

Swiss National Hymn

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SWISS NATIONAL HYMN

(Tritt'st im Morgenrot daher)

With the sun's first golden beam
Setting snow-capped peaks a-gleam,
Yet another glorious morn thus is born,

As we stand in adoration,
Proud of our land and nation,
We pray God for maintenance
Of this great inheritance.

When the ev'ning's shadows fall,
Starry heavens us enthral,
We are lifted high above, by God's love,

Whilst in silent contemplation,
Filled with awe and admiration,
Our grateful heart expand,
Beating high for Switzerland.

And when storm-clouds stir the sky,
Lightning flashes from on high,
We implore, with one accord, Thee, oh Lord!

In our greatest tribulation
He is our sure salvation,
May His strong, protective hand
Ever guard our native land.

(September 1938)

GALLUS.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

FIRST SWISS COLD-STORAGE SHIP

At the end of last year, the Swiss St. Gothard Shipping Company launched the cold-storage ship "Calanca." This new vessel, with a displacement of 1500 tons, is the first of its type to be built for a Swiss company. The Swiss Overseas Co. Ltd., maritime agents and freighters in Geneva, will handle the freighting of this new addition to the Swiss maritime fleet.

ACHIEVEMENT IN TANGANYIKA

Last summer the Swiss Tropical Institute, in Basle, carried out a new educational project in Tanganyika, which recently became independent. The Basle Foundation for Aid to Countries in the Process of Development, backed mainly by the Basle chemical industry, built a group of buildings at Ifakara — accommodation for students, auditoriums, etc.— so that last July 38 African students were able to start a practical course for medical staff under the supervision of nine European doctors. It was recently announced that the Tropical Institute in Basle has decided to increase the size of its premises at Ifakara and is planning to organise new courses for medical staff, as well as for technical staff attached to the Ministry of Agriculture.

THE VALAIS AND 1968 WINTER OLYMPICS

Sion, the picturesque capital of the Swiss canton of Valais, has ambitions to become the centre for the 1968 Winter Olympics. Bids for this honour are also likely to be made by three other Swiss resorts; namely, Davos, Interlaken and St. Moritz, where Winter Olympics were held in 1928 and 1948. Sion believes there are a number of weighty arguments in its favour. Compared with the two other winter sports regions—the Grisons and Bernese Oberland—the Valais has hitherto been somewhat neglected as a venue for important sports events. Although somewhat southern as regards climate and character, the capital is centrally situated within easy access of such splendid winter sports resorts as Crans and Montana in the north and Verbier and Vercorin in the south of the Rhone valley. There are five artificial ice-rinks within a comparatively short distance; Sion itself is said to be planning an ice stadium for speed-skating. Indeed, plans are in hand for the general development of this area for tourism. Further projects to open up new skiing slopes by the erection of mechanical transport systems are in active preparation. Two of the best known Valais resorts, Zermatt and Saas-Fee, have applied for the 1966 world skiing championships to be held there as part of their scheme to publicise the whole area as a winter sports centre.

SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

The annual Swiss Industries Fair in Basel (March 31 to April 10, 1962) is the most important trade exhibition in Switzerland. It is also one of the oldest of its kind and has won a high international reputation as the show window of a highly industrialised country with trade relations extending all over the world. There will be 27 groups in all with 2300 exhibitors. In 1962 machine tools and tools for metal-working, heavy machinery and the metal industry, the watch industry and the textile and clothing industry will figure as the most important export groups.

SUNNY JANUARY IN PONTRESINA

Records kept by a former village doctor in Pontresina, Dr Ludwig by name, show that a January holiday in the Engadine is quite unbeatable for weather besides being an attractive prospect on every other score. Between 1864 and 1873 Dr Ludwig watched the Engadine sky with inexhaustible patience and kept a record of the clouds. Taking number 10 to indicate a completely overcast sky, he worked out the following mean values for these ten years: December 4.6, January 4.5, February 4.6, March 5.3 and April 4.8. Besides being the least cloudy month of the winter, January also comes out best for the whole year because Dr Ludwig reckoned 4.85 to be the mean annual cloud cover.