, recently gave performances in radio transmissions abroad, including Vienna, Hambourg and Copenhagen. Mr. Hug also gave concerts in various cities of Denmark.

##### RETIREMENT OF MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT IN LUCERNE:

Mr. Joseph Frey, who since 1920, has been at the head of the Department of Economy in the Canton of Lucerne, has announced his retirement, which will take place at the end of this year. During his activity he has given great services to the agricultural industry, as well as to tradesmen and artisans.

##### 75th BIRTHDAY OF M. EDOUARD CHAPUISAT:

M. Edouard Chapuisat, a former Director of the "Journal de Genève" and a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross since 1938, celebrated his 75th birthday on October 24th.

##### INSTALLATION OF NEW ORGAN AT VICTORIA HALL IN GENEVA:

On October 22nd, a gala concert organized by the City of Geneva, was given to celebrate the installation of the new organ.

MONUMENT TO FERDINAND HODLER:

Geneva is to have a monument to the great painter, Hodler. The sculptor, Jacques Probst, who carved the well known monument of the Battle of Dornach, is to execute a monument to commemorate Ferdinand Hodler. The stone in which the monument is to be cut has just arrived in Geneva.

HONOURS FOR A BASEL EXPLORER:

In recognition of his research in neurology, Professor Robert Bing has been made an honorary member of the "Sociedad Espanola de Neurologia" and at the same time he was given the honorary presidency for the next session.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE RADIO STUDIO, BASEL:

Work has started on the newly acquired site to enlarge the present building of the radio studio. As the representative of the young radio listeners, a youth turned the first sod.

CHAIR FOR THE NETHERLANDS LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BASEL:

In view of the fact that at present no opportunities exist in Basel for the study of the history and culture of the Netherlands, whose people are in spiritual and political ways closely related to that city, the Cantonal Government has decided to create a Chair for the Netherlands language and culture at the University of Basel. The appointment has been given to Dr. Ulrich Huber Noodt, a Dutchman born in 1897, who, since 1932, practised as a journalist in Zürich.

70th BIRTHDAY OF L'ABBE BOVET:

On October 7th, L'Abbé Bovet celebrated the 70th anniversary of his birthday. A former professor of music at the seminary d'Hauterive and organist at the Cathedral of St. Nicolas, L'Abbé Bovet is the composer of many religious musical works, one oratorio and many songs for choirs; the latter compositions are now very popular all over Switzerland.

BUDGET OF GENEVA:

The Cantonal Government of Geneva has published its budget for the year 1950. Expenses amount to Sfr.85.5 million and receipts to Sfr.79.1 million, leaving a deficit of Sfr.6.4 million.

"SOCIETE JURASSIENNE D'EMULATION"

This society held its annual meeting on October 9th, in Neuveville. M. Joray, President of the local section, deplored the fact that the Jura is not able to offer its artists and scientists practical encouragement for development, and that they are obliged to go farther afield. He proposed the formation of an "Académie jurassienne" of letters, arts and science, and the Central President has approved of this suggestion. The question formed the nucleus of studies in the central committee.

FURTHER NEWS REGARDING THE CASE VITIANU:

In September, the Rumanian Department of External Affairs, handed two diplomatic notes to the Swiss Legation in Bucharest, accusing Switzerland of breaking the compulsory Settlement and Arbitration Contract of 1926, and

and stating that this contract, therefore, is no longer valid. On September 29th, the Swiss Legation has replied - "The accusations are rejected as being unfounded, and it is asked that the legal international procedure, for which provisions were made in the contract of 1926, should be carried on."

#### NEW GENERAL MANAGER OF SWISS RAILROADS:

Dr. Hugo Gschwind, the newly elected General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railroads, comes from Therwil, Basel country. He studied at the universities of Basel, Paris and Madrid, obtaining his Dr. degree in Basel in 1924. After years of activity in banking, in particular at the Cantonal Bank of Liestal, he was elected a member of the Government of Basel country in March, 1936: from 1939 to 1943 he was a member of the National Council.

#### VISIT OF ARGENTINE JOURNALISTS TO SWITZERLAND:

Five Argentine journalists, after having visited the Scandinavian countries, arrived in Switzerland on September 20th, as guests of the Swiss National Tourist Office. They visited Zürich, Lucerne and the Lake of Lucerne. On September 30th they were received by Federal Councillor, M. Max Petitpierre, the Swiss Foreign Minister who, in an exposé, explained the relations between Switzerland and Argentina. He also drew attention to the fact that many Swiss are living in Argentina.

#### NOTICE

It is regretted that the duplicating office of Miss Ford has been closed due to her departure to Australia for health reasons; this accounts for the unavoidable delay of this month's "Helvetia".

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