

Business in Switzerland

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BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND

Anti-Fading Treatment for Colour Photographs

The great disadvantage of colour photographs on paper is that they are extremely sensitive to light, which need not of course worry amateurs who keep their photographs in albums but represents a serious drawback for advertising photographs, displayed in shop windows. A Swiss chemist has produced a liquid known as "Antisolfo", which protects colour photographs from the effects of ultra-violet rays. The solution can be applied by brush, roller, spray can, spray gun or immersion. A coating 0.02 mm. thick is sufficient to afford complete protection. Antisolfo can be used on all types of photographic colour papers and has already been successfully tried out by professionals. It can also be used for the protection of colour slides, bottles of chemical products and food-stuffs and all sorts of other materials. (OSEC).

Pneumatic Remote Control

Remote control effected by means of electrical impulses has the drawback of being dangerous when it is used in premises liable to emanations of inflammable gas, owing to the possibility of explosion. In such cases, remote control by means of compressed air represents the ideal solution. For this purpose a Basle engineer has created a new manual programmed pneumatic controller for the remote control from a central control station of an indefinite number of regulating devices, servo-motors, driving engines, etc. The controller, which is operated by hand, makes it possible to select twelve different coupling positions, fixed as required by placing cams on the driving axis. If it should be necessary to have a wider range of operations it is possible to couple several controllers together. The manual control can be replaced by servo-motor control. Thanks to this apparatus, the various operation of an industrial process can be remotely controlled in the required order, rapidly and without any possibility of error, by the action of pneumatic valves. (OSEC)

Guaranteeing Export Risks

During the 28 years of its existence, the Swiss Export Risks Guarantee Service has received almost 50,000 applications; it has given guarantees totalling 7.9 billion Swiss francs for transactions representing a total invoice value of 14.2 billion francs, including approximately 5.4 billion Swiss francs' worth of salaries and wages. During the

same period a total net sum of S.Fr. 3.28 million was paid out to cover losses. (OSEC)

Private Enterprise displayed at Swiss Industries Fair

In his speech at the recent 46th Swiss Industries Fair in Basle, Mr. Hans Schaffner, Federal Councillor and Head of the Department of Public Economy, pointed out that the huge quantity of necessary, useful and luxury goods displayed at this fair was not only the fruit of the spirit of enterprise and hard work of the Swiss people; he went on to show how it was the rights and possibilities resulting from the freedom of the market that had triggered off this upward economic, technical and social trend which, each year, enabled ever wider circles of the population to satisfy a host of more varied, more ambitious and more worthwhile desires rising far above the elemental necessities of everyday existence. All the evils of the early days of the industrial era have practically disappeared in industrially developed countries based on a free economy. Such results are due in part to State intervention in the social field, as well as to the energy of the trade unions and the readiness of employers to co-operate, but above all to the dynamic qualities of the economy which, by an unprecedented democratisation of consumption, have made it possible for prosperity to become general throughout all sections of the community. (OSEC)

The Fight to Overcome Noise

Noise, which is unpleasant at all times, can even be dangerous in certain industries by causing premature fatigue among the workers and thus increasing the possibility of accidents. A Swiss engineer from Zurich has put an industrial noise protector on the market, in the form of two pads held over the ears by a sheathed metal blade, somewhat similar to a telephonist's earphones. This protector is also available in a hat for use by workers employed in the open. The "Riwosa" protector can be made to fit any shape of head; furthermore there is no danger of infection or wounds, for no part of it enters the ear; it is comfortable to wear, even over a long period of time; it is washable and therefore hygienic. Reducing noise by about 45 decibels, it is recommended for use in engineering and boiler works, weaving mills, engine testing sheds, on aerodromes, in the construction of tunnels and in all concerns in which the personnel are exposed to intense noise for a long period of time. (OSEC)

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