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ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ITEMS

The Voice of Switzerland in the European Fair Concert

Within the series of European spring fairs, the Swiss Industries Fair, which will be held in Basle from 15th to 25th April, 1972, is situated chronologically and geographically between the Milan and Hanover events. In an exhibition area covering some 1,850,000 sq. ft. and divided into 27 groups, it will display a varied range of Swiss products. Among Switzerland's most important export industries, special mention should be made of watchmaking, whose display surface has once again been increased to an area of 220,000 sq. ft. In addition, machine tools, electrical engineering, the textile and clothing industry, and the Basle chemical industry will also be exhibiting their latest production in very well planned, informative displays. Traditionally a fair with a distinctly national character, the 1972 Swiss Industries Fair marks the beginning of an opening up to the wider European market: in addition to the Swiss Watch Fair, the watch industries of Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy will be represented in Basle for the first time with displays in a hall specially set aside for them, and comprising infor-

mation stands and show-cases. In the construction, toys and camping sectors, foreign products will also be exhibited on the stands of Swiss representatives. In this way the Basle Fair makes the first move towards internationalisation. As Switzerland is at present the only European country still to maintain the tradition of purely national fairs, it is very likely that the other Swiss fairs, following Basle's example, will gradually open their doors to foreign exhibitors.

A new appliance for soldering printed circuits

Soldering printing circuits by the traditional soldering iron method requires skilled personnel, who are either difficult to find or necessitate long training. In addition, the appearance and reliability of this kind of soldering are not always perfect. As for the modern so-called "wave" soldering techniques, they are practical only for very big batches, owing to the high cost of the plant and the adjustments required for each type of circuit to be soldered. The Spinifex soldering appliance presented by a Swiss firm from Neuchatel at the last Inventors Salon in Brussels, where it won two gold medals, is of an entirely new design: via a series of inclined orifices, it delivers a jet of convex shaped and stable solder. It is ideal for soldering circuits in which the distance between conductors is very small (about 0.5mm.) The formation of the jets and the heating of the solder are obtained by a patented process requiring no moving part or heating element. This has made it possible to produce a strong, reliable instrument that is compact, simple and elegant in shape. Its use requires no specialised personnel and no adjustment needs to be made before use. Its selling price about four times lower

than that of the cheapest instrument available in the trade today, as well as its great scope, enables a large number of industries to benefit from the advantages of soldering in series and to decrease appreciably the cost of their circuits.

Improved presentation of fabric samples

As every fabric manufacturer knows, the presentation of his creations to his clients plays a by no means negligible role in their decision to purchase. It is important to display the swatches in an attractive, striking way. A Swiss firm at Glattbrugg (Zurich), specialising in the construction of machines for the textile industry, recently placed an automatic sample folding and mounting machine on the market. By means of a special filler, the piles of cut samples from the pinking machine are fed into the swatch boxes. The samples are then folded to form a three-dimensional rolled fold. Then, still entirely automatically, they are arranged in overlapping sequence and glued onto continuous paper strips. At the end of each colour group the paper strip is cut on the cutting table. Then several layers together are cut to the required width on a sample pinking machine. Finally the strips of samples are mounted on cards, by a sample mounting machine which simultaneously prints all numbers of colours as well as design and quality reference.

Road tunnels in Switzerland

The construction of tunnels in Switzerland, which had come to a complete stop after the completion of the big rail tunnels, started up again on a big scale with the building of the national road network. At present 46 tunnels with a total length of some 25 miles are already open to traffic and 20 more, representing a total length of 20 miles, still in the process of construction. The biggest, the Gotthard road tunnel (over 10 miles long), will be the longest of its kind in the world. It is expected to be ready by 1978. The caprices of nature will have to be reckoned with however, it always being difficult to make reliable forecasts about the quality of the rock to be tunnelled through. To dig the Gotthard rail tunnel, which is just under 10 miles in length, nearly 2,500 workers were employed for 10 years, using rudimentary techniques; in those days, progress was slow and difficult: one linear metre for a tunnel with a cross-section of 7 sq.m. represented one hour and twenty minutes of hard work. A century later the same work can be completed in less than three minutes. Whereas workers used to take 45 hours to remove 1 cu.m. of rock, today they

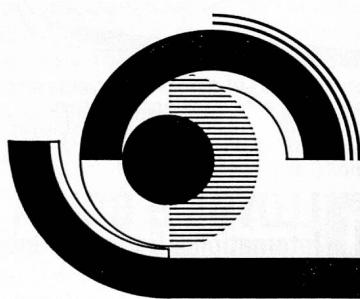
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**Swiss
Industries Fair
Basle
15th-25th April
1972**



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in 27 display groups

- Swiss Watch Fair enlarged to cover 20,000 m²
- Special guest hall as meeting place for the European watch industries: France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy
- Textiles, clothing, fashion, with new special displays
- Machine tools and electrical engineering
- Informative pavilions from the chemical industry
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need only 2 hours 25 minutes to do the same job. The construction of the road tunnel—on which some 500 men are employed—together with its safety gallery, its 65 lay-bys and emergency exits, and its ventilating shafts will require the removal of about 1.6 million cu.m. of rock. Among the already existing road tunnels, the Great St. Bernard, opened in 1964, is handling more and more traffic. 1971 recorded the all-time high of 434,491 vehicles; in 1965, the first complete year the tunnel was open, the figure was 306,991 vehicles.

Big improvement in precision optics

Visitors to the European Machine Tools Fair, held in Milan a few months ago, were able to admire the new centreing projector presented by a Swiss firm from Biel (Berne), specialising in the manufacture of precision optical instruments. Its performances enable this centreing projector to compare favourably with the classical centreing microscope used on many precision machine tools (pointing machine, coordinate measuring machine, milling machine, etc.). This machine with its compact, handy screen is fitted with an episcopic element, working at a low voltage. The image projected shows remarkable brilliance and perfectly sharp outlines. This projector makes it simple to carry out all operations of edge alignment, hole centreing, etc., without any need for painstaking setting of the angle of view and work distance. In addition, the screen, which is inclined at 70° to the horizontal, is well protected against incident light, making it possible to work for a long time without tiring the operator's eyes.

(Swiss Office for the Development of Trade)

SWISS CATHEDRALS

ZURICH—THE GROSSMÜNSTER

The Grossmünster, on the right bank of the river Limmat, with its two majestic towers, dominates the panorama of the old town. This imposing edifice, in spite of numerous and drastic restorations, remains endeared to the past. It is the church of the ancient canonry where Ulrich Zwingli deployed his activity from 1519 to 1531. Built in Roman style, it was started in 1078 and was erected on the site of a more ancient church of the French Carolingian period (8th and 9th century) dedicated to the memory of Saint-Felix and Sainte Regula and destroyed by fire.

The actual cathedral, built during the 11th and 13th centuries, has replaced, so it is said, a collegiate church founded by Charlemagne.

The facade is framed between two high towers in three tiers surmounted by two cupolas. The southern tower is adorned with a gigantic stone statue—the original is in the Crypt—representing Charlemagne crowned and seated, holding a sword. The left side porch, whose square pillars have been restored, is adorned with sculptures and capitals. The nave is vaulted with ogives; the raised chancel is completed by a flat chevet, whereas a gallery runs above the side aisles. The modern stain glass windows, in which the real and ideal seem to blend, are by Augusto Giacomelli (1932).

During those years of struggle for freedom and independence, the Church wasn't strong enough to alleviate the hardship and misery suffered by the people. It was then that Zwingli appeared, initiating the Reformation of Zurich as early as 1591, and succeeding by his preaching in transforming Zurich from the treble point of view—moral, political and religious. With the establishment of the Reformation, the mercenary service was forbidden. The town, under the influence

of Zwingli, became an intellectual centre. His defeat and death on the second battlefield of Kappel (10th October, 1531) did not succeed in disturbing the great work which he had started.

The Grossmünster is a monument to his living memory.

Pierre Savoie

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