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COMMERCIAL NEWS

An inspired economic decision in Switzerland

Many Swiss enterprises dealing in construction materials at the end of last year communicated to Federal Councillor Mr. Wahlen, head of the Federal Department of the Public Economy — and now Switzerland's president — that they would not make any price increases before 31st December 1961. By this measure, which was taken for the first time in 1957, the industries concerned intend to contribute to maintaining the price of construction at its present level and so help fight inflation. Such a decision, made quite freely by the building trade enterprises, merits an honourable mention.

Two Genevese industrialists honoured in Geneva

In Geneva recently, the Ambassador of the UAR, who is the permanent representative of his country to the UN, presented the award of the Order of the Republic to two Genevese industrialists, Prof. R. Neeser, honorary president of Charmilles Company, and Mr. L. Dufour, chairman of the Administrative Council of the Sécheron Works, in gratitude for the participation of these two enterprises in providing equipment for the Assouan Dam in Egypt. Swiss industry has delivered a large part of the equipment to this central power station which has 7 groups of Kaplan-type turbines of 65,000 h.p. and two with 20,000 h.p. Two companies, Charmilles and Escher Wyss, joined in providing the turbines for the two groups of 20,00 h.p. and two groups at 65,000 h.p.; the Secheron Works provided the alternators for the two groups of 20,000. Moreover, two other Swiss companies, Brown Boveri and the Oerlikon Works, made five of the seven alternators for 65,000 h.p.

Success of a Swiss typewriter in Japan

Hermes, a Swiss export typewriter, has had to be adapted to all types of script and all languages, even Japanese, for which the "Kanamoji" keyboard is used. It was so well adapted that it took the first, fourth and fifth prizes for the Japanese typing championship. With 60 contestants participating, first prize was won by Miss Isako Kashimura, writing on a Hermes Ambassador.

Franco-Swiss artistic collaboration

The French artist, Jean Lurçat, world-renowned in the art of tapestry, has now turned to another form of artistic expression, the art of jewellery. The celebrated French tapestry-designer has given his designs to a Swiss firm in Geneva, Patek Philippe, to be carried out.

New high-powered Swiss marine diesel motor

The development which has occurred of late in marine construction, where it has been necessary to increase the capacity and speed of cargo and petrol ships, has led the firm of Sulzer Brothers in Winterthur to create new models of high-powered diesel motors. These are two-stroke forced injection motors, which are reversible and specially designed for mounting in ships whose screws are directly linked up to the motor. The most powerful of the series is 24,000 h.p. with 12 cylinders in line, 35.4 inches in diameter, with a stroke distance of 61 inches, thus, 2,000 h.p. per cylinder at 119 revolutions a minute. Recently, the company test ran the first construction of this series, built for a unit of 11,500 tons deadweight, for a Dutch navigation company. This is a 6-cylinder motor with each cylinder having a 35.4 inches bore capable of reaching 12,000 h.p. During the last tests, the motor produced 50 per cent greater output than expected, by giving 3,00 h.p. per cylinder or 18,000 h.p. total.

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