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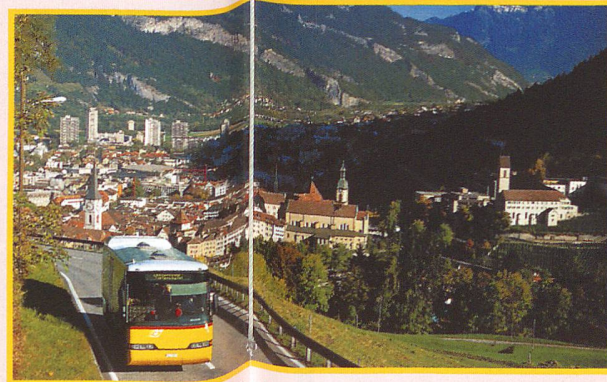


During the next 25 years, a lot of gravel will be excavated from a quarry at Finsterhennen-Siselen, which will be processed in a plant at Sutz, both in the Seeland region, north of Bern. As has been explained before, in Switzerland, transport by road of large amounts of gravel is not allowed. Transport by rail, ship or conveyor belts must be used instead. This is the area of asm, the "Aare Seeland mobil" company, which together with its affiliates, runs trains, buses, ships and even a cable car, as well as a thriving travel agency. They came up with an innovative solution, combining a reasonable level of new investment with maximum use of existing resources. A rake of six ex DR tipper wagons for 900 mm gauge were bought from the DB. Built in the sixties and used until 1995 in the LBV lignite works (Lausitzer-Bergbau-Verwaltung) near Görlitz, near the Polish border, these wagons worked over 1000 km away from their new home in the Seeland. The tippers were first overhauled in the famous Meinigen locomotive works and then adapted to metre gauge and Swiss standards in the own works of asm. In practice, four tippers will be sandwiched between two railcars. The shuttle will be able to carry about 56 cubic metres or 112 tons of gravel. Initially, two or three round trips will be made per day.

ABOVE LEFT: The Lignite cars in GDR times working near the Polish border. Look at the pantographs for both overhead and left- and rightside catenary working! The gauge here was 900mm. ©asm
ABOVE CENTRE: The lignite cars being overhauled in the famous locomotive works at Meinigen, and in the presence of more glamorous steam engines. ©asm
ABOVE RIGHT: The complete 4-wagon train with its two railcars top and tail for shuttling. The wagons have been re-gauged from 900 to 1000mm. Over 6000 lorry journeys through small villages can be eliminated this way! ©asm

A TALE OF 1000 KM AND 100 MM
 Text by George Hoekstra

ACROSS THE JULIER WITH DIE POST



LEFT: St Moritz - ABOVE LEFT: Leaving Chur - ABOVE RIGHT: Lenzerheide - BELOW LEFT: Sur - BELOW RIGHT: Julier Pass
 The Post Bus Routes offer a different view of Switzerland. Try some of the Route Express Lines, the Julier from Chur to St Moritz is one of these

