

News from Switzerland

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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND



GREAT SUCCESS OF SWISS MARINE ENGINES

Four cargo ships at present under construction in British and Dutch shipyards will each be equipped with a big Sulzer diesel engine with a 35½in. bore and 61in. stroke. The first of these engines has just successfully passed its trials on the Winterthur testing bench. Provided with three Sulzer supercharged turbo-blowers, this new 9-cylinder engine is capable of developing a maximum continuous output of 20,700 H.P., i.e. 2300 H.P. per cylinder. This new type of engine has aroused great interest in international maritime circles; in fact, over 30 of these engines, which are admirably suitable for the propulsion of cargo ships and big oil-tankers, have been delivered within a short space of time by this big Winterthur firm and its licensees, or are at present being built. This achievement is the fruit of many years of technical development and over half a century's experience in the field of marine diesel engines.

PART PLAYED BY SWISS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUTOMOBILE

In the automobile industry, as in many other technical fields, Swiss citizens have played a pioneering role. In the United States, Louis Chevrolet, a native of the Jura district of Switzerland, built the first models of the car which is known and used in countries all over the world today. In eastern Switzerland, Hippolyte Saurer, who had taken over and continued to develop the production of the first vehicles built by his father Adolphe Saurer, was mass-producing lorries as early as 1902. In Berne, in 1902, Joseph Wyss built his first car. Two years later he founded the famous Berna lorry factory. In 1908, Franz Brozincevic in Zurich began to produce the FBW lorries which were soon to win international fame. In Barcelona, in 1904, the Valaisan engineer Marc Birkigt founded the Hispano-Suiza factories which subsequently produced a series of remarkable cars. Birkigt's achievements in this field were also used in 1906 for the construction of the first Pic-Pic cars in Geneva. These fascinating details of the early days of the automobile are taken from an illustrated brochure by Mr Max Troesch, published by the "Swiss Transport Museum" in Lucerne and devoted to this institution's collection of early cars.

THE MARCH OF TELEVISION IN SWITZERLAND

Before the end of January 1962, the 200,000th television set was licensed in Switzerland. The 100,000 mark had been reached during the month of April 1960. Consequently the number of licensed TV sets has doubled in about 20 months.

SPECIAL SWISS POSTAGE STAMP ISSUES

The Swiss Postal and Telegraph Office has issued four special stamps this year, which were on sale in all Swiss post offices from March 19th and were valid, without any restrictions as to time, for the postage of letters and parcels to destinations at home and abroad. The 5-cent stamp in blue-grey, yellow, red and grey represents a T.E.E. (Trans-Europ-Express) train the 10-cent stamp, in green, yellowish-olive and violet, is dedicated to the World Rowing Championships, which are to be held in Lucerne this year, and shows a rower in action, the 20-cent value, in violet, light blue and olive, represents a view of the Jungfrauoch, in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of its mountain railway, while the 50-cent stamp, in blue, light red and light green, portrays the crest of the World Health Organisation, with a mosquito as a reminder of the fight against malaria.

NEW SWISS APPARATUS FOR PHOTOGRAMMETRY

During a lecture given to the Mexican Society of Engineers and Architects, the manager of the "Cia Mexicana Aerofoto Ltd." described the results of some interesting tests carried out in Mexico, in the field of cartography, with the latest instruments made by Wild Heerbrugg Ltd., the famous Swiss firm well known for its optical instruments. For cartographic surveys based on photogrammetry, this firm has designed a new automatic aerial camera, fitted with a special wide-angle lens with a 120 degree angle of vision. This lens photographs an area three times greater than previous apparatuses and consequently represents a considerable step forward. The quality of the photographs taken with this new camera is so good that on photographs taken over Mexico City, to a scale of 1/50,000, it is possible to make out strips only 50 centimetres wide painted on this city's aerodrome, which with the scale in question represents no more than 1/100th of a millimetre. Since none of the existing plotting instruments were capable of using the extraordinarily wide angle of 120 degrees given by the new apparatus, the firm of Wild Ltd. had to make new ones, i.e. in particular a contour plotter and an electronic telemeter.

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