

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 19 (1955)
Heft: [1]

Rubrik: News from Switzerland

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 17.05.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

been a member of the High Court for twenty years.

Switzerland's Mission

The following lines written at the beginning of the year by Mr. G. Lepori, who has just been elected a Federal Councillor, are taken from the "Journal de Geneve": "The concept of the Helvetic community, while preserving intact the spirit history has imprinted on it, has been enriched with a new element: the knowledge that dissimilar cultures can live together in peace and friendship. Not only are there twenty-five cantons, but also—and this perhaps even more important—three or rather four different races. The evolution of European political thought has attached ever-increasing importance to this element defining Switzerland's mission in the concert of nations: our country plays the role of mediator between the cultures that have made the West great; it shows that peoples of different races, origins and languages can live together in perfect harmony."

Death of a Great Scientist—Professor Auguste Rollier, of Leysin

From the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne" we take a few passages from an article paying tribute to this famous professor's methods and the benefits that may be expected from a carefully supervised cure in the mountains of Switzerland:

"It is worth while devoting a few paragraphs of this article to explaining the principle of the therapeutic methods used during the last fifty years by Professor Rollier, who has just died, admired and respected by a whole host of people, former patients he has cured, doctors, in short the whole population. He was, strangely enough for the twentieth century, an uncompromising advocate of the so-called naturalist school of medicine. Rollier the surgeon achieved the exceptional miracle of systematically refusing the resources of drugs and even surgery, to use for the patients under his care only the sun's rays, rest (although only comparative at that), fresh air and the invigorating properties of the mountain air. Until the advent of this Swiss specialist, doctors treated tuberculosis of the bones, the joints and glands by drugs, surgery, and long months and even years of imprisonment for the affected limbs in a plaster apparatus. The articular surfaces eaten away with tuberculosis were cut away, limbs considered incurable were amputated; use was made of iodoform, ointments and ichthyol. Success was rare; ankyloses and deviations, muscular atrophy were more often than not the heavy price to be paid for mediocre 'cures.'

"Rollier turned his back resolutely and at once on these deplorable practices. He reduced the length and rigours of the periods of immobility; he exposed the wounds and affected joints to the air and perfected the use of solar radiations with the greatest care, so as to avoid sun-stroke and heat-stroke; 'in the smallest doses' he would say, for the mountain sun (Leysin is at an altitude of 4760 feet) is a powerful medicine which wrongly used may be perilous. No surgery; for years, Rollier refused to use even forceps to remove the fragments of rotten bone. He only agreed to the use of needles for puncturing deep abscesses. This eminently conservative treatment, slowly perfected, resulted in thousands and thousands of cures, real cures, with recovery of the muscular and articular functions, and complete restoration of the general state of health."

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Lausanne's New Theatre

An entirely modern new theatre capable of being used for symphony concerts, opera, ballet and musical shows has just been completed at Lausanne in the main building of the Swiss Comptoir. Possessing a large, very deep, operatic stage, and seating 1900, it is the work of a Lausanne architect, Marcel Maillard, who took as his inspiration the classical French conception with a central dome and semi-circular balcony. The stage is 85 feet wide and 43 feet deep. It is closed by a sliding partition which when opened makes it possible to extend the stage a further 69 feet. The acoustics are perfect, thanks to the walnut panelling which forms an elegant and warm setting. Lausanne will now be able to welcome the greatest orchestras as well as the largest opera companies, ballets and musical shows.

Civil Liability Insurance for Motorists

On arrival at the Swiss frontier, foreign motorists and motor-cyclists are handed a folder put out by the Swiss Automobile Club and Touring Club giving useful information concerning traffic regulations: on speed limits, priorities, respect of white lines, parking, unguarded level crossings, mountain roads and breakdown services.

Here is the information concerning civil liability insurance which is compulsory in Switzerland. Foreign motorists who cannot produce on entry into Switzerland an insurance valid for this country ("Green Card" or "Insurance Certificate") are obliged to pay a fee of 3 Sw. francs. This tax is not an insurance premium. It goes into a fund to help towards paying the damage caused by foreign vehicles in Switzerland. The parties at fault continue to be held entirely answerable to the insurance companies settling

the loss, for the amount of the damage caused by them. Foreigners may also take out a civil liability insurance, valid for one month, on payment of a premium of Sw. francs 25—per car and Sw. francs 12.50 per motor-cycle. During the period of validity of this insurance, there is no limit to the number of entries into Switzerland.

The Great Vinegrowers Festival at Vevey (August 1-14, 1955)

A celebration on the scale of this Vinegrowers Festival, which is held only once every 25 years, in the lovely town of Vevey on the shores of the Lake of Geneva, between Lausanne and Montreux, obviously involves a considerable outlay. The figure quoted provisionally is put as high as 3,700,000 francs. The construction of the stands alone with all their installations will cost in the neighbourhood of 1,000,000 Swiss francs. The elliptical form of the stands will ensure excellent visibility for all seats, a big improvement in fact on 1927 when the stands were horse-shoe shaped. In 1955, all the spectators will be facing the main stage where the principal scenes will be performed.

The Telephone in the Mountains

A completely automatic telephone exchange, of the latest type, has just been inaugurated at Zermatt. It is ten years since the underground connection was completed between Zermatt-Visp-Brigue, thus ensuring that tourist resorts should not be cut off by avalanches from the rest of the world. A telephonic link has also existed for some time now by radio, between the village, the Theodule Pass and the Mont-Rose hut, as well as with the Belvedere Hotel at the foot of the Matterhorn.

Tickets for the Vinegrowers' Festival

In 1927, expenditure amounted to 1,200,000 francs and the price of tickets varied between Swiss franc 5.50 and Sw. francs 82.50 inclusive of taxes; all seats were sold out for the last performances, the public coming in even greater numbers, owing to the great success of the Festival.

In August, 1955, in spite of the expenses being three and a half times greater and in spite of the increase in prices in general, the seats have been fixed at from Sw. francs 10 to 70 for the day performances and Sw. francs 10 to 80 for the evening, inclusive of all taxes with the exception of a slight surtax for insurance against rain.

Looking for Oil on the Swiss Plateau

Borings which have been taking place, in the Canton of Lucerne, have shown the existence of

oil in the Swiss sub-soil. Thus, the affirmations made by geologists have once more been confirmed.

The boring undertaken at Altishofen attained a depth of 2090 metres at the beginning of October, 1954. At this depth, the residues of the boring emitted a strong smell of petroleum. A more thorough examination revealed that small drops of petroleum were oozing out of the tiny crevasses to be found in the limestone. This petroleum is now being examined, after which an attempt at extraction will be made, for the purpose of finding out as to whether or not the exploitation of this oil field would be economically viable. This attempt, which is the fourth of its kind in Switzerland, was rendered possible by Swiss initiative and Swiss capital.

THE GRAND TOUR OF TARANAKI

After having been elected secretary of the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand I took the opportunity to visit as many members of the Society as I could in the short space of a week.

First of all I would like to thank all my compatriots who were so hospitable and kind during my trip from Auckland to Taranaki and back. It proved to be a very interesting tour, on my motor-cycle, for me, and now I know where the bacon, butter and cheese come from.

I left Auckland on the 8th of January. My first stop, Ngaruawahia, where I had the chance to observe the most modern and largest pig breeding farm in New Zealand, run by Mr. J. W. Risi. In spite of the unusual smell, to which one could get used, it was well worth visiting.

From there I went to New Plymouth, where I met Mr. and Mrs. Schonbachler and Mrs. Holder. Mr. Schonbachler enjoys life as a retired City Council gardener of New Plymouth.

In Okato I had a chance to see a prosperous, up-to-date New Zealand Swiss farm run by Mr. A. Schicker. It was a pleasure to see his herd of cows full of milk entering the shed to be milked in the morning and evening, but what a lot of work for one man. It was there where I had my first glimpse of a cheese factory in full swing. After an interesting tour by car to the new Rhododendron Park in Pukeiti Hill I had to say good-bye. My next stop was Opunake, where I enjoyed a few minutes on the beach. A beautiful beach. Late in the afternoon I arrived at the farm of Mr. Imhof in Whakamara, near Hawera. Mr. Imhof was in the milking shed surrounded by cows and music. We had quite a pleasant talk.

Next morning I started off for Mahoe to see Mr. John Steiner, but instead I saw the lady of the house, as Mr. Steiner was busy hay-making somewhere in the district. From Mahoe I went to Kaponga and what a Swiss town—this Kaponga is. If you would care to meet someone from Switzerland there, then you must go to the local hotel for a drink.