

Economic items

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up immediately before the impact. The enquiry was made particularly difficult by the disintegrated state of the plane but, naturally enough, heavy suspicion rested on Palestinian organisations. So far, no action has been taken by the Government besides increased control of airliners and visas for passengers from the Middle East.

The avalanche

After 40 tourists had been killed in their snow-invaded dining-hall at Val d'Isère, four skiers carried away at Zermatt, after countless other avalanches throughout the Alps, the mountain struck at Reckingen at a spot where an avalanche hadn't been seen in a hundred years. The main victims were servicemen living in the anti-aircraft quarters of Glurigen. Rescue work was organised promptly (the Valais has a special "catastrophe"-contingency plan) but, as usual, the victims were exhumed from the snow too late.

HISTORY IN THE JURA

The most important cantonal vote so far this year was held in the Canton Berne. On March 1st the electorate of Berne voted transitional provisions on the Jura (provisions which will eventually give its inhabitants the right of deciding on their own political future) with an overwhelming majority. The "Statute of Autonomy" has therefore been accepted by Jurassians, including the Separatists.

ECONOMIC ITEMS

"Swisspack 70": International Packaging Exhibition in Basle

An international packaging exhibition entitled "Swisspack 70" will be held in Basle from March 3rd to 7th, 1970. The halls of the Swiss Industries Fair will house 185 exhibitors displaying the products of 12 countries in an area of over 200,000 square feet. "Swisspack 70" will be more than a trade fair; it will serve as a background for press information days, professional meetings and the Swiss Packaging Contest. The exhibition itself will feature a packaging chain and a shop of the future as well as a design centre and a technical information stand, illustrating the many possibilities of future developments. Modern industrial packaging serves, for example, to protect merchandise, simplify transport, prepare goods for longer storage and to extend the firm's advertising. The importance of packaging is widely recognised by advertising experts who have coined the slogan "a product well packed is half way sold".

(OSEC)

Geographical reliefs in education

Switzerland, the home of Pestalozzi, has always paid great attention to the problems of children's education. In line with this tradition, a Lausanne teacher (canton of Vaud) specialising in the publication of educational works

and equipment, distinguished himself at the last Inventors' Salon in Brussels, where he was awarded a silver-gilt-medal for his geographical reliefs. Intended for a practical and active study of geography, these reliefs in plastic can easily be painted by the student. Representing, for example, mountain ranges, glaciers (with their névés and moraines) mountain streams with their catchment reservoirs, ravines and volcanic dejection cones, land masses and the seas with their isthmuses, islands, estuaries, deltas, etc., they make practical projects possible in dimensions accessible to the child. Thus, for example, the pupil will be able to indicate the site of a port, glue on a match to represent a jetty, add lighthouses simplifying coastal navigation, etc. With modelling clay, he will mark the dam in the Nile delta, and imagine the appearance of the delta in a few hundred years time . . . In fact, the possibilities of practical exercises are countless and depend only on the imagination of the teacher and child. Each relief is accompanied by a short explanatory note. The same Swiss inventor is also launching plastic letters and figures, with sunken reliefs, on the market. The child's eye registers the graphism of the figure or the letter while his finger retains its shape. This is ideal material for teaching reading and the beginning of writing in a development class, an infant or nursery class.

(OSEC)

A big new foodstuffs firm in Europe

In order to cope with the ever growing competition on the world foodstuffs market, two Swiss firms, Ursina Co. Ltd. and Interfrank Co. Ltd. have just formed a merger. It is a question of multinational reorganisation within Europe, on a Swiss base. With a turnover of one billion Swiss francs (US \$232.5 million), Ursina was 25th in the world ranking for foodstuffs firms. This company has production centres and sales companies in several European countries, as well as in North Africa, Australia, Venezuela and Siam. In addition to traditional products (butter, cheeses, fresh produce), the Ursina range comprises baby-foods, confectionery, canned fruits and vegetables as well as wines. Interfrank's manufacturing programme (turnover: S.Fr 450 million, i.e. U.S. \$104 million) comprises coffee based products, quality groceries, mineral waters and fruit juices, paints, dyes, etc. Interfrank's activity also includes banking institutes, in particular the Commercial Bank in Zurich. The merger between Ursina and Interfrank was made simpler by the fact that the two companies ideally complete each other with regard to their products and the various national markets to which they cater. Ursina-Frank Co. Ltd., with its main office in Berne and a turnover of 1.45 billion francs (U.S. \$337.2 million) will be the fifth biggest European food concern.

(OSEC)

Paillard's European activities

For some time the firm of Paillard Co. Ltd. in Yverdon (canton of Vaud) had been considering collaboration with a foreign partner not only in the field of movie cameras and projectors but also in its main sector, the production of typewriters. Its medium size—it had a turnover of 117 million Swiss francs (U.S. \$27 million) in 1968 and numbers 4,260 employees—was not sufficient to allow it to cope effectively with international competition on several fronts at once. An operation in two stages enabled it to take over the production set-up of Japy (France) typewriters and shortly afterwards of the Japy-France distribution network. But would Paillard nevertheless have to give up its movie-camera production as it had already done with music boxes and record-players, in order to concentrate all its efforts on a single sector? Such an amputation would have been in flagrant contradiction with the size of the investments already made, as well as with the prestige of Bolex, the "Rolls Royce" of movie cameras. Paillard had therefore to look for alliance which would enable it to improve the profitability of a wonderful sector that was unfortunately at the same time too small for it to be able to keep up much longer in the face of overwhelming foreign competition. Realisation of this fact decided Paillard to join forces with the Austrian company of Eumig—whose movie cameras can be likened to the "Volkswagens" of the cinema—and to found a joint company, Bolex International Co. Ltd., with its main office at Sainte Croix (Canton of Vaud). Collaboration between Eumig and Paillard will make it possible to pool all technical discoveries. The Austrian firm's potential is almost twice as large as that of Paillard in the movie sector. Working in a single field, Eumig has some 3,000 employees, while the Bolex department of Paillard totals some 1,200 employees.

(OSEC)

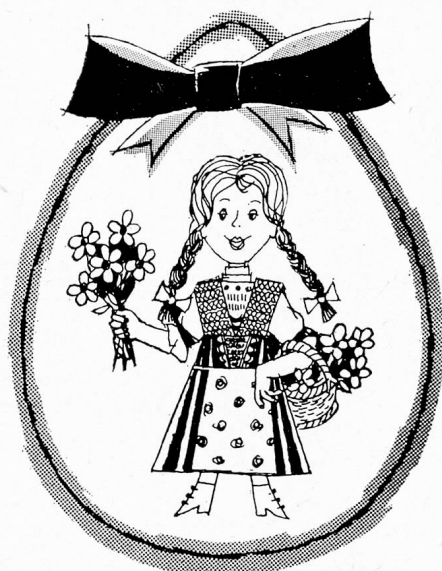
Elevators: the dynamism of a Swiss group of world standing

The Swiss elevator (lift) and electrical motors factory, Schindler & Co. Ltd. at Ebikon (Canton of Lucerne), has taken over the majority of the capital of the oldest elevator factory in France, Roux Combaluzier. The new company—Roux Combaluzier Schindler (RCS)—will occupy second place on the French elevator market. Its turnover to start with will be in the neighbourhood of 150 to 220 million French francs (34.8 to 51.8 million dollars). Roux Combaluzier, which has doubled its output in the last 10 years, decided to become integrated in a European group capable of competing with the big American firms, rather than merge with a foreign competitor of lesser stature. That is why its choice fell on Schindler, which is the second biggest



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producer in the world and the biggest in Europe. As a result of this take-over, Schindler's position will be strengthened: turnover of more than 800 million Swiss francs (U.S. \$186 million), annual sales of 20,000 elevators and maintenance contracts for 150,000. The Schindler group has just under 20,000 employees in all parts of the world and sells its products in over 80 countries. Other recent development projects of the Schindler group include the construction of new factories in Milan, Brussels, Johannesburg and Mexico City.

(OSEC)

Fresh drop in Swiss agricultural revenue in 1969

Two main trends distinguished Swiss agriculture in 1969: first, a standstill, and even a slight drop, in agricultural revenue; second, the continued rise in production costs. This situation gives all the more cause for concern as the ceiling seems to have been reached in the rationalisation of farms. However, in 1969, the price of agricultural produce was fairly constant. The index of prices even advanced a little, rising from 120.9 points to 122.6 points. On the other hand, the index of production costs made a new leap upward; it settled at about 177.3 points in October, as opposed to 167.9 points the year before. The continued high cost of labour and the rise in the mortgage rate are responsible for this rapid rise. Thus, during the year 1969, the increase in production costs was offset only to a very slight extent by a rise in prices. During this period, the gross returns from Swiss agricultural production totalled 4,180 million Swiss francs (U.S. \$972 million), i.e. 18 million francs (U.S. \$4.2 million) less than in 1968. The loss of earnings in animal production was not compensated for by the improvement in the production of crops. The slight increase in the number of Swiss cattle for butchery occurred at the expense of the number of dairy

cows. From the point of view of crops, the output of bread cereals was not as high as the figure for 1968 (output 15 to 20% less). Let us point out that the areas devoted to fodder cereals increased from one year to the next, for the whole of Switzerland by some 12,200 hectares (1 hectare = 2.47 acres), i.e. by 27%. This growth is due mainly to the increase in the subsidies granted by the Swiss government. The area devoted to potato crops has fallen off, while the output per acre was less than in 1968. In wine-growing, the harvest was medium from the point of view of quantity but very good from the point of view of quality. Let us finally mention that forestry (Switzerland has 961,000 hectares of forests, of which about 3.5 million cubic metres are felled each year) was marked by a favourable evolution of the timber market after the excesses of supply over demand caused by the gales in 1967 and 1966.

(OSEC)

Foreigners ease the burden for the Swiss

For some years now, the Swiss economy has been witnessing a dropping off in the supply of national labour. This lackening has several causes: first of all, the continually increasing slowing up in the growth of the population; then again, the increase in the average length of schooling and vocational training. Finally, the lowering of the retirement age also plays a by no means negligible role in this respect. This evolution is causing a certain amount of concern. In fact, only 40% of the Swiss population exercises a lucrative activity at the present moment, which means that there are 10 employed for every 15 without lucrative employment. However this unfavourable situation is fortunately offset, to a certain extent, by the fact that the proportion of wage-earners is particularly high among the foreign population resident in Switzerland: leaving out the

seasonal workers who are obviously all actively employed, 50% of the foreigners with residence permits and even 69% of those with only an annual permit have a job. This means that for every 10 foreigners with a permanent domicile or temporary residence permit there are fewer than seven not working. In other words, the foreigners in this country contribute to lightening the burden that the maintenance of a large proportion of non-working Swiss places on the working Swiss. From this point of view, their role is decisive in maintaining the dynamism of Swiss economic life and in increasing the general prosperity.

(OSEC)

Switzerland's gross national product, according to branches of activity

The Swiss Federal Bureau of Statistics has just published the first results of its study on the statistical recording of the formation of the national product. In this way it fills a serious gap in the information supplied by the national accounts; the latter were, in fact, limited up till now to a record of the national product from the point of view of receipts and expenditure. A first glance at the report shows the comparative importance of the tertiary sec-

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tor; its contribution to the gross national product amounts to almost 44%, while it employs just over 40% of the working population. The main reason for this difference is undoubtedly the large amount of capital invested in banks, insurances, transport and communications. Consequently, the added value per person employed is far higher in these branches than the general average. Accounting for some 50% of the gross national product, the secondary sector is still the most important. About four-fifths of the added value comes from industry and arts and crafts, and almost one-fifth from the building trade. The figure of 50% also corresponds fairly well to the proportion of the working population em-

played in industry and building. The contribution of agriculture and forestry to the gross national product lies between 6 and 7%. As this group employs 8 to 9% of the working population, the added value per person employed remains lower than the general average for the Swiss economy as a whole.

(OSEC)

Big increase in bank savings in Switzerland

Bank savings in the form of customers' deposits (savings books, deposit and investment books, middle-term bank bonds) have increased greatly during the last few years. The increase amounted, in 1968, to some 5.8 billion francs (U.S. \$1.3 billion) as opposed to 5.1 billion (U.S. \$1.2 billion) in 1967 and barely 3 billion in 1966 (U.S. \$0.7 billion). Thanks to this increase, the proportion of bank savings in the national product has increased again. In 1968, the growth of bank savings represented 7.8% of Switzerland's gross national product as opposed to 7.3% in 1967 and 4.6% only in 1966. The economic importance of bank savings in the form of customers' deposits can also be seen in the fact that, in 1968, 30.6% of Switzerland's total gross formation of capital consisted of this type of saving.

(OSEC)

News in brief

The *Enicar* watch factory recently offered the town of Djakarta a modern time system, symbolising the Swiss watch industry's presence in Indonesia. Installed in a tower overlooking a big square in the town, the new system consists of four giant clocks (size of the dials 170 x 170 cm), commanded by a quartz clock with a regularity better than 1/100th of a second a day.

(OSEC)

Nestlé-Alimentana Co. Ltd. in Vevey, has signed a contract with one of the most go-ahead foodstuffs concerns in Yugoslavia, the firm of Podravka. The Yugoslav concern—which already produces soups and canned goods—will manufacture, under licence, the Nestlé products known under the brand name of MAGGI.

(OSEC)

THE JACCOUD AFFAIR

The Jaccoud affair was one of the most sensational cases ever put forward to the Geneva assizes. Even now, some ten years later, it still troubles many a mind in Geneva. Jaccoud, who has always pleaded not guilty, has recently asked for a reopening of the enquiry with a view to his retrial and rehabilitation. He has been able to bring forward new evidence which might favour his case. Whether this evidence will be good enough to justify a retrial remains to be seen. In the meanwhile, the dossier of the case has been taken out again and Jaccoud's name, never forgotten, might well make headlines again very soon. The following account of the case is far from complete and may have a few inaccuracies. This is due to the fact that our informant, a Genevese lawyer training in London, has told me the story out of memory. Considering that ten years have elapsed, his memory is not bad at all, as the reader will judge.

The crime

Mrs. Zumbach was returning home at Plans-les-Ourates late one evening, it was about 11.30 p.m. when a dark and corpulent silhouette rushed past her, jostled her and escaped in the darkness. She entered her home and found her husband lying dead on the floor, three bullet holes in his body, stab wounds on his upper abdomen and marks of concussive blows all over his body.

There was one more case for the Geneva police. The enquiry soon came to a deadlock, and idled for about three months, until the examining magistrate bucked up his courage and had the apartment of Pierre Jaccoud searched. It was then that things took a bad turn for the reputed lawyer and eventually precipitated into his conviction with murder.

The beginning of the enquiry

The enquirers had few elements to lead them to the solution of the riddle. Still, they had a very important one: letters found at the Zumbach's home highly compromising for Pierre Jaccoud. More precisely, letters addressed by him to his former mistress which could not only compromise his own

moral reputation if they were published, but which could also bring him into difficulty with the many important Genevese citizens who were mentioned and uncomplimentingly described in the letters. Moreover, the find also comprised lewd and annotated photographs of Jaccoud with his former mistress. The son of Mr. Zumbach (the murdered man) was interrogated and it was discovered that he was now benefiting from the favours of Jaccoud's ex-mistress. It was also established that the Zumbachs were not very recommendable characters, that they had previously harboured burglars and others of this kind and that the son could well have taken Jaccoud's letters with the simple intention of blackmailing him. This, of course, threw a lot of suspicion on Pierre Jaccoud, but the examining judge was not prepared to consider the possibility of Jaccoud's involvement in the crime unless he was absolutely sure not to make a blunder. Think of the scandal! Pierre Jaccoud, the President of the Geneva Bar, Radical representative at the Great Council, member and chairman of innumerable Geneva associations, one of the best known citizens of the town, in a position to attract himself innumerable friends (but enemies as well): a case that had definitely to be handled delicately.

Jaccoud was heard as a witness during the enquiry, but his alibi and explanations were shaky and unconvincing. Following a confrontation with the Zumbach son, the examining judge decided to search his apartment.

Shattering evidence

Police had found a stray button among the pebbles of the garden of the Zumbachs' house. Searching in Jaccoud's wardrobe, they found a bundle of used clothes fresh from the cleaners and prepared by Mrs. Jaccoud, who was about to send them to the Red Cross. That bundle contained a gabardine with a missing button. The buttons of the coat were similar to the one found on the scene of the crime. Moreover, the coat bore stains which a Geneva specialist in legal medicine

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