

Business news in brief

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reached in tobacco (average 95 employees), the paper industry (92), textiles (83) and food products (78). Those below the general average are metallurgy (71), beverages (64), watchmaking (62), stones and clays, as well as rubber and synthetics (54), graphic arts (53), the clothing industry (51), the leather, timber and cork industries (30). These figures are interesting because they prove that our country owes its prosperity to the activities of firms varying greatly in size, many of which though modest in appearance nevertheless make a big contribution to the fame of Swiss products all over the world.

(OSEC)

BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss tobacco manufacturers *Rinsoz & Ormond Co. Ltd.* (Vevey) are playing a big part in the creation of the Ivory Coast Tobacco Company (SITAB) at Abidjan whose capital is at the same time Ivory Coast, French and Swiss. SITAB, which will manufacture and market many makes of cigars, cigarettes and pipe tobaccos, will also undertake big projects in the field of tobacco growing in the Ivory Coast. The future annual turnover may be estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 4 billion CFA francs, over two billion of which will be paid out in taxes of one kind or another.

The State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR for Science and Technology has authorised CIBA-GEIGY CO. LTD. to open an official agency in Moscow called "*Ciba-Geigy Co. Ltd. Agency in Moscow*". This authorisation is designed to simplify scientific and technological co-operation between the State Committee of the USSR Ministry for Science and Technology and the Swiss group. This agreement was confirmed on 20th January, 1971. The Basle chemical group thus becomes the first Swiss firm to be officially accredited in Moscow.

In 1970, the three Swiss aluminium factories achieved a total output of some 91,000 tons. Compared with the previous year, this represents an increase of 13,000 tons, i.e. about 18%; this result has been made possible by the increased capacity of the Steg works (Alusuisse). Domestic sales of aluminium increased last year, the biggest consumer of aluminium being the building trade, with a share of 26.3%. Close behind come the "engineering works" and "packaging" groups with 20.8% and 19.5% respectively. In addition, the electrical equipment industry accounted for 8.6% of the output, the "transport" group 7.2%, household and office equipment 4.6% and finally all the other consumers 13%.

At the Casablanca International Fair, the Swiss Office for the Develop-

ment of Trade presented to the public for the first time a new audio-visual show "*Presenting Switzerland*". This series, composed of several hundred colour slides, made by some of Switzerland's best photographers, is projected simultaneously onto 4 screens, by means of an electronically controlled multi-projection apparatus. In a quarter of an hour, the foreign spectators at the show thus have an opportunity of seeing various features of Switzerland (geography, population,

economy, culture, politics, etc.) and getting to know some of the problems this country has to face. This new multivision show completes the series of 960 slides "*Glimpses of Switzerland*" presented with such tremendous success to over a million visitors at fairs in Bucharest, Moscow, Johannesburg, Tel Aviv, Bogota and Zagreb. These two series, ideally suited to our visual civilisation, will help to enhance Switzerland's image abroad.

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HOW SWITZERLAND STANDS WITH THE COMMON MARKET

The European Commission has presented a report to the Ministers of the Six on the situation of those countries seeking association to the Common Market.

It turns out from this report that the preliminary and exploratory rounds of talks between Switzerland and the Six have been quite fruitful. Two solutions are proposed for countries seeking association, namely Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and Austria. One is to retain the *status quo* for a period of two years during which a definite arrangement will be worked out. The second, and more acceptable solution is to get things moving immediately by permitting free trade of industrial goods between the EEC and the candidate countries of EFTA. This would be subject to a number of agreements such as, in the case of Switzerland, the adaptation of a new law on Swiss watches to the concept of free trade in industrial goods, the problem of displacement of manpower and the question of international navigation on the Rhine.

The first point refers to the recently laid down definition of "Swiss made" watches according to which 50 per cent of components must be manufactured at home. This would impede the free import of parts, but as the new regulations are not within the realm of public law, this hurdle could be overcome by negotiations. Regarding the free movement of labour, the Commission's report asserts that Switzerland will not have to abide by Community rules as she is not seeking full membership. Besides, the restrictions laid down last year by the Federal Council are in keeping with Brussels agreements in this field. There is therefore no real problem on this side.

Switzerland has already engaged in bilateral discussions with France and Germany on the use of the Rhine. The way is therefore clear to the working out of an interim agreement which would open the gates to free trade in industrial goods. The government is believed to envisage submitting this agreement to the people in a plebiscit. The Swiss pro-marketeers, grouped in the Swiss European Movement, consider any free trade as only a beginning. They want Switzerland to adopt the Community's institutions and be as near to it as possible without actually becoming a member. This remains forbidden as long as Switzerland follows the path of permanent neutrality. The Swiss pro-marketeers have a less stringent concept of neutrality and retain only its strictly military implications. Owing to the intricacies of European negotiation, Switzerland will aim at a free-trading associateship and work out bilateral agreements within the framework of the general agreement with individual trading partners.

THE MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Jazz Festival of Montreux was organised for the first time in 1967. It lasted three days. This year the Jazz Festival lasted a whole week, not counting five more days of pop and blues between American college bands. The jazz buffs and music critics were unanimous in their judgement that the show lasted for too long.

Most performances were recorded and filmed, with the effect of making most of them look like recording sessions with public attendance. The technical necessities of satisfying the gramophone companies made these concerts last awfully long. One actually began at 6 p.m. and lasted until 5 a.m. This made *Tristan* sound as short as a mazurka. A new development was the introduction of electronics. Many arch-modern and esoteric jazzmen brought sophisticated electronic hardware on the stage and reduced the art of music to an exercise in flipping switches and turning rheostats. The public was very much relieved when, once in a while, a simple and unpretentious group came forth with something that everybody could enjoy and which did not seek to cloak inspirational poverty with a barrage of electronic paraphernalia.

A few jazzmen of world renown were guests of the festival and did not deceive the fans. They were the pianist Stanley Cowell, the trumpet player Charles Tolliver, and especially the drummer Max Roach. An off-beat performer was the pianist and blues singer Champion Jack Dupree and the vibraphonist Roy Ayers. Now that this 5th Montreux Jazz Festival is over, everybody hopes that the programme for next year will be shorter and of more equal quality. Pleasure, when over-satiated, can quickly turn into indigestion.

A REMARKABLE FEMALE EXPLOIT

In our issue of 9th April, we wrote about the exploits of the ski ace Sylvain Saudan, who had skied down the Grandes Jorasses. He has just repeated a similar feat by skiing down the north face of Mont Blanc. But this time he was accompanied by a Dutch girl living in Zurich, Miss Therese Dupont, 26 years of age. She is a keen skier and mountaineer who had met the ski instructor Saudan at Arosa and decided to emulate him ever since he had begun on his reckless descents. He gave her the chance when, at two days notice, he told her that he was attempting the north face of Mont Blanc and invited her to give it a try with him and she accepted.

Despite her total inexperience in the art of jumping crevasses, avoiding boulders and preventing avalanches, she was certainly worthy of Saudan and showed what a woman could do. Saudan is now going to ski down the

3,660 metre high Grosslockner in the Austrian Alps. He will be filmed by Austrian Television. Following this exploit, if it comes off as successfully as hitherto, he will go to the USA on a film and conference tour.

THE "APOSTLE OF LSD" ARRESTED

The "Apostle of LSD", Dr. Timothy Leary, the former Harvard professor who had started an LSD cult, has been arrested at Villars in Vaud. He had escaped the Californian prison of San Luis Obispo last September with the help of extreme-left clandestine organisations and made his way to Algiers, where he had met the leaders of the Black Panther movement.

Dr. Leary arrived in Switzerland with his wife in the middle of June. He was on his way to Denmark, but for reasons not yet officially disclosed he remained in Switzerland and was arrested following a demand by the American Department of Justice. The United States will have to present a formal demand of extradition during the 60 days after Leary's arrest. He is wanted over there for narcotic offences and for his attitude against the war in Vietnam.

He has taken a Bernese lawyer, Mr. Mastronardi, but has not yet appealed against his arrest. According to a 70-year-old legal convention between the US and Switzerland, an American citizen sought by American justice can be arrested by the Federal Police on a temporary demand of extradition by the US authorities as long as the crime for which he is sought is also indictable in Switzerland.

(ATS)

QUACKERY BEFORE THE DISTRICT COURT

A chemist from Fribourg enjoying the reputation of a "miracle doctor" in many quarters, has appeared before the Criminal Court of the district of La Sarine, Fribourg, charged with having sold medicine of his own fabrication and used it against various illnesses, in particular tuberculosis, without presenting its composition on the bottle. He had advised consumptive patients to use this potion and prescribed it with the result that the physical state of many of them had worsened seriously. The hearing lasted five hours.

The laws invoked against him were the 1928 Federal Law on the fight against tuberculosis, the 1943 cantonal law on health and its 1948 implementation order. He had in a further case given his own medicine to a patient instead of the one prescribed by a regular doctor. He had pocketed the 150 francs of sickness benefit which

corresponded to the value of the prescribed medicine although his own concoction only cost 39 francs to produce, and for the difference gave a voucher to his customer enabling him to buy his wondrous cure.

The witnesses who appeared in court brought rather contradictory testimonies. Many had seen their condition worsen dramatically. But for one or two the miracle chemist had been a gift from God. One man who had been practically condemned after five years of sanatorium and ministrated to by a priest says that after a short cure of the chemist's medicine he had regained perfect health and asserted that he owed his life to him.

However, the law remains the law and it is forbidden to sell secret medicine against tuberculosis. The 61-year-old chemist was sentenced after lengthy deliberations to a month's imprisonment with remission for two years, a 500 francs fine plus legal costs.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF MAX FRISCH

(continued from page 2)

writers are expressing a sense of metaphysical anguish at the absurdity of the condition of man, not by means of rational discourse, but by openly abandoning dramatic conventions—attempting a unity between basic assumptions and the dramatic form, Frisch “wavers” between this and a more conventional approach, retaining certain of the alienation effects so obvious in other plays of his. The basis in observable normality is much more obvious than in, Ionesco or Adamov, for example; nevertheless nowhere near so recognisable as in the actions of the Andorran characters.

Labelled a “didactic play without a lesson” *Biedermann und Die Brandstifter* tells the cautionary tale of a highly respectable bourgeois manufacturer of hair lotion, whose house is invaded by a trio of distinctly shady characters. Biedermann is well aware that his home town has recently been the scene of a series of fires that have been the work of men who have sought shelter in various houses, on the grounds that they are homeless. He soon suspects that his guests are arsonists, but even when they openly stack drums of petrol in his attic, fix fuses and detonators in front of his eyes, he believes they will not set fire to his house if he can only make friends with them.

Biedermann, who is shown as heartless and brutal, sees himself as a good natured, affable man who can charm anybody—which is his undoing.

Eisenring is one of the two incendiaries who are depicted as being victims of the social order, are destructive for the sake of it and who enjoy the feeling of power from seeing things burn. The third, however, is an intellectual who believes he is working for some abstract principle. When the fuses are about to be lit, having discovered they are not interested in his ideological rationalisations, he splits with his two companions and warns Biedermann. The latter does not take this warning either, and obligingly hands them matches to light the fire that burns himself, his wife, house and the whole town.

The civilisation that is being destroyed is one in which most people believe not in God but in the fire brigade. And throughout the play the fire brigade, in mock Greek chorus style addressing the audience and the

characters in burlesque verse, continually comments on the situation and affirms its readiness to intervene. Needless to say, it does not until the fire is well under way. In the “After-piece”, Biedermann and his wife are in hell, where Satan and Beelzebub, revealed as the incendiaries, refuse to conduct a hell for people like Biedermann, and after negotiations with Heaven are threatening a strike.

Where Frisch and Brecht depart

As usual with Frisch, the political connotations are disputable and almost universal. According to Banziger, the situation is based on that of President Benes of Czechoslovakia, who took the Communists into his government although he knew they were determined to destroy the country's independence.

Frisch's following of Brecht amounted to a stylistic inheritance and a fascination with commitment, but whereas Brecht's work uses characters to demonstrate very obviously the social iniquities, Frisch's liberalism has to consider the personal predicament. The radical punch is missing, and today, a play like *Andorra* can appear too non-committal and equivocal.

Undoubtedly, for one of his generation and nationality, Frisch's liberalism and moral sincerity are inseparable, and the value of a true concern with the individual in society, such as Frisch holds, cannot be questioned as we enter a “sociological” age and realise that the problem may be solved violently and irrevocably in the near future.

(The author of this article is a student of psychology at Bedford College. He has staged “*Andorra*” and is presently the President of the University of London Union.)

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