

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1959)

Heft: 1334

Rubrik: Personal

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vertical alternators of 60,000 kilo-volt-amperes and 13,800 volts each. These machines, which revolve at a speed of 105 revolutions per minute, represent a sum of U.S.A. \$2,639,000 and are to be installed at the end of 1961 in the electric station of Muscle Shoals, in Alabama.

Important Swiss firm inauguates its new equipment.

The firm of Messrs. Schindler & Co. Ltd., which specialises in the manufacture of lifts and of electric motors, has just inaugurated, at Ebikon, near Lucerne, a new ultra-modern works (workshops, store-houses, auxiliary services and offices) which cover a total superficial area of 860,000 square feet. These new premises, which include a canteen capable of serving the entire staff, will be occupied by 2,000 personnel. The Schindler Group, which already possesses five establishments in Switzerland, has found itself obliged, as a result of the increasing demand for lifts throughout the world, to develop, as from 1950, its branch establishments in Lyons, Berlin, Düsseldorf and Milan, to which must be added those in Johannesburg, Lima, Mexico, Rio de Janeiro, Brussels, Lisbon, Paris and Mulhouse. This firm employs, in Europe and in the Overseas countries, a total of some 7,500 persons, and its manufacturing programme extends also to escalators.

Yet another Swiss documentary film honoured.

The firm of Paillard S.A., of Yverdon and Ste-Croix, which is famous all over the world for its cameras and projectors, has just achieved a new success with a documentary film entitled "A Message from Hermes". The film, which is devoted to the manufacture of the firm's celebrated typewriters, has been awarded an Oscar at a recent European technical and industrial Film Festival which was held at Rouen. The originality of this 25-minute colour film resides in the fact that it not only stresses the technical aspect, but also and more particularly the environment in which the worker lives and does his job. In view of the fact that it is the worker who plays the leading part in production, it was only fair that this role should also be given to him in the film.

A new record of the Swiss post.

Of all the countries in the world, Switzerland has the most intense traffic in postal parcels. In 1957 nearly 85 million parcels were carried by the inland mail service, which means that 17 parcels per inhabitant were sent, whereas in the Federal German Republic only five parcels per inhabitant were despatched. In 1955 an average of 15.5 parcels per inhabitant were being delivered in Switzerland, 7.1 in the United States, 4.4 in Great Britain and in Germany, 2.8 in Sweden, 1.7 in Australia, 0.6 in France, 0.5 in Italy, and 0.1 in India and in Turkey. If one adds to this figure the parcels going and coming from abroad, as well as the transit parcels, one finds that the Swiss Postal Service has ensured the transport, during 1957, of some 90 million parcels, that is to say four millions more than in 1956.

A novelty in the Swiss wool textile industry.

At Schauenberg, on the Via Mala — a site made famous by John Knittel's novel of the same name — a

manufacturer of woollen blankets has just succeeded in producing an article entirely new in this particular branch. What he has done — by an ingenious modification applied to the Jacquard looms for the production of patterned blankets — is to achieve the production of blankets on which the same pattern is not repeated the whole time, as is generally the case with blankets of this kind, but on which there is to be found only one design which extends over the entire surface of the blanket and differs in all its parts. It was one of the classes in the School of Applied Art, in Zurich, which created the modern designs used for the purpose of drawing the best possible advantage from the new decorative possibilities offered by the "Imola-Swiss" blankets. We would add that this new article, which has already been admired at exhibitions, is carried out in wool with the warp in nylon; thus, it is not only very original in the effect it produces, but it is also very light, as well as soft in texture.

PERSONAL.

On going to Press we hear of the passing away, on Thursday, January 8th, of Mr. H. Oswald, of "The Crozier", 38, Corkran Road, Surbiton, Surrey, Managing Director of Messrs. Brown, Boveri (British) Ltd. An Obituary will appear in our next issue.