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A KING IN SWISS MILITARY SERVICE

A news item received from Switzerland was headed "A King in the School of Recruits". For the first time, a young man on the initial military training has become *Schwingerkönig*, Motormechanic Recruit Rudolf Hunsperger from Habstetten (Berne). At the Federal *Schwingerfest* in Frauenfeld, he was awarded the title as champion *Schwinger*. Even the head of the Federal Military Department, Federal Councillor Chaudet, sent the young champion congratulations by telegram.

The Federal *Schwing- und Aelplerfest* took place in the Thurgau capital on 13th and 14th August. The weather was beautiful and hot. Over 20,000 visitors gathered on Saturday and 25,000 more on Sunday to watch the procession, the many folkloristic events, as well as the sport.

Federal Councillor Chaudet gave an official address in which he referred to the historic connection — the first of such contests having taken place about 1215. The federal *Schwinger* flag was brought by the Aargau contingent whose members distributed whole wagon loads of carrots.

The three first prizes were a couple of young bulls and a foal.

Federal Councillor Gnaegi represented the Government at the Federal *Hornusserfest* which was held at Lyss on 20th and 21st August. 256 groups with a total of over 5,000 *Hornusser* took part in this typical Swiss sports contest.

[A.T.S.]

SWISS NATIONAL PARK

Of the principal charms of the Lower Engadine is the great tract of country which has been marked out as a natural sanctuary for beasts and birds, trees and flowers. Here the ibex and the chamois roam at will, the golden eagle builds his nest and the marmot gambols with his young family undisturbed by man. Visitors are allowed to enter this preserved territory but they are not permitted to leave the paths, of which there are but few, nor to light fires, pluck flowers, shout or in any way frighten the animals. No grass nor tree may be cut in the National Park nor is anyone allowed to camp there for a night except in the Blockhouse Val Cluozza or at the Hotel Il Fuorn on the postal motorcoach road which cuts right across a corner of the park.

The best starting points for this great tract of mountain wilderness are Schuls, Tarasp, Vulpera, Zuoz, Scafs and Zernez, all of them stations on the Rhaetian railway line and the main Engadine road.

The park covers an area of nearly ninety square miles. It is very rich in plant and animal life. Each of the four sections of the park is under the care of a keeper whose duty it is to see that the animals are left quite undisturbed.

From St. Moritz it takes one hour to reach the National Park.

(*St. Moritz Courier.*)

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