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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Development in the Swiss Electrical Industry.

In 1953, the Swiss main electricity stations furnished the country with about 12 and a half thousand millions of kilowatt hours, which represents a record figure.

Since 1936, the sale price of electricity has remained practically stationary, in Switzerland. This is all the more remarkable as the cost of living index shows an increase amounting to 80 per cent, since that time. At the end of 1953, the Union of Swiss Electricity Stations was supplying power to more than half a million electric cooking ranges.

India at the Comptoir Suisse.

On the occasion of its 35th anniversary, the Foire Suisse, at Lausanne, will welcome, for the first time, Asian participation in the Fair, in the form of an official pavilion, organised by the Republic of India.

The pavilion of the Republic of India will offer to its visitors a most magnificent panorama, extending over a hundred divers domains belonging to a nation which is progressing rapidly and which is in the midst of a complete evolution.

Japan and the Swiss Franc.

The Japanese Minister of Finance has declared that, as from the 2nd August, the Swiss franc will be considered to be international currency, in the same way as the American dollar, the English pound and the Canadian dollar. It will thus be possible for it to be used for the payment of international transactions.

The number of Swiss Factories.

During the 2nd Quarter of 1954, the number of factories in Switzerland has increased by 36 new plants. At the end of June, there were more than 11,000 undertakings, in this country, which are subject to the Federal Factory Law.

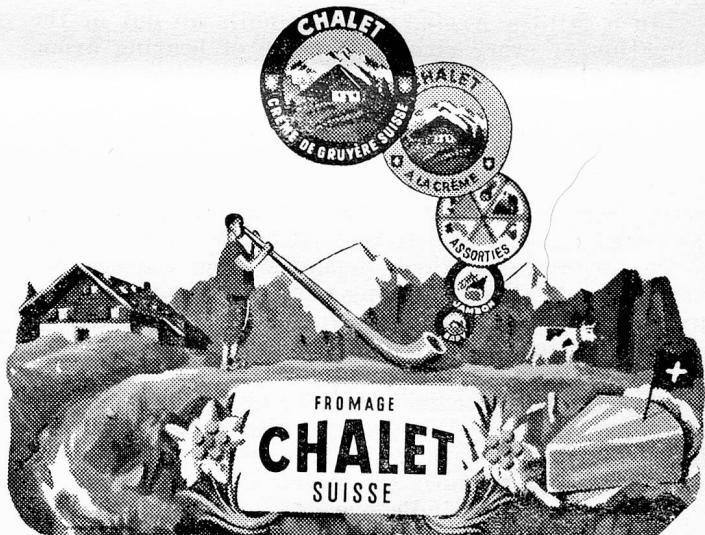
New Cement Factory.

A company has just been founded, in the Canton of Valais, which intends to build a new cement factory, capable of producing each year, during 10 months, 30 ten-ton waggons of cement per day. This

plant will be the first in Switzerland to employ the so-called "damp" process of manufacture, which gives every possible guarantee, from the hygienic point of view. One-third of the Swiss production of cement being absorbed, at the present time, by the building of dams; it may be anticipated that this new plant, which is already under construction, will have no difficulty in finding a market for its production.

New Invention — Machine-tool.

A Swiss firm is engaged in the manufacture of a machine tool, which is of an entirely new type and which is certain to make a sensation in the field of machine-tools. The tool in question is a rectifying milling-machine which possesses this particularity that it is not operated by hand or in accordance with a model of the work to be done, but directly and entirely automatically in accordance with the design of the desired piece of work. The movement of the tool is operated by a pointer which follows, propelled by an exclusive system based on the principle of electrical conductivity, the lines of the design, which may be either of a natural size, or on a reduced scale.



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