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NOTES AND NEWS



† Willy Brand

Willy Brand, head of the Langenthal Cloth Mills Co. Ltd., Langenthal, died suddenly in his 64th year at Zurich where he had gone on business and where, among other things, he was to have attended a meeting of the editorial committee of our periodical.

Mr. Brand, in the course of studies culminating in the award of the diploma of Textile Engineer, had acquired, both in Switzerland and abroad, the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary for the practising of his profession. Under his leadership, the firm founded by his father developed considerably and he contributed much with his taste and his artistic feeling to the reputation it now possesses, in particular by the creation of original articles of perfect quality and outstanding elegance. His gifts extended also to the field of production and he brought about considerable improvements in his firm.

Apart from his professional ability, the deceased was also possessed of great human qualities. What particularly struck those who came in contact with him was his conciliatory spirit and great affability which made him a respected and well-loved head, one whose advice was listened to, a kind man, easy to get on with and extremely interesting to meet. Our periodical has lost in him a sincere and devoted friend, whose charm and competence we shall never forget.

The St. Gall Commercial University recently conferred the title of Honorary Doctor of Economic Sciences on Mr. Friedrich Hug, president of the St. Gall Commercial Directory (chamber of commerce), in recognition of services rendered in the cause of the economy of eastern Switzerland and the constant support he has given to scientific research carried on in the Commercial University and its institutes.

It should be pointed out that Mr. Hug, a native of St. Gall, has spent the whole of his commercial career in the firm of Union Co. Ltd. of which he is now the head, a firm well-known to readers of «Textiles Suisses» and that he has spent long periods abroad in Paris and New

York. It is not only to the embroidery industry that he has given the benefit of his knowledge and experience, but also the numerous economic institutions on whose boards he has sat. The periodical «Textiles Suisses», of which he has always been one of the most faithful supporters, still benefits from his invaluable advice. And so we should like to join his many friends in congratulating Mr. Hug on the well-deserved honour he has just received, by expressing the wish to see him continue for many years to come the good work of spreading the fame of St. Gall embroidery throughout the world, and particularly through the medium of our periodical.

Mr. Ernest Widmer celebrated his 70th birthday at St. Gall this summer and we should like, on this occasion, to tender our congratulations and best wishes for many happy years of continued activity.

Mr. Widmer has had a long career in the field of textiles. He was a partner in an important firm in St. Gall and is at the moment the head of Honegger Co. Ltd. in the same town. He is also president of a private bank in Zurich and a member of the board of directors of various concerns and societies for the benefit of the public, such as, for example, the Association for the Promotion of the Institute for the Study of International Relations at the Commercial University of St. Gall. An indefatigable globe trotter, he has visited all parts of the world where he has not only established business connections but also made many friends. Being particularly well acquainted with Latin America, he was asked to give a series of lectures about this continent at the Commercial University of St. Gall.

In conclusion let us add that Mr. Widmer has taken part in the activities of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, which he represented abroad among other things, and that he is, in a personal capacity, a member of the advisory committee of our periodical.



Ernest Widmer

The manufacture of tulle in Switzerland

The Swiss Net Company Ltd. at Münchwilen, the only factory in Switzerland making tulle, celebrated its fortieth anniversary this year. This firm was founded by Emmanuel Cavigelli, a Swiss who came from Milan where he had learnt all about the manufacture of tulle. Production began on July 1st, 1913 but had to be interrupted for several months the following year at the outbreak of the first World War. Since then, production has developed steadily and the number of machines in use has doubled. At first this firm made cotton tulle for the embroidery factories of eastern Switzerland and the Vorarlberg; when these concerns reduced their production

it exported to fill the gap. Ten years or so after its foundation, it took up the manufacture of rayon tulle which became very much sought after not only in the clothing industry but also for furnishings. Production subsequently spread to include different kinds of fancy tulle, elastic tulle and, recently, nylon tulle. There is hardly a country in the world to which the Münchwilen factory has not exported during these first forty years of its existence, and there is no doubt that it will maintain and extend its importance in the future thanks to a manufacturing programme that is always adapted to new circumstances.

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