

Inauguration of the first big interconnected of the Swiss gas industry

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - (1968)

Heft 1538

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686615>

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READ FOR YOU

The "Schweizerischer Verein Freundinnen Junger Mädchen" recently published a new booklet "**What awaits me in England?**" (in German). It gives detailed information on all possibilities open to a young girl who wants to come to England for a few months or longer. Apart from purely administrative matters such as work permit, travel documents and the journey, the booklet covers practically everything that matters, such as language difficulties, courses and schools, the whole aspect of English life so different from at home. Entertainment, manners and customs, conditions of work and pay, in short, an extremely useful publication with many helpful tips.

The "Weekly Tribune" is called "Switzerland's only English language newspaper". The issue to hand of 12th November is hardly a newspaper, but a 16-page periodical entirely devoted to winter sports, with a diary of forthcoming events and photographs. The new thing in it is an article on "**Ski-bobbing**", the new winter sport in which a bicycle on skis is used.

In the October/November issue of "Switzerland Today" published in Zurich, George Mikes had an amusing article on "**How to Avoid Winter Sports**". He considers it needs more determination and skill to avoid doing winter sports in Switzerland than to perform. Nevertheless, he gives some good, if at times facetious advice to those who are determined to ski.

A publication of a more specialised and interesting nature came to hand when the Association for Historical Research in Economics" in Zurich sent their 2nd Volume on Swiss Pioneers of Economics and Technology "**The Peace Agreement in the Swiss Engineering and Metalworking Industries**". The informative book opens with a Foreword by the former Federal Councillor Prof. Dr. F. T. Wahlen. The historic document dates back to 19th July 1937 when the so-called Peace Agreement between employers and employees in the above-mentioned industries was concluded, a red-letter day indeed in the economic and social history of Switzerland. The efforts of two personalities, Dr. E. Duebi and Dr. K. Ilg, made this possible. It has been renewed again and again, and it is something of a miracle that it has worked so well. The book deals not only with the Agreement as such, but gives detailed biographies of the two men, whose farsightedness has saved Switzerland strikes, for it is a mutual and binding promise on both sides, i.e. employers and staff, to sort out any differences of opinion by negotiation.

The book may be had from the "Verein für Wirtschaftshistorische Studien", Postfach 8027, Zurich. Price Fr.6.— in German or Fr.9.50 in English.

FOREIGN ORDER FOR SWISS INDUSTRY

The Oerlikon Engineering Works in Zurich have been awarded the order for the supply of silicium rectifying plant, for a nominal direct current of 120,000 A at 850 V, for supplying power to the second electrolysis shed of the Dutch firm Aluminium Delfzijl N.V. This plant which will start operating in the middle of 1968, will enable the firm to raise its annual output of aluminium from 32,000 to 72,000 tons. The rectifiers supplied by the Swiss firm will be of the Oerlikon-Regrabloc type, already used in other aluminium factories.

[O.S.E.C.]

INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST BIG INTER-CONNECTED NETWORK OF THE SWISS GAS INDUSTRY

The network of the Mittelland Co. Ltd. Gas Community has just been put partially into operation. This is the first big interconnected network, of the Swiss gas industry, comprising some 150 miles of steel piping and eleven receiving stations. Between now and the end of the year, eleven towns, among them Neuchâtel, Berne and Bienne, will be connected up to the new interconnected detoxified gas supply and will therefore be able to give up their own local production. The gas pipe-line is filled from the production centre in the town of Basle, a party to the contract, which has just been equipped with a new high pressure light petrol cracking plant. Subsequently, the South German Gas Distribution Company, at Stuttgart, will supply 20 million cubic metres of German gas a year to start with, this amount being due to be increased in 1969.

[O.S.E.C.]

A JUBILEE IN THE SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

It is fifty years now since Zyma, at present the biggest pharmaceutical factory in French-speaking Switzerland, settled at Nyon. The firm was founded at Montreux in 1900, and subsequently changed its location twice before moving to Nyon, between Geneva and Lausanne on the shores of the Lake of Geneva. Its aim was to manufacture pharmaceutical products based on the scientific study of the processes of industrial bacteriology and chemistry. Keeping constantly abreast of modern techniques and equipped with the very latest plant, Zyma is represented in about 60 countries. It is an authority on all matters connected with disinfection, both in hospitals and in the home, and is at the same time famous for a number of well-established specialities.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISS-BRAZILIAN WATCHMAKING CO-OPERATION

Last October a Swiss-Brazilian watchmaking centre was inaugurated at Sao Paulo, established on the basis of a convention, signed on the one hand by Senai (the National Department of Technical Vocational Training, a cooperative institution forming part of the Federation of Industries) and by the Swiss Watchmaking Federation and Ebauches Co. Ltd., on the other. The creation of this new watchmaking centre for technical training, combined with the Swiss watch industry's training centre, forms part of the policy of technical co-operation practised for several years now by the Swiss Watchmaking Federation in an increasing number of foreign countries. While arousing increased interest for the technical professions, this policy contributes to the development of a category of specialists almost non-existent hitherto in certain countries.

[O.S.E.C.]