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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND SETS UP A NEW RECORD

The most important delivery of typewriting machines ever made to the Government of Ceylon occurred recently in Colombo. The delivery in question was that of 400 Hermes Standard 8. These machines go to swell the number of several hundred Hermes, which are already being used by the Cinghalese Administration.

OIL PIPELINES IN SWITZERLAND

The Government of the Canton of Tessin has concluded an agreement with an Italian company, in Milan, in regard to the oleoduct which it is planned to build, between the Port of Genua and the Federal German Republic. According to the terms of the Convention, in which the Government of the Canton of Grisons is also interested, this pipeline, coming from Italy, will pass through the Canton of Tessin, and, from there, via the San-Bernardina, will enter the Canton of Grisons. The signature of the agreement only represents the first stage of the proceedings; it authorises the Cantons concerned to use this oleoduct for the conveyance of heavy oils, which are necessary for their own requirements.

AMAZING RECORD BY SWISS SKINDIVER

Some time ago, the Swiss mathematician, Hannes Keller, of Winterthur, realised a world record in free diving with an apparatus in the Lago Majore, when he dived with the aid of an apparatus of his own construction, to a depth of 510 feet. What was so remarkable was the fact that the descent and the surfacing only took 34 minutes, whereas, when the classical means were used, the surfacing alone should have taken several hours. It is owing to a special method used for decompression and perfected by Mr Hannes Keller himself, with the collaboration of a doctor who is a specialist for the respiratory organs, that the Swiss diver was able to accomplish this exploit. The principles on which this method is based cannot be revealed until the apparatus has been patented; nevertheless, one can already foresee the economic advantages of this invention, which will make it possible for divers not only to go down to depths of almost 655 feet, but also to remain submerged long enough to be able to effect whatever work is necessary.

SWISS CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIA'S DEVELOPMENT

It is interesting, just when the Swiss National Autumn Fair (which this year includes an official Australian Pavilion), is about to open its doors in Lausanne, to draw attention to the part played by Swiss industry in the development of the Australian production of aluminium. It is an important Swiss company in the aluminium industry which is furnishing the installation plans, as well as technical advice, for the enlargement of the Australia aluminium foundry, at Bell Bay, in Tasmania. As a result of this extension, the aluminium production of the plant in question will increase from 12,000 to 16,000 metric tons per year.

IMPORTANCE OF ZURICH-KLOTEN AIRPORT

Among the European airports, that of Kloten-Zurich ranks seventh in importance, in regard to the number of passengers, thus coming before the airports of Amsterdam and Stockholm. Its business profits, for 1959, exceeded \$466,000, as compared with a little more than \$420,00 in 1958.

GROWTH OF A SWISS INDUSTRY

The firm of Gastolin Ltd, which specialises in the manufacture of material for soldering at low temperatures, has just inaugurated, at St. Sulpice, near Lausanne, its new metallurgical plant for special alloys, as also a research centre. The latter comprises laboratories, which will occupy more than fifty specialists in the domain of basic and applied research, relating to soldering at a low temperature.

CONTRIBUTION TO BUSINESS TECHNIQUE

The new instrument for recording dictations, called "Fi-cord," which is produced by the Swiss watchmaking industry with the precision for which it is famous, represents a valuable contribution to the modern technique of business. This apparatus, which is pocket size, can be easily held in one hand for purposes of recording, as it only measures 6.3 inches in length, 3.3 inches in width and 1.7 inch in thickness. Nevertheless, it is capable of holding reels which make it possible to make a recording totalling 30 minutes. This little instrument which functions in an absolutely autonomous manner by means of two dry batteries, which ensure 20 hours of recording, can be used alone, in the form of a single unit for recording purposes, or it can also be provided with divers accessories, such as a miniature microphone, a telephonic recorder, etc. When required for transcription, the "Fi-cord" is fitted on to a stand which has a pedal remote control and an earphone; there is also a stand suitable for work in an office, which makes it possible to record conversations or dictations while having both hands free.

CORRESPONDENCE!

Please address to the Secretary:

MR. A. BILAND,

R.D. 8

Frankton Junction

All Subscriptions to the Treasurer:

Mr. Hans Oettli,
P.O., Whatawhata

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