

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1965)

**Heft:** 1480

  

**Artikel:** Foreign contract awarded to a swiss firm

**Autor:** [s.n.]

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693369>

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## FOREIGN CONTRACT AWARDED TO A SWISS FIRM

In Spain, the "Deza" consortium, formed by two Spanish firms and the Swiss Public Works Firm of Conrad Zschokke in Geneva, has just been awarded the contract for building the big dam at Almendra, between the provinces of Salamanca and Zamora, on the river Tormes, near the Portuguese frontier. The order comprises the construction of a vault-dam 620 feet high, 130 feet thick at the base and 1,890 feet long at the top, designed to create an artificial lake with a capacity of 84.7 billion cubic feet supplying an underground power station. This big project is expected to be completed by the spring of 1970.

[O.S.E.C.]

## A LITTLE KNOWN SWISS INVENTOR

According to Canon Michelet's recent biography of him, the Valaisan Isaac de Rivaz, who was born in 1752 and died in 1828, is to be included among the early inventors of the automobile, having invented, patented and experimented with the first vehicle to be provided with an internal combustion engine; his invention should have worked but faults in manufacture prevented it from moving more than 20 feet. Nevertheless his patent was registered and Isaac de Rivaz is entitled to be ranked with various better known inventors among the forerunners in the field of automobile production.

[O.S.E.C.]

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