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Mr. Oskar Schneider, who died last month in Chicago, where he held the post of Consul-General for Switzerland, was born in Gossau, Canton of St. Gallen, in 1898. From 1921 to 1934 Mr. Schneider was with the Swiss Legation in London. Later he was transferred to Dublin. Before moving to Chicago, he was Consul in Manchester from 1945 to 1951, and had held diplomatic posts in Paris, Danzig and Manila.

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The farmers' riot at the Federal Parliament Building in Berne was blamed by the president of the Swiss Farmers Union on the dissident Union des Producteurs Suisses. The outbreak followed a gathering of more than 30,000 farmers from all parts of Switzerland protesting a two-centimes rise in the price of milk. The original gathering was strictly peaceable, however, although sixteen extra trains converged on Berne's main station bringing the placard bearing protesters to the capital.

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A first group of twenty-three Tibetans are being trained for permanent settlement in the Toggenburg mountain area of north-eastern Switzerland. More groups will follow. The newcomers, refugees from the "Roof of the World" now occupied by Red China, seem to feel perfectly at home in the chilly climate of this "Roof of Europe".

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Professor Walter Hallstein, chairman of the Common Market Commission, recently visited Switzerland. He gave a lecture in Zurich and later was received in Berne by an official delegation of the Federal Council.

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During the period from 1st October 1960 to 30th September 1961, Swiss breweries produced a total of 3,678,000 hl. of beer, representing an increase of 11.78% over the previous period. This increase is attributed partly to the extremely favourable meteorological conditions obtaining during this period and partly to the rise in the number of foreign workers at present domiciled in Switzerland, as well as to the rise in the standard of living.

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M. Emil Stadelhofer, born in 1915 in Schaffhausen, has been nominated Swiss Ambassador to Cuba.

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Pain-killing pills and powders are swallowed at the rate of 150 million a year in Switzerland, according to recent figures released in Berne.

NEWS AT

Today there are some 150,000 blood donors registered with the Red Cross in Switzerland. In 1960 these public-spirited citizens provided 185,000 bottles of blood — in 1950 the figure was only 24,000 bottles. At present, blood transfusions in Switzerland are given at the rate of one every four minutes.

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Divorce is more than ever an aching problem in Switzerland. Through the separation of parents there are now over 70,000 children without proper family life.

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During the last few months the Swiss Merchant Fleet has received several new additions, thus considerably strengthening the country's supplies position. By the end of this year, the Swiss fleet will probably number some 30 cargo boats, for the most built very recently, with a total capacity of approximately 26,000 tons, a figure never reached before in Swiss maritime history.

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At a reception organized by the Swiss community in New York, Mr. Max Petitpierre, former Federal Councillor, was given the golden keys to that great American city. Mr. Max Petitpierre is only the sixth person in the world to receive this great honour.

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The Hallwill castle, in the Canton of Aargau, is going to be restored. Built in the eleventh century, the castle fell into complete ruin last year, but now a commission has been charged with the job of rebuilding this old, historical site of great value.

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Neighbouring Liechtenstein has started to issue new licence plates for cars registered in the principality — to correct an historical error. Until now, Liechtenstein licence plates carried a vertically divided blue-and-red shield. The shield on new plates is now coloured in gold and red, the true Liechtenstein colours, and is also embossed with the princely crown. The news is specially welcomed in the Canton of Ticino, where licence plates are going to continue to bear the old "Liechtenstein" shield — it being the cantonal coat of arms.

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Due to the pollution of the Rhône up river from Sion, in Valais, several thousand trout have perished over the last few days. One belief is that the pollution was caused by chemical residue being dumped into the river.

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Employees of the City of Zurich are to have their pay increased by 8% beginning 1st April next year. Half of the increase is based on the rise in the cost of living index.

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La Chaux-de-Fonds youth have organized a huge procession in protest against nuclear experiments and atomic warfare.

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The Swiss Army has shut down its 80-bed sanatorium at Montana in the Valais, two years after its Arosa sanatorium was shut. The reason given is the decline of tuberculosis, which leaves sufficient empty beds in private sanatoriums.

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Former teacher at Lausanne and Neuchâtel Universities, and specialist in the subject of geography, which had inspired his several books, Charles Biermann died recently at Mont-sur-Lausanne at the age of 86.

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The organising committee of the Geneva Automobile Salon have announced that the 32nd Auton Salon, to be held on 15th to 25th March of next year, will have a record number of exhibitors.

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In Neuchâtel an official enquiry has been ordered to find out how students came to be in possession of a kilo of explosives which they intended delivering to a representative of the Algerian movement F.L.N.

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The ashes of a Japanese professor were interred last week-end in a Swiss grave, beside the remains of one of Switzerland's most famous benefactors, Heinrich Pestalozzi. Thus, Switzerland — and the Canton of Aargau, where Pestalozzi is buried at Birr — honoured the last wish of Professor Arata Osada, the leader of a large Pestalozzi movement in Hiroshima. The Professor was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Zurich University for his Japanese translations of Pestalozzi's works.

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At Amriswil, Canton of Thurgau, Mrs. Maria Grob-Sutter has celebrated her 104th birthday.

(Most of the above items were received from the A.T.S. News Service.)

Another victory for William Tell

William Tell, the legendary Swiss national hero, has won a battle against a project which was to sprinkle the mountainside above Tell's Chapel on Lake Uri, one of his treasured shrines, with an assortment of little holiday chalets. They were popularly referred to as "holiday pillboxes", since the original plans revealed modernistic designs in the fashionable concrete-cube pattern. Not William Tell in person, but the government of Canton Uri eventually intervened at the urgent request of the societies for the preservation of natural and historical monuments, and it has just found a solution which will protect the fabled hillside between the lakeshore and the famous Axenstrasse for all time: The whole area has been purchased by the government and put under nature-protection. Two of the "pillboxes" which had mushroomed out of the ground prematurely were torn down, much to the delight of local nature-lovers.

Mediterranean Sun in Locarno

Southern Switzerland's sunshine city of Locarno, on Lake Maggiore, not only boasts of an extremely mild climate favouring an almost sub-tropical vegetation, but also of being the country's most "many-sided" winter resort. At Locarno, as a matter of fact, you can walk under palm trees and ski under a Mediterranean sun all in one day. The ski area of Cardada-Cimetta, which was opened up a few years ago through a network of funiculars, aerial cableways and chair-lifts, has recently been expanded uphill to points some 5,700 feet above sea-level. The new extension of the ski-lift is 1,120 feet long and has a transport capacity of 700 passengers per hour. As it leads up to an elevation where snow conditions are generally perfect, and feeds six different north-slope downhill runs, it is hoped that it can be operated until mid-April, which is the peak of Locarno's spring season. Cardada-Cimetta has its own Swiss Ski School with daily programmes.

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