New Nobel Prize winner

NEWS IN BRIEF

In a referendum, the Swiss electorate rejected by 386,172 votes to 333,223 a law which had been accepted by Parliament granting subsidies to firms for housing programmes.

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The first gas-turbine locomotive to travel on British Railways, the 2,500 h.p., 90 m.p.h. model which arrived from Switzerland a week ago, left the Swindon sheds for its first main-line trial and reached a speed of 70 m.p.h. between Swindon and Badmington. Reports indicate that it behaved satisfactorily. The engine is going out on another trial.

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From April 1st next, Switzerland will be recognised by Canada as a non-scheduled country, and from July 1st. Canada will lift the import prohibition on a number of Swiss goods. This will benefit, in particular, the Swiss textile industry.

Swiss imports from Canada last year amounted to Frs. 154m., while exports were valued at only Frs.47m.

A previous arrangement provided for the increase of annual travel allowances from $150 to $2,500 per head.

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During the year 1949, the Geneva-Cointrin Air Port registered 27,951 Flights. 182,300 passengers were carried or 15,978 more than in the previous year.

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The following have celebrated their 100th birthday anniversary in Switzerland: Jean Pillamet, formerly a farmer, at Bulle (Ct.Fribourg), and Mme.Henriette Ebinger-Penel in Eysins (Ct.Vaud).

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General Henry Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army during the last war, has left for Egypt on a three weeks trip, on the invitation of the Swiss Colony.

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According to a statement published by the Federal Statistical Department in Berne, there were, at the end of September, 1949, 219,234 motor vehicles registered, comprising 162.000 motor-cars (1948: 140,000), and 58,000 motor bicycles (1948: 49,000). Army motor vehicles and 16,000 agricultural tractors are not included in these figures.

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A Lucerne night club, famous for its yodelling entertainers, is featuring a girl in Tyrolean costume singing "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts."

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NEW NOBEL PRIZE WINNER:

A reception and banquet was held at the Government building in Zug, in honour of Professor Walter Rudolf Hess, the eminent brain specialist and a citizen of the town of Zug, who was recently awarded the Medicine Prize at the Nobel Prize awards in Stockholm.

Dr.Hess was born in Frauenfeld in the canton of Thurgau in 1881. He realized from the beginning his unswerving predilection for science and began early the series of consistent and thorough studies that led him through courses at the Universities of Lausanne, Bern, Berlin, Kiel and Zurich. Following these years of intensive preparation, he became medical assistant at the Cantonal Hospital of Thurgau and at the Cantonal Ophthalmological Clinic of Zurich. He specialized in eye work and research and took up posts in the Physiological Institutes of Bonn and Zurich. In 1913 he was appointed to the staff of the University of Zurich, to be named dean of the University's Physiological Institute in 1917. Thereafter Dr.Hess' most distinguished work has been concerned with the respiratory system, blood circulation, the nervous system, and developments in optics.