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COMMERCIAL NEWS

A prize-winning Swiss film.

At the Festival of the Mountain and Exploration Film, held at Trento, a Swiss film was awarded two prizes. This was a documentary entitled "Footpaths and rocks on the Salève. . .", which was shot by André Kern and the famous Swiss alpinist, Raymond Lambert; it shared a prize of 250,000 lire with an Italian film, and also got the prize of the "Deutscher Alpenverein".

Swiss chinaware to the fore.

The new "Nile Hilton" hotel will be opened very shortly in Cairo. This establishment, which belongs to the chain of Hilton Hotels in the Middle and the Near East, is to be equipped with crockery of Swiss manufacture, as are also the Shepheard and the Semiramis Hotels in Cairo.

Furthermore, two air companies, the Olympic Airways and the Air India International, have also ordered Swiss-made crockery for their aircraft, as a result of the satisfaction experienced by the Swissair Company with this article. It is the shape of the Swiss chinaware, adapted for use on aircraft, which weighed the balance in its favour. This crockery has been perfected during the course of several years' collaboration between Swissair and the Swiss porcelain industry.

A course on automation at Geneva.

Automation is the science of the use of automatic machines which are driven and controlled by themselves, such as electronic brains and similar apparatus. The Geneva branch of the Swiss Association for Automation has tabled on its programme of activities for the 1958/59 season courses on automation, one of which is to be devoted to operational research, based on the study of practical examples, this being intended for a large public which is interested in business. This course will be the first of its kind to be held in Switzerland.

Pre-fabricated school premises for use in an emergency shown at Zug (Switzerland).

The Commune of Zug has just had a transportable school-pavilion set up, which consists of four classrooms and a room for the teachers. The principal advantage of this building, which is made entirely of wood and steel, is that it can be transported on special trucks and set up very quickly wherever it is needed. This new school-pavilion was put up in Zug in two days. It has been built in Switzerland, according to the plans of an architect's office in Zug, and costs 230,000 francs.

Fiftieth anniversary of a Swiss industry.

It is in consequence of having contracted a tenacious form of rheumatism, whilst on active military service guarding the frontiers during the First World-War, that Dr. Schaufelberger, who manufactured speed-recording machines in his factory which was established in 1908, began to make electrically-heated cushions. The electric cushion "Solis" was the first to possess an automatic safety current cut-out, which is still being utilised to-day in its original form. Since then the firm has enlarged its manufacturing programme and has become particularly renowned for its electrically-heated carpets, blankets, mattresses, etc. In order to ensure the quality of its products, the "Solis" firm itself produces nearly all the detachable parts for its appliances.

A Swiss exhibition of agricultural machinery at Brug.

After an interruption lasting for two years, the Swiss Association of Owners of Agricultural Machines, in collaboration with other groups which are directly interested in this matter, are once more organising, from 3rd to 7th April 1959, a Swiss Exhibition of Agricultural Machinery. This show will group together about a hundred Swiss and foreign manufacturers, and will thus be the most important exhibition of this kind to have been organised in Switzerland.



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Franking machines in Switzerland.

After having first been authorised for use by the Swiss Postal Administration, in 1921, the use of the machine for the stamping of so-called "metered mail" has spread throughout private business, somewhat timidly at first, and then with greater assurance, during the last ten years. No fewer than 4,716 such machines are now being used in Switzerland, most of them being of domestic manufacture. In 1957, these stamping machines, the meter of which is checked every month by the post office, had stamped prepaid mail to the value of 10,743 Swiss francs, on an average for each one, or to the value of 51 million Swiss francs for all of them. This amount represents 19% of the total sum spent on postage in Switzerland during the past year.

A new physics institute in Zurich.

After lengthy studies and twenty-one months of work, the new Physics Institute, attached to the University of Zurich, has just been inaugurated officially. It possesses a big auditorium and a vast laboratory, equipped with a crane, having a capacity of fifteen metric tons. This laboratory can be subdivided into sixteen laboratories of normal dimensions by means of movable partitions and floors. Surrounding the lecture-rooms are to be found 35 further normal laboratories, which can serve all purposes. As a result of wise precautions, this new building has only cost 4.5 million Swiss francs.

A new cement factory in the Swiss Alps.

A new cement-making plant has recently been inaugurated at Untervaz, in the Grisons. Producing 300 metric tons of cement, the raw material of which is supplied by a quarry excavated in a ridge of the Piz Calanca, it constitutes a very welcome source of employment in a region which is destitute of all industries. The greater portion of its output is absorbed by construction works of dams and roads in the Grisons.

A Swiss horticultural exhibition in Zurich, next year.

The First Swiss Exhibition of Horticulture will open its doors in Zurich, in April 1959. Briefly described, this exhibition, on which work has already been started, will have very few buildings, several restaurants and lots and lots of flowers and greenery, gardens, fountains and an open-air theatre. At the Zurichhorn, a number of stands will show the most recent accessories for gardening.

Birthday of a great manufacturer in the canton of Vaud.

The celebrations have just taken place of the 70th birthday of Mr. E. A. Paillard, President of the firm Paillard & Co., of Ste-Croix and Yverdon, which is renowned throughout the world for its typewriters, cameras and cinema projectors.

M.V. "NYON" FEARED TO BE A TOTAL LOSS.

Hopes of saving the grounded Swiss merchant ship "Nyon" from the rocks off St. Abbs Head were virtually ended when on the 20th of this month 23 of her crew were brought ashore by lifeboat. The captain with a working party of nine remained in the ship.

It is feared that the M.V. "Nyon" will be a total loss.

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