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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Production of cigarettes in Switzerland

In 1959 the production of cigarettes in Switzerland attained the figure of 9,800 million, as against 9,500 million in 1958.

New electro-mechanical wristwatch

A Swiss electro-mechanical wristwatch for men is to be launched on the market during the course of this year; it is driven by a miniature battery or accumulator. Its makers have been working on it for eight years; in view of the prestige of the Swiss watch-making industry, they could not risk a false start, or launch a new type of timepiece without first submitting it to a very meticulous adjustment and a great deal of patient examination.

Increase in capital of Dr. Wander Ltd.

In order to provide sufficient means for the operation of the concern as well as for the financing of new buildings for the manufacture of their products, the shareholders meeting of the firm of Dr. A. Wander, Ltd., in Berne (which is particularly well known for its "Ovaltine"), has just decided to increase the present capital of 9.5 million Swiss francs to 15 million francs, this increase being accomplished in two stages.

This increase in capital has been motivated by the development that has taken place in the commercial activity of the firm — thus requiring more floating capital — as well as by the investments which have proved necessary for the enlargement of the research departments and manufacturing premises.

Swiss Architect receives Reynolds Memorial Award

The Reynolds Memorial Award for 1960 has been conferred on Mr. Jean Tschumi, an architect in Lausanne, and professor of architecture at the Polytechnical School attached to the Lausanne University, for having designed the plans for the Nestlé Administrative Centre, at Vevey. The American Institute of Architecture, in Washington, remarks that this award is given every year to the architect who has designed a building of the most modern conception, using aluminium for this purpose in such a way as to bring influence to bear on contemporaneous architecture. The project conceived by Professor Tschumi triumphed over all those submitted by the other 98 competitors. Seventy-two of the buildings which were entered for the competition are to be found in the United States, and twenty-six in other countries. The only Swiss building in the competition was the one conceived by the prize-winner.

Activity of the Swiss Federal Mint

The Swiss Federal Mint has minted nearly 39.7 million coins for the State Treasury, to the value of approximately 10.3 million Swiss francs, as well as two million 50-franc gold pieces and five million 25-franc gold pieces for the Swiss National Bank. The Government of the Kingdom of Greece commissioned the Federal Mint to stamp pure nickel and aluminium coins. This order has been executed in collaboration with Swiss industry.

A new diaphragm regulating valve.

A manufacturer of pumps and machines, in the Canton of Neuchâtel has just put on the market a new sluice, fitted with a diaphragm, which will doubtlessly prove of great service, in a number of industries. Thanks to the diaphragmic device with which it is furnished, this sluice makes it possible to regulate in a precise manner the outflow of fluid substances, granular or gaseous. The regulating operation always takes place within the axis of the conduit and the division in the passage always remains hexagonal, whatever may be the degree to which it is opened, which ensures a perfect regulation and prevents any division into parts of the liquid vein, as would be the case in respect of openings made in the shape of a slit or a sickle. The danger of any stoppage is non-existent. A dial makes it possible to see directly the degree of the opening, given in percentages of the maximum opening. As a result of its squat construction and its slight thickness, this sluice can be operated by hand, by an electric motor, a compressed air motor or a pneumatic cylinder. If operated by remote control, it can be equipped with a device which tele-indicates the degree of opening.

The file, a precision tool.

The most important firm in the world manufacturing precision files, which is established at Vallorbe, is able to place at the disposal of the precision industry (machines, electronic and electric apparatus, control instruments, etc.) files which have a precision of 1/100 mm. (0.00039"). Such exceptional precision for a tool like the file is attained as a result of the complete mechanisation of the process of manufacture, which makes it possible to obtain a particular quality and a guaranteed thickness and hardness.

Thus, an old tradition keeps in step with progress and new techniques; new material creates a new file. This tool is no longer the simple hand instrument which it was, but has become a precision tool for precision machinery.

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