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SAINT NICOLAS

The sixth of December is the children's day, for "Samichlaus", Saint Nicolas, in his red hooded cloak, with a long white beard and the dreaded large sack and scourge visits them in the evening, going from house to house. He inquires from the mothers whether the children were good throughout the year and according to the information received he will punish them or pour from his bag candy and fruit. Many an ancient custom is connected with this day. The evening before, Küssnacht a/Rigi is the scene of the wild "Nicolas chase", ghostlike appearances with high lighted hats dancing in the streets. The same cardboard hats, cut out in ornamental designs faced with coloured foil and illuminated from within are worn by the "Chläuse" who parade in Zurich on 6th December. In Fribourg, the popular Saint is expected the next day only.

[S.N.T.O.]

RUMOURS ABOUT A MANSION

The Mansion of "Rive-Reine", between La Tour-de-Peilz and Vevey on the sunny shore of the Lake of Geneva, was built by the Baroness Hohenzollern, wife of King Frederic-William of Prussia, in 1815. Today, this lovely domain, turned into a first-class hotel with tennis courts, private beach, miniature golf and other facilities, enjoys an international reputation. For some time, however, rumours have been spread according to which a foreign industrial concern established in Switzerland had bought the place. A circular letter has now been sent out jointly by the local tourist association and the owner which expressly states that neither has "Rive-Reine" been sold nor is it up for sale. As a matter of fact, this unique hotel was remodelled and newly decorated only a short while ago.

[S.N.T.O.]

SWISS LEATHER ABROAD

Eleven Swiss tanneries took part in the Twenty-First International Leather Week which was held in Paris from 7th to 12th September. Their joint stand, organized by the Union of Swiss tanneries under the title "Switzerland — Leathers", was intended to serve as a sort of "visiting card" to show the numerous buyers of all countries present in Paris that Swiss leather production has made very great progress in recent years and is capable of holding its own in the field of international competition. Switzerland will probably take part again next year in this international exhibition.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISS GRAIN ELEVATORS OF A NEW TYPE

Two cereal production co-operatives in Western Switzerland called upon a big Uzwil (Switzerland) firm to construct two new grain collecting centres. Both grain elevators feature novel ways in automatic remote control. This system, combined with the very efficient machinery equipment, guarantees a highly economical working procedure with a minimum of attending staff (one to two men).

The technical data for these elevators are as follows:

- elevator capacity: 3,000 tons, with possibility of increasing it to 12,000 tons by the addition of extra bin blocks;
- receiving capacity: 60 tons an hour;
- pre-cleaning capacity: 60 tons an hour;
- main cleaning with batteries of cockle cylinders, separator and light grain separator;
- hot-air drier: 6.5 tons an hour;
- loading-out capacity: 100 tons an hour.

It is interesting to note that these Uzwil engineering works have installed machinery of all kinds all over the world for the treatment, selection and stocking of cereals.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWITZERLAND AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Sulzer Bros. Ltd. of Winterthur recently signed a licence agreement with the Budd Company of Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A., for the manufacture and sale of Gamma Irradiation Equipment for research and process purposes. Under the agreement, the Budd Company licenses Sulzer Bros. to manufacture Gamma Irradiators in Switzerland and to sell them throughout the world, except in the United States and Canada. The Instruments Division of the Budd Company has been in the radio-isotope business for many years and has specialized in the fields of industrial radiography, gamma sources for medical teletherapy and irradiation equipment for scientific research and industrial applications. For several years now, Sulzer Bros., the Swiss party to the agreement, have had a Nuclear Department, which has primarily been active in the field of reactor technology and construction. Because of their excellent manufacturing facilities and their access to very modern types of hot cells at the Swiss Federal Institute for Reactor Research, Sulzer Bros. are able to offer complete and economical turn-key irradiation facilities.

[O.S.E.C.]

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