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## Obituary

MR JEAN OETTLI

Mr Jean Oettli, father of Henry and the late Hans Oettli died on Good Friday last. Jean Oettli arrived in New Zealand in 1956 to be with his two sons in the country of their choice. He was a quiet spoken man, a devoted father and husband. In his youth, Mr Oettli was a foreman in the Swiss ammunition factory of Erstfeld and retired to farming in the latter part of his life. He attained the age of 86 years.

To Mrs Oettli, Henry and family, and the family of Hans, we extend our deepest sympathy.

—W.R.

## A Chemical Process to Prevent the Formation of Black Ice

Some 620 feet high and situated at an altitude of 2800 feet, "Europe Bridge", on the Brenner motorway in Austria, is the first big roadwork to be given a surface preventing the formation of black ice. This is, in fact, the first large-scale application of the invention of a chemist at La Croix-sur-Lutry (Vaud, Switzerland) who has spent over ten years on experiments to discover the best composition for a road surface to prevent black ice from forming. He conceived the idea of adding to the top layer of tar various chemical mixtures of impregnated crystals with a thawing power. A chemico-dynamical process is started up as soon as a vehicle passes over a road provided with such a surface; under the effect of the friction and the pressure due to the weight of the vehicle, the thawing products come to the surface, thus preventing any formation of ice; small falls of snow are also melted as a result of the same reaction. (SODT)

## Building Site Theodolite

The TO5 theodolite developed by a specialised firm at Heerbrugg (St. Gall, Switzerland) is designed above all for use on building sites. Its luminous red colour makes it extremely visible, thus cutting down risks of damage. Thanks to its built-in horizon levelling device, this theodolite is an ideal instrument for all surface levelling and altitude checks on building sites as well as for plane-table traverses for the construction of roads or paths. A new electronic system for lighting the circles ensures constant light intensity, which is very useful when working under poor lighting conditions. The theodolite is supplied with a light tripod. It can however be mounted on any other tripod from this Swiss firm's range as well as on tripods of other makes, provided they are fitted with a 5/8 inch mounting screw. The light weight of this theodolite makes it an ideal instrument for taking on voyages of exploration, geological expeditions or topographical surveys on difficult terrain. (SODT)