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TECHNICAL ITEMS

A SWISS FIRM COMBATS POLLUTION IN JAPAN

For all experts and specialists in the fight against the pollution of the environment, Japan is playing a pioneering role. Admittedly the problem of pollution in that country has reached very dangerous levels during the last few years. That is why the Japanese have drafted extremely severe legislation with regard to the fight against existing pollution and the prevention of future pollution.

Certain sentences, inflicting fines amounting to several million francs, are proof that, for the moment at least, Japan has not yet invented any technical processes aimed at effectively combating pollution. On the other hand, the Japanese have adopted existing systems, whether invented in Europe or in the United States, and put them into practice. The leading firm in the sector has a very Japanese name—Nibon de Roll Yugen-kaisba, Osaka, but is in fact a branch of the Swiss Von Roll Co. Ltd, group of Zurich.

This Zurich firm has a big department concentrating today entirely on environmental techniques. Although it has been in operation in Japan since 1960 only, it has already, in collaboration with Japanese partners, built eight giant sewage plants for the incineration of refuse. Twelve other plants have been ordered and are in the process of construction. So far, the Swiss firms' activity has been concentrated mainly on two big towns, Tokyo (4 plants) and Osaka (3 plants). But it will shortly start work in other towns of lesser importance such as Tomakomai and Abiko.

NEW AUTOMATIC BINDING MACHINE

Manufactured by specialised Swiss works. Born automatic binding machines have, during the last few years, been adapted to the latest work conditions as a result of the practical experiences gained in the field of newspaper and magazine packaging for despatch by many of the most modern firms. Born binding machines are mobile, being mounted on wheels and are accessible from three sides. Changing the reels of string is a simple operation. A combined hydraulic and mechanical string brake ensures a tight knot adapted to the product being tied. The automatic string feeding and the double string holder make it possible to produce millions of knots with the most varied kinds of string, without any wastage.

This machine can be used for mailing newspapers, periodicals, parcels, and cartons. A Born binding machine has no tunnel or bridge to get in the way. Various qualities of natural string, plastic string or tapes, as well as elastic binding material can be used, making possible savings of as much as 50 per cent.

NOVELTY FOR COTTON SPINNING MILLS

A machinery and appliances factory at Uster (near Zurich) has produced a pneumatic-electronic control system for the high-production cotton cards used in cotton spinning mills. By replacing the soiver condenser trumpet with a special measuring trumpet and fitting a contro, moterot and a suitable electronic system, it is possible to provide high-production cards of any make with an automatic control system within a few hours.

The cards equipped with this new advice automatically set the sliver count to the nominal value chosen and in this way produce, for a very long period of time, slivers with very constant count even when the supply is irregular. One of the problems raised by chute feeding and the use of man-made fibres is thus solved. The regularity of the count of the card slivers has an excellent effect on later processes. It has been noticed in particular that there is a considerable reduction in "between bobbin" yard count variation.

The improved count constancy obtained by this system has also had the effect of appreciably cutting down on the manpower required since the number of ends down at ring spinning is reduced as well as the work of count correction and checking.

AN OSCAR FOR A SWISS FIRM

The American News Film Producers Association has just awarded its highest distinction for technical excellence to a Swiss manufacturer. The winner of the award is the firm of Kudelski at Cheseaux-sur-Lausanne, which produces very high quality professional recorders, used mainly by radio and TV companies throughout the world, but also by the motion picture industries.

The prize-winning product, the "Nagra SN" is a small, technically very advanced recorder weighing 574 grams. It makes it possible in particular, when worn by an actor, to film without any other sound-recording instruments. Placed on the market for the first time about a year and a half ago, the Nagra SN was designed above all for the secret services. So far some 1,500 models have been manufactured.

This prize, of very high value from the point of view of its significance and importance, is a valued addition to Kudelski's already remarkable collection of awards. In 1965, the Cheseaux firm won the "Oscar" of the Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences in Hollywood. A year later, the engineers of this Vaudois firm were awarded the EMMI Prize (American Academy of Television Arts and Sciences). With its last prize,

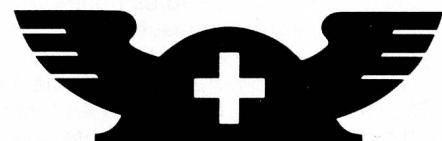
Kudelski can be proud of having won all the most important awards in the field.

LARGE ORDER FOR A SWISS FIRM

An unusual airlift has just been established between Geneva and Cairo, with a view to supplying Egyptian cigarette industries with filters. This nationalised industry is at present having to cope with a demand exceeding all forecasts. In order to satisfy it, the industry placed an order with one of its regular suppliers, the Baumgartner Paper Mills at Crissier (Vaud) for filters of 1.5 billion cigarettes.

Shipping all these filters to Cairo required about thirty large air-freight planes. These consignments were over and above the regular supplies which continue to be delivered by the usual route (Marseilles). It should be mentioned that the Vaudois firm is one of the biggest manufacturers of cigarette filters in the world. Although it publishes no figures for its turnover, this is estimated by the Union Bank of Switzerland to be in the neighbourhood of 39.5 million dollars for 1971. Filters account for 60 per cent of this sum and the firm's other two departments (paper trade and paper conversion) account for the remaining 40 per cent.

57th Swiss Industries Fair April 7-17, 1973 Basle



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SWITZERLAND, THE COUNTRY OF THE BIGGEST SAVERS IN THE WORLD

A survey carried out by the International Institute of Savings Bank shows that Switzerland comes first with regard to per capita savings, ahead of all other countries in the world. Savings deposits per head of the population average 3,000 dollars (including cash vouchers). In the classification established by the Institute, Switzerland is followed by the United States (2,700 dollars), Sweden (2,100 dollars) and Belgium (1,371 dollars). Thailand with 13 dollars and Colombia with 12 dollars come last. The results obtained in Switzerland are due first of all to the traditional sense of saving, but also to the fiscal system in which income tax is not deducted at the source, but paid

the next year. In the meantime, taxpayers guild up their savings with a view to this payment.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Swiss government has fixed Switzerland's regular contribution to the United Nations for development Schemes for 1974 at 5.75 million dollars or 21,850,000 Swiss francs, which will be drawn from the technical co-operation scheme fund. It has also approved the grant of an extraordinary contribution to the United Nations Development Scheme, in favour of the 25 least developed countries, a list of which was drawn up by the UN in 1971.

(starting price 330 francs) must begin on Friday or Saturday, and the return journey must be made on the following Sundays or Mondays. A number of hotels in Zurich are also offering low-cost weekends or weekly rates. Similar schemes are organised in Basle. More information can be obtained at local tourist offices.

OFF TO SWITZERLAND YET MORE CHEAPLY

An advertisement in the Press caught our attention: It is possible to go from London to Basle and back for £15. Flights operated by Monarch Airlines leave Luton on Thursday, 19th April, at 13.30, and arrive at Basle at 15.20. The return journey begins at Basle on Monday, 23rd April at 21.50 and ends at Luton at 23.40. For more details ring 01-734 2117 (Jet Age Tours, London).

Pegasus Holidays, London, are also organising Winter weekends to Switzerland until the end of April. A Friday to Sunday weekend in Lugano (2 nights in a first class hotel) is on offer at £25. Weekends at other Swiss cities are offered at similar prices.

HOW CAN ONE FLY CHEAPLY TO SWITZERLAND?

FLY-DRIVE TO SWITZERLAND

Swissair has recently extended its "Alpine Driveaway" services. As from April 1st, the company will provide, under this scheme, air travel and car rental at the return air fare (or a little more) to Austria, France, Greece and Italy as well as Switzerland.

Three or four people flying together by Swissair from London to Switzerland and back can have a car with unlimited mileage for up to eleven days for £47.85 each. This is the economy return air fare for outbound travel by day and return by midweek night flight. Similar arrangements apply for Manchester.

The "Alpine Driveaway" package is operated in conjunction with Hertz car hire. Cars can be collected at one Swiss airport and returned at another at no extra charge. Bookings under the programme are available until March 31st, 1974, and can be made through Swissair offices or IATA travel agents.

Meanwhile, Swissair has just taken delivery of its second McDonnell Douglas DC-10-30 trijet. This aircraft is now operated over the North Atlantic and on some Middle East and African routes. Swissair has five more DC-10-30s on order. It was the world's first airline to put the long-range DC-10-30 into scheduled service on December 15, 1972.

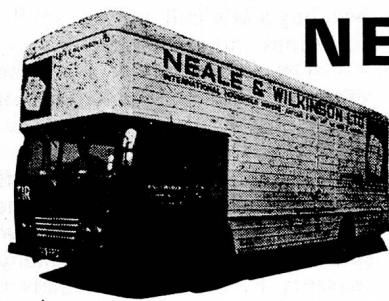
WEEKEND TRIPS

Reduced weekend flights with Switzerland are being operated by Swissair and other airlines until 31st March, 1973. Flights must usually leave on a Saturday and return on a Sunday. Tickets are valid for a month. Weekend excursions and trips lasting one, two, three or four weeks can be made at very reasonable prices. The "bargain weekends" arranged by Swissair from London or Manchester

FAVOURABLE SKI SEASON

After the good results of the Swiss team at the Winter Olympics at Sapporo, Japan, last winter, one expected the Swiss competitors to defend their colours valiantly during the present season, of which the two most important series of events are for the World Cup and the European Cup.

The Swiss girls were definitely outperformed by the Austrian competitors under the leadership of a brilliant all-rounder: Annemarie Proel. Our men did better, and a young skier who has been in competition for only four years, Roger Collombin, came to the fore and was ahead of the World Cup with only a third of the season still to go. He unfortunately tore a ligament during a fall at the Arlberg-Kandabar descent at Kitzbuebl at the beginning of this month, and was told to rest until April. Bernard Russi, who won a Gold in Descent at Sapporo, was in sixth place half-way through the season.



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