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industry, recently celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of its foundation. This important Genevese firm has realised a number of remarkable successes in its branch, more particularly a watch-bracelet which is the thinnest, flattest in the world.

Creation of EUROFIMA.

Delegates representing the railway networks of ten European countries have just created, under the name of EUROFIMA, a company, with a capital of 50 million Swiss francs, for the purpose of promoting the purchase of railway material. The seat of this new company is to be in Basle. Centralisation of orders and rationalisation in the choice of material will make it possible to obtain a considerable lowering of prices.

Housing comfort in Switzerland.

As a result of an enquiry, which was carried out recently, it appears that practically all the housing units put up in Switzerland during the last few years have running hot water and a bath-room. One-quarter of the apartment houses are equipped with a lift, whilst three-fifths of them possess automatic central heating.

Swiss textile industry.

In spite of a certain temporary slackening in business in some of the branches of the Swiss textile industry, the latter is enjoying a satisfactory amount

of activity. This situation raises the question of finding a sufficient number of workers. As a matter of fact, the figure for foreign workers employed in this important branch of Swiss industry has doubled since 1950, and now exceeds twenty thousand.

SWISSAIR'S OPERATIONS IN FIRST HALF OF 1955.

Swissair carried a total of 277,771 passengers on all sectors of its network in the first half of 1955, an increase of 17 per cent over the first half of last year. The number of passengers carried nearly equalled that for the full year 1951.

Offered capacity rose to 30,057,122 short ton-miles from 26,219,904 in the first half of 1954, an increase of 15 per cent. The mileage flown totalled 5,484,968, compared with 4,847,733.

The amount of freight carried recorded relatively the largest increase, going up by 31 per cent to just over 3,640 metric tons from 2,787 tons in the first half of 1954. On Swissair's transatlantic services 56 per cent more freight ton-miles were flown, while the European and Middle Eastern services each accounted for increases of about 20 per cent.

The overall load factor on the scheduled services improved to 61.2 per cent from 57.9 per cent.

Operating revenue for the half year totalled about 56.5 million Swiss francs, compared with 47.5 million in the first half of 1954.

ACROW *in the Middle East*

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