

175 years ago - General Suvorov marches through the Swiss Alps

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the development of marine fauna and to ensure a more rational use of this invaluable source of protein, which is bound to become increasingly important in world food supplies. Within the framework of experimental work on the migration of fish, the Norwegian Institute of Industrial Technology, Sintef, at Trondheim, has made use of a new technique for following these movements. It consists in fixing an ultra-miniaturised transmitter to the back of the test animal. A very sensitive receiver then makes it possible to record the movement of the fish once it has been put back into the water. In constructing this transmitter, the Sintef institute turned to Swiss watchmakers. Thus, for example, the firm of Oscilloquartz Ltd., at Neuchâtel, a branch of Ebauches Co. Ltd., supplied the watch quartzes used as oscillators. These are quartz crystals with a frequency of 32 kilocycles, normally used in wrist-watches. Apart from their small size, these high quality oscillators have the advantage of working perfectly under the most severe conditions. It should be remembered that Oscilloquartz Co. Ltd. specialises in the production of electronic components for high performance oscillators and timepieces, such as atomic clocks, whose precision is phenomenal, being only one second out in every 6,000 years. Research, which is still going on, has made it possible to appreciate the reliability of this device, which has been tried out on salmon, coalfish and even lobsters.

SWISS PLANT FOR THE FOODSTUFFS AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

A machinery factory at Rheinfelden (Schaffhausen — Switzerland) has designed a new plant for the manufacture of viscous or thick liquids for the pharmaceutical, cosmetics and foodstuffs industries; this plant is ideal, for example, for the preparation of emulsions, creams, ointments, toothpaste, mayonnaise, sauces, etc. The perfectly homogenous and deaerated finished product is ready for processing. The new feature of this plant lies in the fact that it groups, in one and the same machine, a homogenizer, a disperser, a scraping-mixing system and a deaeration plant. This combination has the advantage of achieving a considerable saving in production time and ensuring a powerful grinding of the powder and active substances to the required degree of granulation as well as completely removing all air from the product. The operations of mixing, stirring, grinding, emulsification, dispersion, homogenization and deaeration are all carried out in the tank either simultaneously or one after the other. It is also possible to heat or cool the product by filling the double wall of the container with water or steam. All operations can be carried out automatically. The plant is available with a fixed or reversible tank (capacity from 6 to 2000 litres), or mounted on rollers, that is to say exchangeable. The Swiss firm also supplies special versions such as

sterilizable plant for the pharmaceutical industry.

SWISS KNOW-HOW FOR CONSTRUCTION CRANES

Realising the difficulties involved in the importation of heavy, bulky equipment like construction cranes, a factory at Beringen (Schaffhausen — Switzerland) specialising in this sector, proposes a system of co-operation with firms in other countries; this new system enables properly equipped foreign firms to build their own construction cranes according to the designs of the Swiss firm and to market them on their own markets. In fact, the Swiss factory places at the disposal of their clients all the

technical specifications, as well as the plans and instructions, for the metallic construction of the crane; in addition, it provides the know-how and delivers all the precision and complicated components, such as the hoisting gear, slewing platforms, trolleys, electrical equipments, etc. The parts are ready for mounting and all that the client has to do is screw or bolt them on to the metal constructions made in his own works of structural steel, sheet steel or steel pipe. This scheme has the advantage of cutting out transport costs and customs duties on all metal parts, while offering the possibility of benefiting from the experience of the Swiss firm, without having to invest in special equipment for the manufacture of very technical parts.

175 YEARS AGO - GENERAL SUVOROV MARCHES THROUGH THE SWISS ALPS

Switzerland had been occupied by French Revolutionary troops in 1798. The old Confederation, too weak to defend itself, had collapsed and had been replaced by the Helvetic Republic, a single state united by the grace of France. But in the very next year the troops of the Second Coalition, with Austria, Russia and Britain as its principal allies, made Switzerland a theatre of war and in the first Battle of Zurich on 4th-6th June drove the French back on to a line running along the Linth, Limmat and Lower Aar rivers. The next move was planned to fling them out of Switzerland altogether when a Russian army under General Korsakov would attack them near Zurich and the Russian forces of General Suvorov, already victorious in Italy, would cross the Alps and fall upon their right flank. On 15th September, Suvorov arrived at Taverne, north of Lucerne, with 21,000 men, on 24th September he took the Gotthard Pass, on the following day he forced his way through the Schoellenen Gorge, and a day later he was in Altdorf. At Flüelen the Gotthard bridle-path came to an end (the road known as the Axenstrasse along the Lake of Lucerne was only built in 1865), and to reach Schwyz he had to lead his army over the 6800 ft. Kinzig Pass into the Muota Valley. When the Russian troops arrived there, weakened by combat and arduous mountain marches, they learned that the Russians and Austrians had been heavily defeated by the French under Masséna in the second Battle of Zurich (25th/26th September, 1799) and had hastily withdrawn to the Rhine, Suvorov was thus thrown back on his own resources. Since an advance on Schwyz was now pointless, he decided to retreat over the Prigel Pass into Glarus and from there over the 790 ft. Panix Pass into the Vorderrhein Valley, where he hoped to establish contact with the allied forces. New snow had fallen, and this march cost the lives of 200 men and

many beasts of burden. When he finally arrived in Chur on 10th October, he had only 15,000 or 16,000 men left. Disgruntled with his allies, who in his view had left him in the lurch, he withdrew from Switzerland. His Alpine march, for all its bravura, had served no military or political purpose, but it had left a lasting mark in the memory of the Swiss people.

It is still quite possible to follow in Suvorov's footsteps. They lead on little-trodden paths through a region of Switzerland that is different, but very much worth exploring. Although the well tended and signed routes are not very arduous, good equipment (particularly strong walking boots and rainwear) is essential. For the weather in the mountains can change very quickly.

Mount Ceneri can be crossed over its wooded heights from Tesserete (near Lugano) to Bellinzona in six to seven hours. The capital of the Ticino, watched over by three castles, is known to many only from a seat in a train, but it well repays a visit. From Biasca the "Strada alta", a very well-cared for high-level trail, leads up to Airolo in two-and-a-half days of hiking. From here the Gotthard Pass can be reached either on foot or by postal coach, and an old bridle-path then leads down through Hospental and Andermatt to the famous Devil's Bridge and on to Goeschenen.

Buerglen in the Schaechen Valley (Canton of Uri) is the starting-point for an easy five-hour walk over Kinzig Kulm (6812 ft) to the Muota Valley in the Canton of Schwyz. A tourist attraction in this valley is the Hoelloch, meaning Hell-hole; a labyrinth of underground passages and gorges at several different levels which together are nearly 74 miles in length, making this one of the world's longest caves. A quite safe day's hike brings the wanderer from here over Alpine pastures to the Prigel Pass

(5098 ft) and thence, with a view of the crystal-clear, fjord-like Kloentalersee, down into the Canton of Glarus.

From Schwanden a pleasant and romantic walk follows the "Suvorov Route", a way through woods and meadows along the rushing Sernf to Elm. This unspoilt farming village is a place where it is good to linger.

The last eight-hour tour leads up to a wild mountain landscape on the Panix Pass (7897 ft) and down through pre-Alpine scenery with shady pinewoods to Panix in the Vorderrheim Valley, Canton of the Grisons.

By courtesy of SNT0
"Switzerland"

SWISS MOBILE LABORATORY FOR BOMBAY

The Minister of Health of the province of Maharashtra (India) has just taken possession of a mobile laboratory offered by a Swiss chemical firm which designed the equipment. Thanks to the appliances contained in this vehicle, it is possible to carry out rapidly and on the spot various analyses, as well as pregnancy tests. Whether in the poorer districts of Bombay or in the country, in particular in the regions recently severely tried by famine, it is thus possible to examine rapidly the state of health of the population. Twelve other mobile laboratories of the same kind have been offered to the Indian government by pharmaceutical firms established in India.

SWISS CLUB - EDINBURGH PROGRAMME 1975 (to June)

Tuesday, 28th January, 1975

8 p.m. at 112 Hanover Street, Fondue Party. Cost: 75p.

Tuesday, 25th February, 1975

8 p.m. at 26 Inchview Terrace (Mrs. Helen Reid, Tel: 669-5311). Fastnacht: Fancy Dress Party.

Tuesday, 25th March, 1975

8 p.m. at 46 Queen Street. Sing-song and Klatsch.

Saturday, 19th April, 1975

7.30 p.m. at Sheep's Heid Inn, The Causeway, Duddingston. Skittle match v. Dunfermline Swiss Club. (Juniors are suffered by the management of the Inn!).

Tuesday, 27th May, 1975

8 p.m. Maibummel and Kaffeeklatsch. Meet at Mrs. Nelly Robson, 14 Dalhousie Road, Dalkeith (Tel: 633-4482).

Tuesday, 24th June, 1975

7.30 p.m. at Sheep's Heid Inn, The Causeway, Duddingston. Skittle match v. Swiss Club Dunfermline.

Further information from: The Secretary, Miss Susi Hartmann, 112 Hanover St., Edinburgh EH2 1DR. Telephone: 266-5513.

OBITUARIES

LAWRENCE THEMANS

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Lawrence Themans, of Engadin, 38 Bower Road, Hale, Cheshire, who died peacefully in his sleep after a long illness on Saturday, 9th November, 1974, the night the Manchester Swiss Club held its traditional Dinner-Dance. For many years he had been actively engaged in organising this event, and in spite of his very weak condition he insisted that his wife Martha joined the Club on this occasion. He stayed awake for her to return and to report on the success of the event, and then mercifully fell asleep for the last time.

Lawrence was born in Manchester in 1900. He was educated at Harrogate and joined the Royal Air Force at the age of 18, straight from school. The war ended before he finished his pilot's training. After five years' training as an accountant, he joined his father's business in retail tobacco.

Lawrence's mother died when very young, but his father re-married - his wife's sister, the widow of a Mr. Villiger, an active member of Manchester Swiss Club. Lawrence's new mother, in spite of her English background, continued to take a very active interest in the Swiss Club. In fact, a beautifully embroidered Swiss flag made by her is still in use on special occasions. Lawrence himself, first through his uncle and then through his new mother, developed an interest in the local Swiss Club, so much so that he married the late Mr. Villiger's niece in 1926. For the rest of his life, both he and his wife, Martha, continued their activities in Swiss affairs. Lawrence himself was Secretary of the Swiss Relief Society for over 10 years, and Martha continues her activities as Hon. Treasurer of the Manchester Swiss Club.

The Swiss community in Great Britain mourn the passing of a true and loyal friend. We express our heartfelt sympathy to his wife and the family in their sad loss.

ODETTE HELENE MORTON

We have recently been informed of the death of Mrs. Odette Helene Morton (nee Longeray) on 27th October 1974. Mrs. Morton was a subscriber to our paper for many years. She was with the Special Division of what was then the Swiss Legation during the last War and afterwards with the Département Politique Fédéral. She later went to Athens, Greece and whilst there was married in 1947. Whilst in Greece she became a Secretary in the Public Health Division of the American Mission for Aid to Greece until returning to this country. Mrs. Morton was born and educated in Geneva and although British by marriage always retained her Swiss Nationality and was proud to be Swiss.

We extend our sympathy to her Husband Mr. Eric J. Morton.

W. PELLETT

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. W. Pellett on 17th December. An obituary will appear in our next issue.

AN EVENING OF ADVENT MUSIC

A pre-Christmas concert was held at the Eglise Suisse in Endell Street, on Wednesday, 4th December. It was organised in aid of the Swiss Churches by their Youth Groups. The chairs were arranged crescent-like, and the audience faced the organ gallery lit by candles only. In this quiet but festive atmosphere, a large number of people enjoyed the peaceful evening of beautiful music.

The artists were Edith Schoenberger (violin and recorder), Heinz Sinniger (euphonium), the Rev. Ueli Stefan (recorder) and Lennart Rabes (organ). The programme consisted of music by Widor, Mendelssohn, Handel, Telemann and Quantz, and in between the musical items, there were readings in German, English and French. The last item, the Advent hymn *Macht hoch die Tuer, die Tor macht weit* was sung by the whole audience accompanied by the instrumentalists.

It was more than just an enjoyable musical evening; it was a harmonious and restful moment of reflection and hope. Grateful thanks are due to the organisers and the artists.

M.M.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Wednesday, 29th January, Members Night. Friday, 28th February, Annual Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W1. Wednesday, 26th March, Film Show at Swiss House.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Thursday, 23rd January, 7 p.m. at Swiss Embassy, 16-18 Montagu Place, W1. The Earl of Selkirk will give a talk on "What makes Switzerland different". All Swiss and their friends welcome.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER:

Thursday, 30th January, 1975, Raclette Party at the Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Dinner and Dance, Dorchester Hotel, Saturday, 1st February, 1975. 6.30 for 7 p.m.

WANTED: Holiday apartment or chalet required for two weeks, from July 26th-August 9th, 1975, by careful and clean Anglo-Swiss family. Interlaken, Lake Lucerne or Lake Geneva areas preferred; must accommodate 4 adults and 1 child. Details appreciated by: Egon G. Frey, 13 Lammas Lane, Paignton, Devon TQ3 1PS.

WANTED: Stamp collections, especially Switzerland, France and Great Britain. Offers to E. M. Huber, 10 Linton Lawns, Golf Links Road, Ferndown, Dorset.
