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Success of Swiss Engineering in South Africa

Within the framework of their electrification programme, the South African Railways ordered 10 and 12 rectifying stations, in 1956 and 1958 respectively, from the Oerlikon Engineering Works in Zurich (Switzerland) for supplying their network with 3,000 volt continuous current. The expansion of the electrification scheme necessitated a further order for 11 rectifying stations, each with a capacity of 4,500 kw.; they will supply current for a line 160 miles long, thus completing the electrification of the Johannesburg-Durban railway. This order, to the value of several million Swiss francs, will be carried out in close co-operation with South African industry; it was awarded to the Swiss engineering firm in the face of very keen international competition. (OSEC.)

Collaboration Between Capital and Labour in Switzerland

Fifty years ago, the Swiss industrialist and scientist Albert Wander decided to establish a closer association between capital and labour in his Berne firm and, acting as a pioneer in this respect, introduced not only a private health insurance scheme for his workers but also a share in the firm's profits for the whole of the factory staff. (OSEC.)

An International Award for a Swiss Pilot

The IAF (International Aeronautical Federation) in Athens, recently awarded its highest distinction, the Lilienthal medal, to a Swiss lawyer, Mr Adolf Gehrig, for his great contribution towards the development of international gliding. This medal is awarded only to active pilots who have distinguished themselves by outstanding performances in the field of gliding. The Swiss glider pilot Gehrig, who is the holder of several national gliding records, was one of the founders of the IAF Gliding Commission, of which he has been president since 1949 and which today includes among its members pilots from 48 countries. He also took part in the drafting of the new gliding regulations and the organisation of the first World Gliding Championships at Sameden in 1948. Finally, let us add that in his business capacity glider pilot Gehrig is second in command to the Executive Manager of the Swiss airline company Swissair. (OSEC.)

Laugh a little . . .

Kennet Der dae? Ein Berner hatte in Zuerich zu tun und sucht nun auf dem Hauptbahnhof den Zug fuer die Heimreise. Auf Geleise 2 steht einer. Er geht ihm entlang, bis er an einem der Wagen eine Tafel findet, und liest: 'Zug.' "Das gsehni daenk selber!" brummt er, "die Schtuermihueng wuerde gschyder druf schrybe, wo er hifahrt!"

* * *

FATHER AND SON

"Look son it hurts me myself when I have to punish you. Son: "But not on the same place."

Father: "Listen boy, that's a terrible word you've been using. If you don't say it any more I shall give you sixpence." Son: "Dad, I know another one which is worth one shilling."

—Nebelspalter