

Switzerland's contribution to nuclear science

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tunities thus offered them. It will be necessary for Swiss concerns and associations to pay greater attention than before to this field of activity and to examine objectively what possibilities it offers them and their skilled labour. It would in fact be a great pity if these precision industries were to continue to go in for minor accessory work for foreign rockets and satellites. It is to be hoped that Swiss industry will rise above its modest subsidiary role and that institutions will be created, as far as possible by private enterprise, to act as links between the international organizations concerned and Switzerland's official organizations on the one hand, and private firms on the other. For this purpose, a federal consultative commission will soon be set up, composed of scientists and representatives of the Confederation and industrial circles; among other tasks incumbent on this commission will be that of helping to establish contact between the "European Organization for Space Research" — of which Switzerland is a member — and the economic circles concerned. This organization (and more precisely the representatives of the economy within it) should be able to count on the very keen interest of private enterprise, and it is to be hoped that the latter for its part will be able to set up a structure strong enough first of all to assume the role of partner and later to represent the interests of private concerns.

(By courtesy of "Swiss Industry and Trade" Review.)

SWITZERLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO NUCLEAR SCIENCE

The new "Dragon" reactor, at the Winfrith nuclear centre (G.B.), has just been put into operation.

The machine for loading and unloading the fuel, which is an important part of the plant, was made in Geneva and assembled at Winfrith by SECA Ltd., a firm formed for the job by two big Swiss engineering concerns, Sécheron Ltd. and Charmilles Ltd. The machine was submitted to very severe tests, both in the works during preliminary assembly and at the time of the final assembly in the reactor chamber. The quality of the workmanship and the running tests carried out at high pressures and temperatures, corresponding to the operating conditions of the reactor, were entirely satisfactory.

[O.S.E.C.]

IMPORTANT SWISS AID FOR TURKEY

The agreement just concluded at Ankara between Switzerland and Turkey for carrying out a milk-industry programme constitutes the first step in the rational development of the great possibilities that Turkey, a country rich in pasture-land which however has lain neglected for centuries, offers in this field.

Turkey's five-year economic development plan provides for the creation of seven or eight sectors of the milk industry, two of which are to be set up in 1964. From the outset the Turkish Government had requested Switzerland's assistance, a request to which Switzerland readily responded. The agreement between the two countries relates to a joint scheme under which Switzerland will supply equipment and technical assistance. The latter will consist in granting fellowships for studies in Switzerland and sending experts to train Turkish supervisors in Turkey.

The scheme has two complementary aspects. Kars, with its vast grass-covered plains, is the chief centre of dairy production. However, since its development is checked by the lack of outlets, the Kars industry will be supplemented by that of Istanbul, the major centre for the consumption of dairy products in Turkey. At Kars itself a plant will be built for the production of powdered milk and of bulk butter and cheeses. These primary products will be transported to the various centres of consumption. Istanbul in turn will be equipped with a plant for processing milk from the neighbouring areas and, since local production is insufficient, refilled milk powder at Kars. Other products will also be handled, such as butter, cheese, ice-cream and the famous Turkish yogurt, reputed to be the best in the world. It is estimated that 100,000 litres of milk will be produced at Kars and the same amount processed at Istanbul.

Swiss experts and technicians will be in charge of managing and running the new industry. The Kars plant will be equipped with a modern Swiss school devoted to the technique of Cheese-making.

The cost of these schemes will amount to about 6.5 million Swiss francs (\$1.6 million). Out of this sum, 500,000 Swiss francs (\$120,000) will be donated by the Swiss Government. The rest will be supplied under long-term credit insurance contracts, at a low rate of interest.

[O.S.E.C.]

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF SOLOTHURN

The thirteenth volume of statistics compiled from the census of 1960 deals with the Canton of Solothurn. Between 1950 and 1960, the 132 Communes and 10 districts increased by 17.6%, and for the first time the number of inhabitants went above 200,000 (by 816). In 110 years, the population has grown by 188%. Thirty-six Communes show decreases, with the lowest minus 21.9%. Ninety-six Communes register increases, with the highest plus 59.3%. On 1st December 1960, 9.6% of the population were foreigners amongst whom seven-tenths Italians.

In 1860, out of every thousand inhabitants 861 were R.C., in 1960 577. On the other hand, the Protestant population has increased from 138 per thousand to 393.

The latest figures to hand regarding foreigners in the Canton of Solothurn show that on 31st August 1963 nearly 30,000 aliens (of whom 5,137 children) lived there.

In May, the electorate of the Canton accepted four proposals. One Bill provides new hunting and shooting

regulations. A second concerns changes in the building laws and allots the Canton the right to plan cantonal roads. The third legislates for special teachers' training courses, and the fourth legalises Church and public holidays.

Building activities on Solothurn territory increased in 1963 to 275.79 million francs as against 227.53 in the previous year. The extension and renovation of all the cantonal hospital buildings are progressing. To comply with the Federal decree to reduce building, a special commission has been formed to supervise the building programmes.

The big project known as the "Jura waters correction" is advancing according to plan. The aim is to lower the level of the lakes by 2.5 metres and to dehydrate the swampy surroundings. In all parts of the Canton, water purification schemes are being realised slowly but surely. The Communes of Nuglar and Dornach are now equipped with modern waste water plants. A working party for the protection of the Aare has been formed.