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and beloved Ticino. It was also here that the writer and poet wished to find, and found, his final resting place. He died on August 9, 1962.

#### *Historic Dates*

15 B.C.: Romans conquer the Ticino.

590 A.D.: Franks take over.

900-1000: Rule of the bishops of Como.

1331: First invasion by the Swiss Confederates.

1403: The Livino Valley requests the protection of the people of Uri and Nidwalden.

1422: The Visconti of Milan take Bellinzona and the upper valleys and build the fortresses of Bellinzona.

1500: Bellinzona becomes Swiss, followed in 1512 by Lugano and in 1513 by Locarno.

1789: Lugano declares its independence.

1803: The Ticino becomes the 18th Swiss canton.

1872: Start of the construction of the St. Gotthard line.

1878: Bellinzona becomes the Ticinese capital.

1882: Opening of the St. Gotthard line.

## International Wire Exhibition

The Fourth International Wire Exhibition will be held in Basle (Switzerland) from June 25 to 29, 1974. "Wire 74", in which over 160 firms from 15 countries will be taking part, will considerably exceed in importance and size the 1972 exhibition, which met with such great success. "Wire 72", the biggest international wire exhibition ever organised so far, was attended by nearly 10,000 visitors directly interested in the production and use of wire. The Fourth International Wire Exhibition will be displaying an even wider choice of exhibits and will fill six exhibition halls at the Basle Fair, instead of three as in 1972.—(SODT).

## Pre-Cast Concrete Walls

A few months ago, the "Piz Badura" pre-cast concrete elements developed by a Wadenswil engineer (Zurich, Switzerland) were used for the first time on a building site in an Alpine valley in the Grisons. These elements (dimensions): 120 x 120 x 70 cm), which can be laid extremely quickly, offer a rational method of erecting protective walls for roads, dams, dikes and breakwaters, avalanche breaks etc. The elements are secured together by small steel trusses and can be used for top work; they resist a lateral pressure of 50 tons. In addition, they possess the advantage of being easy to move and re-use elsewhere, when widening a road for example.—(SODT).