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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Switzerland has the largest goods-wagon in Europe.

Two Swiss firms have just built a special railway wagon of unusual dimensions, which is intended for the transportation of particularly heavy consignments. As a matter of fact, this is the largest goods-wagon that has ever travelled on the European railway lines. It weighs approximately 100 tons and is capable of carrying a load which is three times heavier. It has been specially built by private enterprise in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Railways in order to render possible the transport of particularly bulky industrial equipment, the transport of which by road is either very onerous or impossible. On its first journey this special wagon carried to Germany the stator of a turbo-generator of Swiss manufacture, which is the largest and the most powerful to have been built, up to the present, in Europe. This special wagon is the property of the Swiss Federal Railways, but it can be let to foreign railway companies.

The Swiss building trade.

At the present time the Swiss building trade is busier than it has ever been before, so that the consumption of cement has increased very considerably during the last few years. During 1956 more than two and a half million tons were employed in Switzerland, which represents an average of nearly 500 kilos per inhabitant. This average places Switzerland at the head of all the industrial countries. One-quarter of this cement is being used for the construction of the immense hydro-electric plants which are now being built throughout Switzerland.

Switzerland's precision industry leads the way.

Being as she is, entirely without any raw materials and being obliged, nevertheless, to live from her industrial production, Switzerland is forced to produce what no other competitive country is able to achieve. In view of the fact that production on a large scale and at cheap prices is practically prohibited as a result of the smallness of her domestic market, all there remains for her to do is to specialise in high quality and precision. In this connection it may be of interest to cite an example which is practically unknown to the general public. It concerns the Société Genevoise d'Instruments de Physique, in

Geneva, whose special boring machines are appreciated all over the world. Well, this firm has also acquired renown in another scientific domain, namely in that of metrology. The laboratories of the Société Genevoise d'Instruments de Physique were entrusted recently with a work which may be qualified as being of historical importance for metrology. It consisted in retracing afresh most of the prototypes of the standard-metre of which numerous countries are the depositaries. This work is extremely delicate as it requires the attainment of great precision in the tracing of some ten thousandth part of a millimetre. The fact that it was a Genevese firm which was chosen to carry out this work, unique of its kind, is an honour which reflects on the whole of the Swiss industry of precision.

Coming Swiss exhibition devoted to Women's work.

In 1928 various Swiss Women's Organisations arranged a big exhibition devoted entirely to women's work. Under the same title of "SAFFA", the organisers are now preparing a fresh edition of this Swiss exhibition dealing solely with the life and activities of women, which is to open its doors to the public on 31st July, 1958, and which will be situated on the left bank of the Lake of Zurich. During more than six weeks. It will give both Swiss and foreign

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visitors an opportunity of realising more fully the life and personality of the Swiss woman, her activities, and the part played by her in the home, in her job or profession, and in public life. This big manifestation will not be merely a fair or exhibition like others, but will bear a very personal imprint because it is being planned by women and will be carried out entirely by them.

Interesting New Swiss device.

A Swiss firm, in Lausanne, has just put on the market a new ultrasonic machine for cleaning small mechanical detached parts which require a great cleanliness of surface. This apparatus, which is bound to be of the greatest utility to manufacturers of instruments of precision and to watchmakers, can be adapted for a number of uses. In addition to the generator of sound waves itself, it is possible to incorporate into this machine various devices for preliminary washing, for rinsing, etc., in order to form a complete cleaning unit. The mechanical parts that have to be cleaned are placed, in bulk, at one end of the machine and come out at the other end washed and dried.

Important order to Swiss Industry.

The Austrian Broadcasting Station has decided to rebuild the No. 1 transmitting set in Vienna, which was destroyed in 1945. The most important European firms, specialising in this particular branch, have sent in offers, in order to obtain the command for the construction of the technical plant. This important

order has been entrusted to a big Swiss firm, which is to build four different transmitting sets, which will broadcast two programmes on medium waves, with a capacity of 240 kw.

Switzerland builds largest alternators.

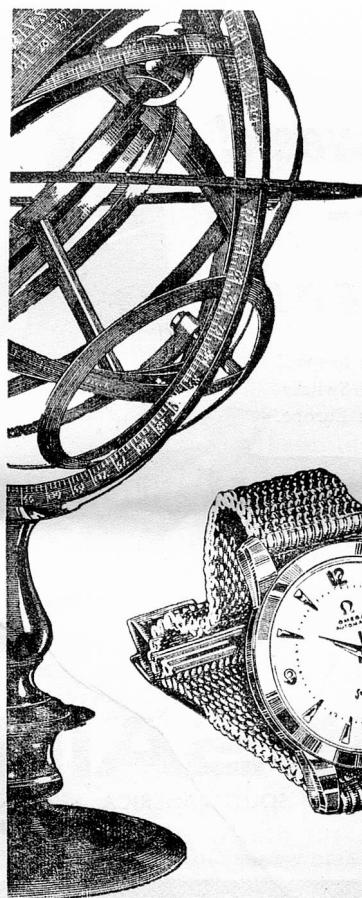
A hydro-electrical station is now being built in Switzerland, which will partially supply power to the network of the Swiss Federal Railways. This station is to be equipped with alternators which will be the most powerful ones in the world of such type. Built in Switzerland, each one of them will weigh more than 400 tons and the rotor will have an external diameter of approximately three meters.

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