

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 2 (1988-1990)
Heft: 12

Rubrik: Stock news

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Line 528 (Winterthur-Stain am Rhein)

The "Chiquita" sets (RABDe8/16) have gravitated to this route, usually singly but sometimes in pairs at weekends when traffic demands. Should door troubles enforce a replacement, either an RBe4/4 or a BDe4/4 push-pull formation replaces, whichever is available. This did happen during August when, for a period, all four units were out of service with various mechanical and electrical defects. At the beginning of September two units were back in service. On Saturday nights, train 8101 00:04 Winterthur-Frauenfeld is formed of a "Chiquita", the first working of one of these sets to Frauenfeld.

General

A railway museum has been opened in the centre of Vallorbe, over the "Musée du Fer". It is open Tuesday to Saturday, 09:00-12:00 and 13:00-17:00.

On the 700th anniversary of the foundation of the Swiss Confederation, 1 August 1991, inhabitants of Switzerland and foreign visitors will be given a ticket to ride free of charge on all cable cars.

Saloon Train Special

A Lucerne loco driver has rebuilt and repainted a withdrawn Te1 and hopes to run it on the Oensingen-Balsthal Bahn. It has been painted in the Pullman livery of cream and chocolate and is fitted with armchairs.

Numbered TAe 5, it suggests it is capable of being operated from batteries.

Panoramic coaches for the metre gauge

Breda of Italy are building 20 panoramic coaches for Swiss metre gauge lines, although 40% of the components will be Swiss-made. Ten are for the FO, four for the BVZ and 6 for the MOB.

Those for the MOB are being styled by Pininfarina and from an artist's impression, a GDe4/4 will be sandwiched in a set of five coaches, the outer driving trailers of which appear to be completely streamlined observation cars on the pattern of the present "Super-Panoramic" cars.

Train Travel

Switzerland rates second only to Japan for the number of times each person makes a rail journey in a year. The Japanese make 60 and the Swiss 49, but the Swiss take the aggregate record for the world with 1,896 km compared with 1,691 by the Japanese. In Great Britain we come near to the bottom of the European league with a paltry 606 km, the USA coming bottom with 87 km.

Switzerland's railways carry 13% of the national passenger traffic and no less than 44% of the freight, using in the process only 4% of all energy devoted to transport. These results are notwithstanding two to three times greater investment in road travel than rail. Is anyone in our Departments of the Environment or Transport listening?

No less than 1.83 million passes, permitting the purchase of most tickets at half price are currently in use. The population of Switzerland is some 7 million. Maybe if British Railways adopted this simple and money-spinning idea, we might get further up the league table.

STOCK NEWS

888

New locomotives delivered up to the end of August:

RBD4/4 2174-2179

Withdrawn:

Ae4/7 11006

Bm4/4ⁿ 18452 (ex-Am4/4 1002) Motor damage.

Named:

RBD4/4 railcars

2157 Reconville

2158

Saxon

2170 Trubschachen