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COMMERCIAL NEWS

New Swiss apparatus for the prevention of industrial accidents.

An inventor in Zurich has just built a new safety device, called "Hostraphone", which is intended for the prevention of accidents in industrial undertakings. The device consists of an electronic system which can stop the machine to which it is fitted, and is set in operation by an impelling force produced by a microphone. A scream is sufficient to set the device going. It should prove most useful in such critical cases as where a worker is not able to get at the normal control device in order to stop the machine — as is so often the case in industrial accidents. The "Hostraphone" will also prove useful in releasing an alarm signal in a bank or post office should an employee who is being held up be unable to press the alarm button.

A succession of fairs at Basle.

The premises of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle have just been used for an important exhibition, the "First International Fair of Wood Work". This fair was organised by the Swiss Association of dealers in machinery and tools. Its international character was not due to the direct participation of foreign firms, but to the fact that the most modern products of the international market were shown there by no fewer than ninety Swiss firms. This exhibition enjoyed a tremendous success among technical and artisanal circles.

Next year the premises of the Basle Fair will house another international exhibition of a similar nature, which will be devoted to the purification of water and of waste water.

1958 Motor Show at Geneva.

The 28th Exhibition of Motor Cars, Motor-cycles and Bicycles is to be held in Geneva, from 13th to 23rd March, 1958. The Secretariat has already received a great many applications for exhibiting space at this Show, which will undoubtedly prove as successful as usual.

Increase of electricity consumption, and traffic restrictions on the Swiss railways.

During the month of August the Swiss electric plants supplied 7.5 per cent more energy than during the corresponding month of last year. On the other hand, at the present moment, the reservoirs in Switzerland contain only 80 per cent of the volume of water which they should contain normally, so that several plants in this country are obliged to import electric energy. The reservoirs of the Federal Railways not being provisioned any better, the Management of the Railways has been obliged to take urgent measures for the reduction of the amount of energy consumed. With this end in view the trains will have fewer coaches and a minimum number of special trains will be run.


The increasing importance of the Zurich airport.

The inter-continental airport of Kloten-Zurich now figures among the ten most important airports of Europe. In regard to passenger traffic it has improved its position since last year by passing from the 8th to the 6th place, and even when one does not take the transit passengers into account it still occupies the 7th place. In regard to freight Kloten has now surpassed the aerodrome at Hamburg and ranks as eighth on the list.

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