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# COMMERCIAL NEWS

## Uranium in Switzerland.

It has just been announced officially that radioactive rocks have been discovered in the Swiss Alps, of which the contents of uranium are equal to those found in the strata that are being mined in Canada. It is not known yet, however, if these rocks exist in sufficient quantities to warrant their being worked. It was whilst a sub-terranean gallery was being prospected — a gallery that had been excavated for the requirements of the power plant at the Grande Dixence, in the Canton of Valais — that these deposits were discovered. A methodical prospecting had been undertaken within the framework of the tasks incumbent upon the Swiss Commission for Prospecting for Fissionable Materials.

## Peace on the labour front in Switzerland.

During 1957 there occurred only five collective labour disputes in Switzerland which entailed any stoppage in work, of which two lasted for less than one day. The other disputes affected only three business undertakings and a few dozen workers. Such a minimum has never before been recorded since comparative data have been available.

## Further industrial decentralisation in Switzerland.

The "Société Anonyme des Ateliers de Sécheron", which is well known for the work it has achieved in the domain of electro-technique, intends to establish a plant at Conthey, in the Canton of Valais, a region which is favourably situated in regard to transport facilities, and where the firm expects to find stable manpower. The necessary sites have already been retained.

## 75th anniversary of the Swiss Official Trade Gazette.

The "Feuille Officielle Suisse du Commerce" (the Swiss Official Trade Gazette) was published for the first time at the beginning of 1883, as a result of the coming into force of the Federal Code of Obligations, which contains the Swiss Commercial Law. The oldest Swiss publication of this kind is the "Feuille d'Avis Officielle de la République et Canton de Genève" (Gazette of Official Notices for the Republic and Canton of Geneva), of which the first issue bears the date 5th August 1752.

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## Iraq places orders with Swiss Industry.

The well-known Swiss firm of machine-manufacturers, Messrs. Bühler Brothers, of Uzwil, are now engaged in putting up three silos for grain, each one possessing a capacity of from 8,000 to 12,000 tons, in the Iraqi localities of Erbil, Mossoul and Hlilah. These installations will be completed in approximately six months' time.

The same firm has received a still more important order for the Port of Basrah, on the Persian Gulf. This is for a silo for grain, equipped with the necessary machinery for loading and unloading. The silo, which was originally intended to have a capacity of 65,000 tons, can be enlarged later on and its capacity increased to hold 130,000 tons of grain.

It is more particularly because of the quality of its loading apparatus, which will be able to deal with as much as one million kilos of grain per hour, that the Uzwil firm got the order, in preference to competitors from other countries — and this in spite of the considerable difference in price.

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