

A new Swiss contribution to intensive cultivation

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DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that 147 prominent editors from 24 European and 33 overseas countries were invited to Switzerland in order to inform them on Swiss political, economic, cultural and tourist life, and that as a result 251 articles appeared in 59 countries, not to mention various lectures and broadcasts.

. . . that the "Swiss Fashion Club", founded five years ago by twenty leading fashion and textile houses, held a successful fashion parade in April and showed models for leisure and sport for the winter season 65/66.

. . . that there were 1,677 banks in Switzerland in 1964, ten more than in the previous year.

. . . that three entries out of 468 sent in by 39 Swiss publicity agents to the European contest for newspaper adverts, organised by the big Italian Rizzoli Publishing Company, received a prize, and that the judges considered Switzerland leading in this field.

. . . that the number of Foundations under federal supervision in 1964 numbered 267, thirteen more than in the previous year.

. . . that in spite of large fish imports into Switzerland, fish exports in 1964 amounted to 333 metric tons, 200 short of 1963's total; and that 151 tons went to Italy and 138 to France.

. . . that the membership of the Eidgenössischer Schwingerverband numbered 26,328 in 1964, 720 more than in the previous year, and that the Eidgenössischer Jodlerverband counted 11,922 members, an increase of 626 in a year.

. . . that at the end of 1963 — no figures for last year available — there were 1,433,000 pigs in Switzerland, 50,000 more than in 1962; and that meat consumption has gone up by 4 to 5%.

. . . that the gross income from gambling at the sixteen Swiss "Kursäle" in 1963, amounted to Fr.7,425,202.—, a quarter of which has to be given to the Confederation; and that 416 lotteries were allowed by the Cantons with a total of Fr.83,746,632.—, three and a quarter million higher than in 1962. [A.T.S.]

AN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SWISS MACHINERY INDUSTRY

The Electricity Company of France has commissioned Sulzer Bros. Co. Ltd., at Winterthur, as well as the Sulzer Process Engineering Company, Paris, to supply and install a collector for the Mont Cenis Power Station in Savoy. This distribution system consists of fourteen by-passes and breeches-pipes supplying two Pelton turbines, each developing 272,000 H.P. The collector, made of specially treated steel, will have an inlet diameter of about 9' 10" and will work under a service pressure of 102 kg/sq. cm. [O.S.E.C.]

A NEW SWISS CONTRIBUTION TO INTENSIVE CULTIVATION

Water vapour is known to be an excellent disinfectant for the soil, with a view to the intensive cultivation of flowers and vegetables in comparatively small areas from which a very high output is expected. In fact, superheated steam can destroy not only animal parasites and pathogenic germs in the soil, down to a certain depth, but also the roots and seeds of weeds, without however harming the soil for future cultivation. Twenty years of experience and research in this field have led a Swiss engineer to build a new, very efficient type of apparatus for disinfecting the soil, which is not only easy, simple and reliable to operate but also comparatively low in cost and economical to run; consequently, with the excellent results achieved, this plant quickly pays for itself. The vertical steam generator, mounted on wheels, is heated by a forced draught oil burner and works with a heat recuperator, a pre-heater and a steam superheater at service pressures of 0.4 to 1.5 kg/sq. cm. The steam passes through four separate pipes to four rectangular cloches, which are placed by hand in position on the soil, which is submitted to the action of the steam for five to six minutes, so that the effects are felt to a depth of 3½ — 5 in. The capacity of the apparatus is approx. 730 sq. ft. an hour at a minimum. Consequently market gardeners and horticulturists now have at their disposal a worthwhile, inexpensive and reliable apparatus which removes all weeds from the soil and disinfects it, at the same time ensuring a speeding up of germination and growth, two factors of considerable importance in intensive cultivation.

[O.S.E.C.]

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