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BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND

Switzerland Plays her Part in Civil Air Transport

According to the statistics published by I.C.A.O. (International Civil Aviation Organization), Switzerland came thirteenth in 1961 for the total number of passenger-miles effected by the air lines of countries adhering to this organization (which include neither the U.S.S.R. nor Communist China). The United States was first with 39,440 million passenger-miles; Switzerland with 855 million passenger-miles came before Belgium, Mexico, Sweden, Colombia, Spain, South Africa, Norway, Denmark, etc.

New Engineering Works at Schaffhausen

The new processes invented by the International Bandage Company at Schaffhausen for the manufacture of cotton-wool have met with such success that, in order to satisfy the growing demand, this firm was obliged to start up a special machinery factory in co-operation with the Engineering Works J. J. Rieter & Co. Ltd. at Winterthur. The new company, with a registered capital of 2½ million Swiss francs, is located at Schaffhausen; it will be responsible for the manufacture and sale of special machinery for the rationalization of the manufacture of cotton-wool and dressings, and the creation of technical innovations in the same field.

Swiss Mark of Quality for Household Products

Thanks to the liberalism of Switzerland's trade policy and the high degree of industrialization in the country, the Swiss market is particularly well provided with products of all sorts, especially in the field of household goods. The Swiss Institute for Housekeeping Research in Zurich therefore fulfils a useful role by examining the household products and utensils offered on the Swiss market, and awarding a mark of quality to products and articles that have passed its analyses and practical tests. For the first time, the Swiss Institute of Housekeeping Research, which has an enquiry stand at the Basle Fair (from 31st March to 10th April), has published a list of all the products that have been awarded the mark of quality.

In Switzerland: the 1½ Millionth Radio Licence Issued

The Swiss Postal and Telegraph Services have just issued the 1,500,000th radio licence. The million mark had been reached on 18th November 1949.

Profitable Swiss Industrial Collaboration

The first of the three turbines for the Ferrera power station on the Swiss section of the Rhine has just been put into operation. This power station is to be equipped with three horizontal Francis-type turbines, each developing almost 100,000 h.p. under a maximum head of 1,712 feet. This is the highest fall in Switzerland provided with turbines of this type, and probably the second highest in the world. These machines were supplied by Escher Wyss Ltd. in Zurich and the Charmilles Engineering Works Ltd. in Geneva, which pooled their experience and great knowledge in this field.

Highly Perfected Professional Camera

The "construction unit" system has proved its worth in many fields, in particular in the machinery and apparatus industry. A Swiss manufacturer had the idea of applying it to the construction of professional cameras. The various components of the Sinar camera have been very carefully planned and carried out; they offer numerous possibilities of combinations capable of meeting all the demands of professional photography. The format varies from 6 × 6 cm to 18 × 24 cm (8" × 10"). The various basic parts (lens holder, bellows, etc.) are very ingeniously fixed in position by means of adaptors fitting on the special tube. Among the accessories, let us mention a mirror for difficult shots, a special clamp, format changing adaptors, an enlarger. The practical improvements recently made to the Sinar interchangeable view camera include the strong and practical case which can even be used as a stand and is easily carried on the back like a tourist's haversack by means of straps; in addition, special outside pockets enable extra plate holders and accessory equipment to be carried.

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