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ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ITEMS

Final Report on the 56th Swiss Industries Fair

About 446,967 visitors' tickets were sold for this year's Swiss Industries Fair in Basle, at which 2,500 exhibitors took part. This corresponds to approximately 15 per cent more than last year. A particularly strong increase in the number of foreign visitors was registered by the Reception Service, with 22,154 visitors from 124 countries and all continents, compared with 17,157 visitors from 122 countries in the previous year. In addition, there were many foreigners who did not register with the Reception Service.

One main feature of this year's Fair was that various trade groups at this event, which up to now had been of a purely national character with respect to the exhibits, were, for the first time, also open to foreign products. In this way, the Swiss exhibits in particular at the Construction Fair and in the toys and camping groups, were enriched by articles shown by agencies of foreign manufacturers.

Participation for the first time by watch manufacturers from Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy was of special importance. These countries exhibited their products as national groups within the framework of a "Meeting Place for the European Watch Industry". This innovation, which is to be the start of a more Europe-conscious way of thinking in the world renowned Swiss Watch Fair, met with great interest, which was reflected in lively business for the Watch Fair as a whole.

The next Swiss Industries Fair will be held from 7th to 17th April, 1973.

Big Industrial Electronics Exhibition in Switzerland

Following five earlier highly successful events, INEL 73, the 6th International Exhibition of Industrial Electronics, will be held in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle from 6th to 10th March, 1973. The growth of this specialised trade fair, whose display area has risen—since its foundation in 1963—from some 80,000 sq. ft. to over 154,000 sq. ft. in 1971, reflects the great interest shown in it by manufacturers and dealers in electronic construction components, manufacturing appliances and plant. Over 1,000 suppliers in 20 countries dis-

played their products at the last INEL exhibition, which has thus become an important international market for industrial electronics. This gratifying growth has resulted in ever wider circles of buyers visiting INEL in order to gain maximum benefit from exchanging experiences with exhibitors and to keep informed of the rapid evolution of the electronics industry. Like the exhibition area, the number of visitors has doubled, to total some 40,000 in 1971.

Over 24 billion francs' worth of insurance in Switzerland

The total value of the capital insured last year by the 21 insurance companies domiciled in Switzerland amounted to 24.5 billion francs as opposed to 16.3 billion francs in 1970. These figures show clearly the extent of business of the 18 insurance companies established in the country and abroad as well as the business carried out in Switzerland by the three foreign companies authorised to operate here. Of this total, 10.3 billion francs (8.2 billion in 1970) is accounted for by individual insurances and 14.2 billion francs (8.1 billion in 1970) concern group insurances. In addition, the new pension insurances represent annuities totalling 495.5 million francs as opposed to 414.1 million in 1970. This amount can be broken down into 35.6 million francs (35.7 million in 1970) for individual pension insurances and 459.9 million francs (378.7 million in 1970) for collective policies. As can be seen both individual and collective policies have contributed to the growth in business. Attention should be called to the particularly strong advance in group insurances (capital and annuities). It shows the important part played by private insurance in the erection of the second pillar of old-age insurance—professional insurance schemes.

Swiss Social Insurance

In Switzerland, 28.4% of the total income from labour is spent on social insurances at present. State insurance (AVS/AI) on its own accounts for 8.7%, professional insurance schemes 8.2%, health insurance 8.0% and other branches (allowances for loss of earnings, accident insurance, unemployment insurance, family allowances) nearly 3.5%. Taking into consideration the expenditure involved in present changes in the AVS and the proposed

reform of health insurance, it is estimated that the total overall expenditure on social insurances will rise to 41.5% of the total income from labour. This represents an increase of nearly 50%, which implies corresponding extra expenditure on the part of employers, wage-earners and the government.

Bonuses for good ideas in Swiss industry

Last year, many firms in the Swiss machinery industry gave bonuses of up to 8,000 francs per project, by way of reward for particularly interesting proposals regarding improvements to work points, machinery or products. A large firm in the canton of Zurich, for example, paid out 75,000 francs in 1971 for 590 projects submitted by its personnel; a medium-size firm in the canton of Berne paid out 28,300 francs for 74 practical projects. These typical examples give some idea of the working and utility of this system, in which the projects are for the most part submitted to special commissions who propose the execution of the more interesting ideas.

Swiss firm receives 150 million franc order

Brown Boveri & Co., at Baden (Aargau, Switzerland) has just received its biggest order ever, valued at 150 million francs, for exports to Australia. The Australian branch of the Swiss firm has, in fact, signed a contract in Melbourne under the terms of which it is to supply 51% of the electrical equipment for the installation of the biggest electric power station in this city of 2.3 million inhabitants. The order involves two groups of steam turbines developing 2 x 500 megawatts.

Three top racing drivers for Switzerland

As part of its co-operation with the Italian automobile factory Ferrari in the field of time keeping in motor racing, the well-known Swiss group Heuer-Leonidas (Bienne, Berne), specialising in instruments measuring short intervals of time, has renewed the contract binding it to the Ferrari racing stable for another year. In this way, the name of Heuer, already known all over the world, will be seen

once again on Formula 1 cars taking part in the Drivers' World Cup, and on prototypes entered for the Manufacturers' World Championships as well as, this year for the first time, on all vehicles belonging to the BRM-

Marlboro stable. Continuing its policy of conspicuous presence at motor racing events, the Swiss watch firm has succeeded in engaging three of the world's leading racers for the coming season: Clay Regazzoni, Jacky Ickx

and Ronnie Peterson, who will thus be sporting the colours of the specialised firm from Bienne and at the same time publicising the precision of Swiss timekeeping on all the biggest circuits throughout 1972.

TOURIST NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL

A 50 year Tradition of Musical Concerts in Berne's Cathedral

For more than 50 years, evening concerts have been taking place in the historic surroundings of Berne Cathedral (Münster), built 550 years ago. This summer is no exception. The programme runs from 6th June-5th September, every Tuesday evening. Soloists, choirs and orchestras of note from Switzerland and abroad will once again be taking part. Just one example: on 6th June, the Netherlands Vocal Ensemble from Hilversum presents works by Dufay and Papa, among others. On 13th June, the Berne Kantorei (Choir) of the Evangelical Singing Community joins with the Radio Berne Chamber Ensemble for a programme of Bach and Mozart. Berne's Symphony Orchestra and the Berne Chamber Choir present large choral work by Anton Bruckner on 27th June, while on 15th August the Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of A.

Heiller, plays works by Haydn, Hindemith and the conductor. The full programme can be obtained from the Tourist Office of the City of Berne.

Internationale des Clubs de Lévrieriers) is holding its yearly conference in Berne.

13 cubs in Berne's Bearpits

It's a nice old tradition that the inhabitant's of Berne's Bearpits faithfully each year take care of the survival of their species. This year was especially blessed for the federal capital's world famous tourist attraction: the six mother bears gave birth to no fewer than 13 cubs in all. Since then, the cubs have made their public debut, on Easter Monday. Only the male bears cannot be happy with the lucky number of 13 offspring. Their living quarters have been taken over as a result of the unexpected arrivals. Good-humoured Tony spends his nights in the spare den, and Gody has to be content with the corridor. As for the rest: the newcomers frisk about in the open each day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rare dog breed makes a debut in Berne

Berne's Exhibition Centre in the Allmend is once again host to an international canine exhibition on 8th and 9th June, 1972. The fifth show of its sort to take place in the federal capital, it has now become almost a Bernese tradition. No fewer than 1,200 dogs are expected for the exhibition, among them rare and even unique breeds that have never been shown before. For the first time in the West, the Oftcharka sheepdog from Southern Russia will be on view. Greyhounds will be especially numerous at this year's Dog Show: the International Union of Greyhound Clubs (Union

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