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: - (1961)

Heft: 1387

Artikel: The art of making millions

Autor: S. O.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689856

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 13.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman), O. F. BOEHRINGER, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. KUNZ, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY P. HOFSTETTER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: Clerkenwell 2321/2. Published Twice Monthly at 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. Telegrams: Fr

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 47. No. 1387

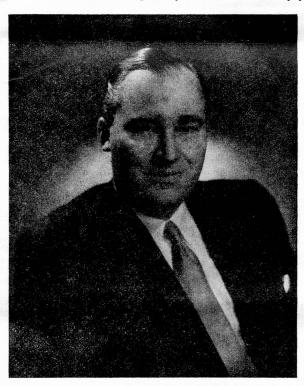
FRIDAY, 16th JUNE 1961

PRICE 11D.

THE ART OF MAKING MILLIONS

To-day the Swiss Observer takes pride in congratulating one of its most faithful friends, Mr. William de Vigier, who this year celebrates the 25th birthday of Acrow, the world-renowned engineering company of which he is founder and managing director.

In these times when one stresses here and there the necessity of rejuvenating the Swiss colony in Great Britain, here is a man who, having not yet attained the fifty-year



mark, makes a million just as easily as others put threepence on a football pool in the fallacious hope of winning a fortune.

Alexander Thomson writes in the Evening Standard: "He started the company (Acrow) when he was 24. I estimate he made his first £1,000,000 by the time he was 36. And now he can calculate, if he wants to, that the

total value the Stock Exchange puts on its shares is more than £7,000,000".

Mr. de Vigier hails from the historical town of Solothurn. He started his engineering career in the early twenties with the well-known Scintilla Company of Solothurn. When he landed in this country in 1936, he had very little money — As a matter of fact his total belongings amounted to about £50.

I suspect Mr. de Vigier must have some American blood. That dynamic blood which circulated in the veins of such men as Henry Ford and William Rockefeller.

His keen business mind quickly perceived that by employing the costly and wasteful methods of using timber for scaffolding, this country was still building in the manner of medieval times. He started to make adjustable steel props for builders to use instead of the normal timber kind. "It took me six months to sell the first 24," he recalls. "There are 5,000,000 in use to-day."

When business started to expand, twenty years ago, Mr. de Vigier founded a company registered under the name of Acrow. From that day onward, he extended it with renewed energy and determination and the concern soon became large and profitable. Acrow to-day is a huge international concern with branches all over the world.

But Mr. de Vigier has his pride and he in annoyed when Acrow is called a scaffolding business. "This now accounts for only two per cent of our turnover," he says. The company is the world's biggest maker of steel shuttering used in putting up concrete structures and has other activities ranging from steel storage cabinets and shelving to industrial refrigeration equipment and, of course, Bailey Bridges.

This shows abundantly that Mr. de Vigier's is an extraordinary story of a most successful business career. To him we may well say: "Well done, Sir!"