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to such an occasion, have been organised. At the opening of the climbing season a "Mountaineering Week" has been arranged. There is to be a 30 per cent. reduction on the guides' tariffs and also on the Zermatt-Gornergrat railway. The Hotels Seiler, meanwhile, will apply their minimum rates for all guests during that week.

Famous mountaineers of all nations will arrive in Zermatt during the week—Sir Arnold Lunn, Geoffrey Winthrop Young and Christian Rubi to mention only a few. If the weather is good there should be great alpine exploits among the Zermatt mountains and no doubt many climbers, for sentimental reasons will turn their steps towards the Dufourspitze. During the first week-end of September the season will end with a great reunion of the Seiler family together with friends of the family, business associates and faithful old employees. What a gathering of the clans there will be and what tales of olden times will be related.

How great have been the changes in the world between the placid, prosperous Victorian days of 1855 and the post-war, atomic age of 1955! But among the mountains there is something permanent and indestructible—yesterday, today and forever the Monte Rosa massif remains unchanged, and with it the Monte Rosa Hotel.

Climbers fighting their way up the snows and rocks of the Dufourspitze see the same stars gleaming in the sky overhead and the same indescribable beauty of the sunrise when they reach the summit. They will return, as did that first pioneer party, to the hospitable roof of the Monte Rosa Hotel. In the old salon, the scene of so many famous gatherings, they will talk over their adventures and the spirit of the pioneers and the kindly presence of Alexander Seiler will hover benevolently around them, for here in Zermatt past and present are forever one.

## NOTICE

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### Sunday Ban on Cars in Basel

Basel, Switzerland.—Although the beautiful Swiss Rhine city of Basel, with an approximate rate of one motor vehicle on seven inhabitants, is one of Europe's most automobile-conscious communities, the local Police Department has

proclaimed a ban which looks rather anti-motorist at first sight. With the exception of the trolleys no vehicle traffic whatsoever is permitted in the centre of the city on the two Sundays preceding Christmas, which are popularly known as the silvery and the golden Sunday. At second sight, however, this decision looks rather wise. The historic nucleus of the city, with its maze of narrow, winding streets, is also the shopping centre with no end of elegant show windows. In accordance with a local tradition these shops stay open on pre-Christmas Sundays, and the crowds of shoppers and sightseers therefore will for once be able to roam the city, unhampered by motor traffic.

### Fernand Leger's Last Masterpiece

Courfaivre (Jura), Switzerland.—A station-master and an art-minded parson have been credited with successfully making this tiny Swiss village in the Jura mountains well known in international art circles. Courfaivre, it is true, was not entirely unknown abroad, since it is a centre of the motor-cycle industry. One day it was decided that the village church, dating back to the year 1702, be restored and expanded. When the question of some new artistic interior decorating was brought up, the stationmaster enthusiastically reported on a set of glass paintings which he had discovered in a French town just across the frontier. The parson took a trip to that village and also located the artist who lived in Paris. The church authorities got in touch with him and assigned him to design the stained-glass windows for Courfaivre. He was Fernand Leger, the famous painter, who died on August 17th, 1955, soon after accomplishing his last masterpiece—for the village church of Courfaivre. Thanks to the enthusiasm of local art-lovers, Leger was able to create, for the church of a remote Swiss mountain village, his own everlasting memorial in an array of strangely beautiful stained-glass panes.

### Weekend Across the Atlantic

Zurich, Switzerland.—"Time and again it has seemed to me that I must drop everything and flee once more," wrote Mark Twain more than one hundred years ago in one of his travel books. He hardly would have fancied that a century later such dreams could come true within one single weekend. For thirty-three modern Mark Twains, the story-writing and photo-shooting half of a group of distinguished participants in TWA's Super-G Constellation Preview flight, a weekend jaunt across the Atlantic with a visit to Switzerland was, of course, a wonderful adventure but by no means a sensation. Among the visitors from the United States, representing the press, the travel-writers' guild, the Civil Aeronautics Board and the American Congress,

was John Randolph Hearst, Jr., a grandson of the late newspaper magnate. He is a photo reporter of the "New York Mirror," which is the world's second largest-circulation paper, 21 years of age and on his very first visit to Europe. Said John Randolph: "Switzerland is sure to rank first in my memories. It's the absolute highlight of our trip. And believe me: I mean it! This statement comes from the bottom of my heart."

### Avalanche Warnings Over the Telephone

Berne, Switzerland.—An announcement by the Swiss Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Service (PTT) relates that daily avalanche reports can be received, in addition to the weather forecasts, over the telephone service number 162. The spectacular Swiss telephone service, which initiated a great many new devices to make life easier for its customers, thus offers another public utility. Skiers will be able not only to know all about the weather but also about where not to go on that weekend jaunt, on account of dangerous snow conditions, and they'll get this information by simply dialling the number 162. Other types of advice obtainable over the Swiss telephone include the latest world news in all three official languages, news on sports events, menu suggestions for the housewife and odds and ends of individual information to be asked for of the "Magic Number 11."

### Rewarded Love of Flowers

Zurich, Switzerland.—Some 6000 families and shopkeepers have participated in Zurich's annual flower decoration competition, and 300 of them have been awarded prizes ranging from television sets to Swiss precision watches. The idea is to make Switzerland's metropolis (population 420,000) look literally flower-strewn, and in recent years there has hardly been a window-sill, or balcony, or even office building facade without lush rows of potted blossom. The movement of adding a private touch to municipal flower gardening was launched many years ago in Berne, Switzerland's quaint Federal Capital, and has since captured, much to the delight of foreign visitors, other Swiss cities where "Flower Decoration Societies" now encourage the cultivation of this hobby.

### The Presence of Mind of a Swiss Signalwoman

Winterthur, Switzerland.—Thanks to the presence of mind of Frau G. Haenni, in charge of a guarded railway crossing on the northern outskirts of this Swiss city, a serious accident was prevented and possibly an entire country spared mourning. When a passenger car in full speed approached the automatically closed barrier, Frau

Haenni realized that it would smash right through the fence and perhaps be stopped on the very track on which an express train was due to pass by in a couple of moments. Taking advantage of the few safety seconds which still remained, she hurriedly raised the barrier with her crank, and the car safely dashed all the way through the danger zone. Its occupants, who came to shake hands with Frau Haenni and thank her for what she had done, were King Paul and Queen Frederica of Greece, on their way from Constance to Zurich. They admitted to have overlooked the several big signs which warn motorists on Swiss highways that a railway crossing is ahead.

### Women as Swiss Diplomats?

Zurich, Switzerland.—Miss Frances Willis, who has conquered the hearts of the Swiss people as the first lady ambassador of the United States to Switzerland, recently received the American Women's Association's Eminent Achievement Award. In an address of thanks, as the "Neue Zurcher Zeitung" reported from New York, she expressed hopes that the Swiss will realize the symbolic significance of her being in Berne. According to "Die Weltwoche," a distinguished Swiss weekly, "there's actually no longer any obstacle for the ambitious Swiss girl eager to become Switzerland's Miss Willis." In the scope of a "rejuvenation" of Switzerland's diplomatic staff, it goes on to say: Women are given exactly the same chances as were given to prospective male diplomats of the old school. The paper draws this conclusion from statements by the experienced Swiss diplomat, Walter Stucki, who has been in charge of this basic reorganization of Switzerland's foreign service, "opening, on principle, the diplomatic career to any capable Swiss citizen, man or woman."

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