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spring and its message of renewed life.

In 1955 the organisers turned to France for their star performers, the Garde Républicaine providing the music with Maurice Lehmann of the Théâtres Lyriques Nationaux in Paris as chief director and Henri Fost, also of Paris, as costume designer; only the organisation of the group performances was left to a Swiss, Oskar Eberle.

For the coming "Fête des Vignerons" the organisers are putting their trust in compatriots: Jean Balissat is writing the music, Henri Deblüe the texts. Costumes and settings will be designed by Jean Monod, and the direction has been entrusted to Charles Apothéloz, the principal figure in the revival of the French-Swiss theatre.

A new type of stadium with a steel framework, open to the lake and the mountains, will provide seating facilities for 15,000. There will be twelve performances in all.

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SWITZERLAND'S CAPITAL CONCERTS

Berne's concert season opened in September and will continue until June 1977 with an extensive programme featuring leading Swiss and foreign performers. Soloists and orchestras will include Richard Goode (piano), winner of the 1974 Clara-Haskil Prize and Salvatore Accardo (violin); the Berne Symphony Orchestra, the Berne String Quartet and the Berne Camerata.

They will perform works by Brahms, Stravinsky, Mahler, Wieniawski, Prokofiev, Ravel, Debussy, Haydn, Smetana, Beethoven, Bach, Vivaldi and Scarlatti.

The season will include a series of six "Soirées" devoted to "Beethoven and his Contemporaries", 10 symphony concerts and 10 chamber music evenings.

Performances will be given at various venues throughout the Swiss federal capital, including the Berne Conservatory, the Casino and the French Church.

BIG SWISS INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN CAIRO

Swiss Expo, a big Swiss industrial and technological exhibition, is being held in Cairo from 23rd November to 3rd December 1976. Aimed not only at Egypt but at all countries in the Middle East, this exhibition — reserved during the first week for businessmen only — will give an overall view of the leading products and possibilities of co-operation offered by Swiss industrial, commercial

SWISS EVENTS

and service firms. Swiss Expo, which is being organized by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, an official institution that is responsible for organizing national participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad for the Swiss government, will feature the displays of more than 260 firms, in an exhibition area of over 100,000 sq. ft.

Manufacturers from all industrial sectors that have helped create Switzerland's reputation abroad will be taking part in Cairo.

This overall view of Switzerland today will be completed by displays featuring the big Swiss banks, the country's tourist and cultural resources, private schools, etc. Swiss Expo is the first event of this kind to be held in Egypt for 10 years and the biggest national industrial exhibition ever organized in the Arab world.

SWISS INDUSTRY'S INVESTMENT ABROAD

From unofficial figures it appears that the direct investments made by Swiss industrial concerns abroad — sometimes indispensable for the maintenance of their positions in the market and the

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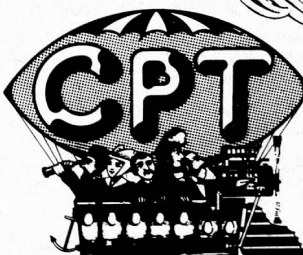


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opening of new outlets — are estimated to have increased by about 25% during the years marking the last period of intense economic activity.

Whereas these direct investments were valued at 40.3 billion francs in 1972, the figure for 1974 was 51 billion francs. Of this amount approximately 8% involves direct private investment (participation not representing a truly financial investment in the strict sense of the word) in developing countries.

THE SWISS FOOTWEAR MARKET

In 1975, in spite of a 15.4% drop in Swiss footwear imports, footwear from abroad accounted for three-quarters of the national consumption. As late as 1960, three out of every four pairs of shoes sold on the Swiss market were made in this country. Apart from this big structural modification, the recession also had its effect on a certain number of decisive results.

Thus, between 1974 and 1975, the number of personnel employed in the Swiss footwear industry fell by 17% (in 1975: 6,107 employees), output by 16% (8.15 million pairs) and sales in Switzerland by 22.4% (6,475 million pairs).

TELEVISION HAS STOPPED BROADCASTING FOOTBALL MATCHES

The Swiss Radio and Television Organisation (SSR) has taken a most controversial decision in preventing the retransmission of most Swiss football league matches on the grounds that the players of the great majority of clubs carry advertisements on their shirts.

Only those matches involving clubs whose players do not carry advertisements are now broadcast. As a result, Swiss television viewers are given matches from the German and the English leagues, depending on which side of the River Sarine they live.

French-speaking Swiss football fans are delighted to watch a retransmission of "Match of the Day" as they generally admire the standard of English football and, especially, the atmosphere in the crowd which is infinitely more explosive and involved than on a Swiss pitch surrounded by a crowd of two or three thousand faithful supporters.

But the clubs concerned are not displeased with the SSR decision because they expect crowds now deprived of league matches on television to take the

trouble to watch the actual match on the spot and thus increase their "gates".

SWISS PLANE CRASHES IN IRELAND

A twin turbo-prop Piper Cheyenne owned by the Swiss company Aeroleasing crashed on Friday 12th November after take-off from Shannon airport in Ireland. The Swiss pilot, Mr. Jean-Claude Cuendet, and his four foreign passengers, were killed. The burnt wreckage of the plane was found less than 2 kilometres away from the runway.

NEW JET TO ARRIVE IN 1978

The first of the Northrop F5 "Tiger II" jet fighters ordered by Switzerland as a replacement for its obsolete "Venoms" are due to arrive at the end of 1978. Deliveries will be completed by 1981. This assurance was given to the Press by Colonel Kurt Bolliger, Head of Air Force and Air Defence, on his return from a visit to the United States.

Thanks to the rise in the value of the Swiss franc, the cost of the order, set at Sw.Fr. 1.5 billion during the negotiations, will probably be lower.

ECHO FROM SWITZERLAND

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad have published a monthly periodical for many years, and it has, unlike some other publications, not only kept the high standard its creators visualised, but it has even improved it. Its editors have kept the magazine alive, this special link between Switzerland and the Swiss living abroad. Many may think that the *Echo* is no longer important since all Swiss registered abroad now receive official information, articles and reports concerning Switzerland and Swiss matters four times a year by courtesy of the federal authorities at home. But anyone who has been subscribing to the *Echo* knows that the two differ greatly. For one thing the *Echo* is in the Swiss national languages, and we in Britain find it an excellent opportunity to read French or German which get rusty for want of use.

Articles written in German have short synopses in French and vice versa. And the whole magazine is full of attractive pictures. It is certainly not a duplication of what we get four times a year in the *Swiss Observer* Special Issues. And on top of it, it is the official organ of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, and there are items you will find nowhere else, such as the invitation to the A.G.M. of the Solidarity Fund, etc.

Of course, we know that with the sliding pound, the price of the *Echo* has been going up. But you may have friends and relatives in Switzerland only too anxious to give you a handsome present. To them the Sw.Fr. 30 it costs per annum is not as much as the same amount in sterling.

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SICKNESS INSURANCE

Information for U.K. Residents retiring to Switzerland

In March 1976, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in Berne signed an agreement with the Concordat of Swiss Sickness Insurance according to which Swiss retiring to Switzerland may join Swiss insurance companies up to the age of 70. This is an important concession much appreciated by those compatriots who work up to the age of 65 and would formerly not have qualified any more for acceptance.

In addition, we should like to inform Swiss and British nationals who were insured under British National Insurance that they are accepted by Swiss insurance companies without difficulties provided they fulfil the statutory conditions and apply within three months after the week in which they paid their last National Insurance contribution, or three months after leaving Great Britain if they are entitled to an old age pension or a widow's pension. This would not apply if such persons go to Switzerland purely for health reasons.

Generally, the time for which the insured was covered abroad, will be taken into account when necessary. If a Swiss or British national fulfils the conditions, they also cover his wife and children under 20 years of age.

Premiums are payable for each person separately, i.e. there is no rebate for married couples. If the husband is a foreigner, he would be accepted on the same conditions as his wife who has kept her Swiss citizenship. Premiums and

benefits vary only slightly from one company to another. If anyone is interested to have details, he should apply to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne, Switzerland. MM

INTRODUCING SWISSCO

For some time past Swissair has been aware of the problem of "over-catering", i.e. the over-supply of meals on board caused mainly by no-show passengers.

For health reasons these unused meals have to be destroyed at the flight's final destination.

To test a possible solution to the problem, Swissair is now carrying on some routes, on a trial basis, a supply of high-quality, ready-cooked, fully sterilised meals produced by Swissco Ltd., a joint subsidiary of Swissair and the Swiss Roco Food Packing Company.

Swissco operates a plant in Cork, Ireland, specialising in the production of superior quality meals for international transport catering, hygienically sealed in aluminium foil. On some route segments Swissair now carries Swissco meals, amounting to five to ten per cent of the total meal complement.

In case of need these meals are heated in the aircraft galley, removed from the foil by the cabin attendants and served on china plates in the normal way. When the Swissco meals are not used they can be stored for future use, even in tropical climates, as they have a safe shelf life, without refrigeration, of at least one year.

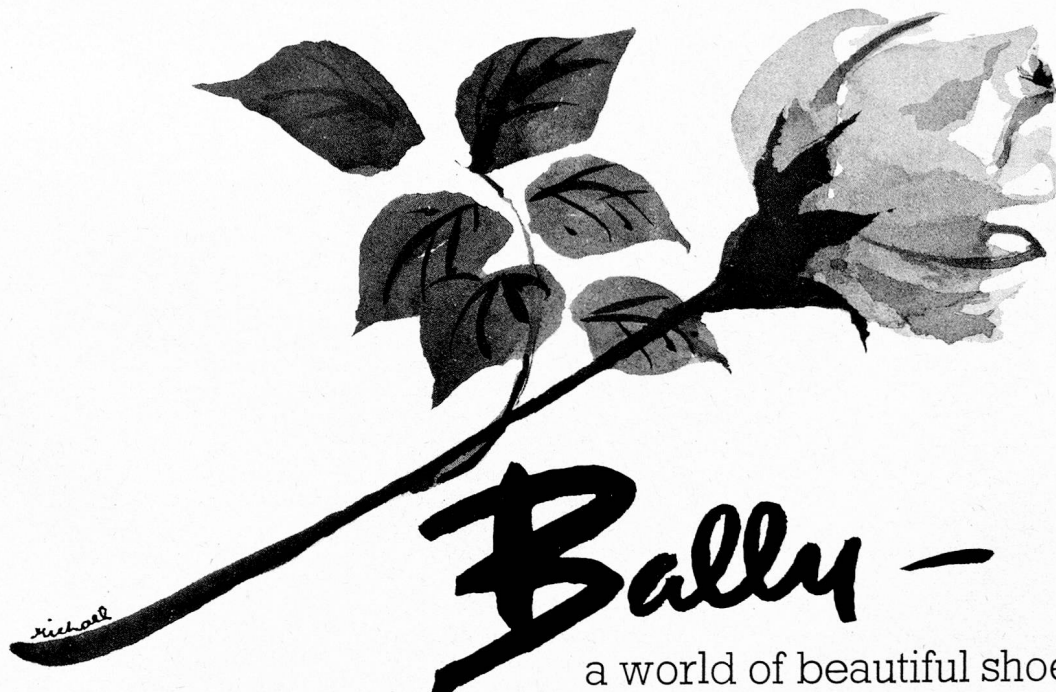
WHO WANTS TO TRY AGAIN?

In the November edition of the Swiss Observer, we challenged our readers to beat the compiler of our word game to find more than 50 words of four letters and over from WILLIAM TELL. There was a good response but unfortunately some of the entries had to be eliminated because some of the words submitted were not listed in a standard English dictionary.

But three readers did beat the compiler. They are Mr. C. Royston of St. John's Wood, London, Mr. C. H. D. Howard of Mill Hill, London and Mr. R. Heaney of Leytonstone. Congratulations to all of them. They will each receive their one pound prize within the next few days.

The compiler's list was: ELLA, LILL, LIMIT, MALLETT, METAL, TALE, TEAM, WAIT, WELT, EMIL, LILLI, LITA, MALT, MILE, TALL, TILE, WALL, WILT, EMIT, LILT, MAIL, MATE, MILL, TAME, TILL, WALLET, WILL, ITEM, LIMA, MALE, MEAL, MILLIE, TEAL, TILLIE, WALT, WILLIE, LAME, MALI, MEAT, MITE, TIME, WEAL, WILMA, LATE, LIME, MELT, TAIL, WAIL, WELL, WILT.

Now try another one. Our compiler, Mr. Jack Kosky of London W2, has found 28 words from the word CANTON. The same rules apply for this word. Find 29 or more that are defined in the dictionary and you win £1. Good luck!



116 New Bond Street W1
30 Old Bold Street W1
260 Regent Street W1
246 Oxford Street W1

372 Oxford Street W1
Swiss Centre Leicester Sq. W1
36 Savile Row W1
9 Sloane Street SW1
46 King Street Manchester 2

197 Brompton Road SW3
132 Kings Road SW3
19 Heath Street Hampstead NW3
49 Golders Green Road NW11

BIGGEST "BESPO" IN BERNE

The "BESPO" trade fair — the annual event devoted to summer sports-wear and equipment — was again held at Berne's Guisanplatz exhibition centre from 10th to 12th October. The only regular event of its kind in Switzerland, "BESPO 76" attracted a record 8,000 trade visitors and at least 255 exhibitors. The event was divided into four sectors, covering sports equipment, camping, sportswear and footwear.

SWISS CARAVAN SHOW

Switzerland's National Caravan Show was held again in Berne after a break of some years. It was staged at the Guisanplatz Exhibition Centre from 15th to 18th October and presented a wide range of the most up-to-date models in the caravan and mobile homes sector. The event was aimed at all caravan enthusiasts, especially the beginner.

LIFE AND DEATH OF A LOVER

The Berne Kunstmuseum is showing until 2nd January 1977 an exhibition devoted to Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler and his lover — Valentine Godé-Darel.

Hodler lived from 1848 to 1925. She was 20 years his junior. The couple met in 1908 when she was a model, and Hodler portrayed her in an entire series of some 130 oil paintings and drawings.

Focal point of the series — which spans the years 1908 to 1915 — is the portrayal in almost chronological style of the suffering and death of Valentine Godé-Darel. The series forms not only one of the most outstanding groups of works by Hodler from the purely quantitative aspect, but also one of the most significant in pictorial quality among more recent Swiss art — and one of the most moving.

BERNE WINE FAIR

Berne staged its annual Wine Fair at the Kursaal from 26th October to 5th November. More than 350 wines were on display from France, West Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Switzerland, and this year's guest of honour was the Swiss wine-producing canton of Valais.

Wines were sampled — and ordered — at the fair, and there was a wine-tasting competition.

There was also a special display of accessories (glasses, books and storage appliances), and another attraction was a grotto where visitors could wine and dine. The dates of next year's Berne Wine Fair have also been finalised — the event will be held from 25th October to 3rd November, 1977.

STOP PRESS

As we go to press we learn with deep regret of the death of Robert J. Keller, Hon. President of the Swiss Observer Advisory Council on 28th November, 1976. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife and family. An obituary will appear in our next issue.

LA VOCE DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA

CENTENARI FERROVIARI: *La Como-Chiasso.* — Martedì, 28 settembre so è esaltata e riaffermata l'amicizia italo-svizzera, e l'importanza delle comunicazioni ferroviarie durante la cerimonia per il centenario della linea Como-Chiasso. Erano le 10.33 quando 2 sbuffanti locomotive imbandierate, una italiana del 1883 — la più vecchia del mondo ancora funzionante — e l'altra svizzera del 1907, hanno fatto il loro ingresso, appaiate, alla stazione ferroviaria di Como-S.Giovanni. Tutto attorno, sui marciapiedi una folla festante, una cinquantina di bambini della scuola materna di Chiasso che sventolavano bandierine rossocrociate. Dai vecchi vagoni sono scesi le autorità italo-svizzere precedute dal gonfalone di Chiasso. Sul marciapiede, tra i binari N. 2 e 3, era stato allestito un palco sul quale sono saliti gli oratori, mentre la banda del comune di Chiasso e quella del Comune di Milano intonavano gli inni nazionali. La cerimonia per ricordare il centenario è stata breve e significativa. Il primo a porgere il saluto della città di Como agli intervenuti è stato il sindaco avv. Antonio Spallino. Egli ha sottolineato l'importanza dell'incontro italo-svizzero ricordando come, arrivata a Camerlata nel dicembre 1849, la linea fu poi prolungata fino a Como dopo quasi 30 anni. Furono 30 anni — ha continuato Spallino — di profondi sconvolgimenti in tutta Europa. Ciononostante già fin d'allora si credeva nell'importantissimo ruolo che la ferrovia poteva avere. "Ora — ha concluso Spallino — in quest'ora dell'elettronica, in questa società della informazione, si potrebbe credere che i trasporti siano ormai superati. Bene, io non credo che lo siano. Anzi il loro ruolo è e sarà determinante anche in futuro". Spallino ha poi ricordato i vincoli culturali, economici e sociali che legano Como,

l'unica città di confine, a Chiasso, a Lugano, al Cantone Ticino. Ha quindi preso la parola il sindaco di Chiasso, Fausto Bernasconi. "Il centenario della Como-Chiasso — ha detto — è un fatto estremamente significativo. La ferrovia ha reso più solidi e produttori i rapporti italo-svizzeri contribuendo a cementare ancor più l'amicizia fra i 2 paesi." Bernasconi ha poi ricordato che nell'atrio della stazione di Chiasso è stata collocata nel 1932 una scultura in cui vennero raffigurate 2 sorelle abbracciate, che rappresentano appunto l'Italia e la Svizzera. Dopo aver espresso parole di riconoscimento per gli artefici del tronco ferroviario Como-Chiasso, ha auspicato ancor più stretti legami di collaborazione tra i 2 paesi.

— *La Bellinzona-Locarno.* — Non s'era ancora spenta l'eco dei festeggiamenti al confine, che già la direzione generale delle FFS ha voluto rievocare il centenario della tratta Bellinzona-Locarno, allestendo corse di treni speciali storici a vapore, accessibili al pubblico con biglietti normali, sabato e domenica, 9 e 10 ottobre. Il mezzo di locomozione trainante le carrozze di seconda classe: una locomotiva a vapore EB 2/4 portante il N.5469. La partecipazione del pubblico a questi viaggi è stata lusinghiera. Numerosissimi i bambini in età scolastica e buona rispondenza di coloro che hanno voluto farsi un viaggio come ai tempi della nonna.

BELLINZONA. — *Votazione federale.* — Con soli 4 voti di scarto ed una misera partecipazione del 24½% il popolo ticinese ha respinto il proposto nuovo articolo costituzionale regolante la radiotelevisione (Sì 17,107 No 17,111). Più massiccio invece il rigetto dell'assicurazione statale per l'assicurazione responsabilità civile per autoveicoli: Sì 11,729 No 22,733.

— *Nuova legge tributaria.* — Nella seduta del 28 settembre il Gran Consiglio ticinese ha varato, al termine di un'autentica maratona parlamentare (i lavori si sono conclusi ... in notturna) la nuova legge tributaria. Rileviamo che la riforma, avversata dall'estrema sinistra, è stata definita dai socialisti una legge realistica, socialmente avanzata, uno strumento fiscale che pone il C.Ticino ai primissimi posti nell'ambito nazionale. Tutti i partiti di governo si sono impegnati ufficialmente a difendere questa nuova legge, frutto d'un equilibrato compromesso interpartitico.

— *Autostrade.* — Il Consiglio di Stato ticinese ha dato risposta alla consultazione indetta dal Consiglio federale sul rapporto della Commissione consultiva per la costruzione delle strade nazionali. Il Governo ticinese ha detto d'approvare il programma con il nuovo tracciato di Faido, l'anticipo al 1976 dell'inizio dei lavori della tratta del Monte Ceneri e il rinvio fino al 1979 della posa del cantiere per la tratta Bellinzona-Biasca. Approva infine l'attuale sistema di finanziamento ribadendo la propria opposizione all'introduzione di pedaggi.

Manovre militari. — Nell'ambito dell'esercizio di truppa "Domino", svol-