

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: 1338

Artikel: £16 1/4 Contracts placed for B.R. 226 Main-line Diesel-Electric Locomotives ordered, 137 from Railway Workshops

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687641>

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LUGANO — La RSI indice un corso di recitazione dialettale al quale potranno iscriversi tutti coloro che hanno uno spiccato interesse per il teatro dialettale in genere.

— E' stato inaugurata l'11 febbraio scorso la sede dell'Istituto europeo di studi e relazioni intercomunali. La sede è stata messa a disposizione dallo Stato del C. Ticino e dal Comune di Lugano. Alla cerimonia hanno assistito, con le autorità locali, i delegati degli 8 paesi che hanno partecipato all'assemblea milanese del Consiglio dei Comuni d'Europa. Hanno parlato un rappresentante tedesco, l'on. Brenno Galli, in nome del governo ticinese e il presidente dell'Istituto, Bruegner, il quale ha illustrato gli scopi dell'Istituto.

Poncione di Vespero.

£16½m. CONTRACTS PLACED FOR B.R.

**226 Main-line Diesel-Electric Locomotives ordered,
137 from Railway Workshops.**

The British Transport Commission have ordered 226 further main-line diesel locomotives for British Railways, the largest order to be placed since the modernisation programme was announced in 1955. Of these locomotives 137 will be built in railway workshops. The total value of the contracts placed (for 89 complete units, and 137 sets of engine and transmission equipment) is over £16½ millions.

The locomotives will be of three power classes and, apart from 42 of them, are of similar designs to locomotives already in production. Deliveries will begin this year, and the locomotives will be progressively introduced in areas in which steam traction is to be entirely replaced by diesel power.

The 137 locomotives which are to be built by British Railways will be erected at Crewe and Derby Locomotive Works. They will have diesel-electric transmission equipment supplied by Crompton Parkinson Ltd., incorporating **Sulzer diesel engines** of 2,300 h.p., some of which will be uprated to 2,500 h.p., and will be classified as Type 4 in the British Railways classification of main-line diesel locomotives. These locomotives will have a maximum speed of 90 m.p.h., and will be employed in hauling fast passenger and express freight services in the London Midland Region.

The other 89 locomotives are for general mixed traffic duties; 42 of them are to be built by the English Electric Co. Ltd., to a new design, and will have engines of 1,750 h.p., classified as Type 3, and a CC wheel arrangement (two six-wheeled bogies). The Eastern Region are to have 30 of these locomotives, and 12 will go to the North Eastern Region.

All 47 remaining locomotives will be classified as Type 1, and are mainly for freight duties; 30 of these, each of 1,000 h.p., are also to be built by English Electric, and 17 of 800 h.p. by the British Thomson-Houston Co. Ltd. The Scottish Region will have 7 locomotives, 10 will go to the London Midland Region, and 30, including all those of 800 h.p., to the Eastern Region.

The total number of main-line diesel locomotives ordered under the railway modernisation programme

is now 881. About 120 of these are in service, and it is hoped that this figure will be increased to some 500 main-line diesel locomotives by the end of this year.

Details of the orders are as follows:—

English Electric Co. Ltd., Marconi House, Strand, W.C.2.: 42 Type 3, 1750 h.p., main-line diesel-electric locomotives, and 30 Type 1, 1000 h.p., main-line diesel-electric locomotives.

British Thomson-Houston Co. Ltd., Rugby; 17 Type 1, 800 h.p., main-line diesel-electric locomotives.

Crompton Parkinson Ltd., Writtle Road, Chelmsford, Essex: 137 diesel-electric power-equipments for Type 4 locomotives to be erected in British Railways' workshops.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Albert Ferber at the "Soirée Familiale" at the Dorchester Hotel.

Despite an epidemic of "Flu", and no less than three functions following each other within three days, nearly a hundred ladies and gentlemen were present at the *Soirée Familiale* which took place at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Wednesday, 25th February.

In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. H. Knoll, the Vice-President, Mr. X. Speckert, occupied the Chair. He extended a hearty welcome to the Swiss Ambassador, and Madame Daeniker, Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet, 1st Counsellor, and Madame de Tribolet, Monsieur R. Faessler, Commercial Counsellor, and Madame Faessler, Consul E. Ribi and Madame Ribi, Mr. A. J. Staehelin, Director, and Dr. John Brunner, Vice-Director, of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, Zurich, the last two gentlemen being the personal guests of the Swiss Ambassador.

Mr. Speckert then introduced Albert Ferber, our eminent compatriot, by saying: "He is an artist we always look forward to welcoming at the City Swiss Club", and in conclusion extended a warm welcome to the ladies.

Albert Ferber, suiting the occasion, had chosen for his pianoforte recital a conventional programme by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Scriabin and Debussy.

By his playing the Fantasy in D minor by Mozart, he exhibited a lyrical seriousness and a sustained beauty of tone. He gave a marvellously unhackneyed and uninhibited performance of Beethoven's Sonata op. 13 No. 8 (Pathétique) in three movements. Much as this work is overplayed, it was pure pleasure to listen to his rendering.

Schubert's Impromptu, op. 90 No. 1, gave him the richest opportunity to display those subtleties of phrasing that have always made his musicianship so memorable. This was followed by Polonaise in C minor, Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor, in which he displayed qualities of musical imagination, fullness and warmth of tone.

Scriabin's 2 Etudes proved that Albert Ferber has an extremely well-developed and brilliant technique, particularly in his fast-moving fingers.

The recital ended with Debussy's Reflets Sans l'eau, Mouvement Jardins sous la pluie, played with rich variety of tone colour and tempo and scrupulous attention to detail.

Each item of the programme was loudly and deservedly applauded, and at the close of his recital he received a spontaneous ovation, which he generously acknowledged by an *encore*. It was all in all an evening of superb music making.

The committee of the City Swiss Club deserves thanks from all those who were present for having given us once more an opportunity to hear our gifted compatriot, who possesses technical skill and musical insight in such great abundance.

Before breaking up, Mr. Speckert, on behalf of the company, warmly thanked Albert Ferber for the great pleasure he had given us.

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