

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 23 (1960)
Heft: [1]

Rubrik: News from Switzerland

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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

WORK PROGRESSES ON ROAD TUNNEL

The excavation work on the road tunnel through the Great Saint Bernard is proceeding in a very satisfactory manner on the Swiss side. Now that it has been possible to set up the drilling equipment, the work is advancing at the rate of 26 to 30 feet per day, and the excavation has already attained 1315 feet. As has already been stated previously, this tunnel will make it possible to use the famous Great St. Bernard route between Italy and Switzerland, for motor traffic, all the year round.

BIG FOREIGN ORDER PLACED IN SWITZERLAND

The firm of Escher Wyss Ltd., of Zurich, has received an order for six screw-turbines with fixed helical ribs, from the Aluminium Company of America, for the equipment of a hydro-electric plant in Dutch Guiana, which is to supply electric power to an aluminium factory. With this purpose in view, it has been planned to establish a reservoir on the river Surinam. Under the effects of a 141ft fall of water, each of the six Escher turbines will develop a capacity of 47,000 h.p.

NEW EXTRA FLAT SWISS WATCH

A Swiss watchmaking factory has succeeded in making an extra thin automatic watch, by placing the oscillatory mass on the periphery of the movement, the displacement of which assures the winding up of the spring. It is owing to the invention, by its own research laboratory, of a patented "planet" rotor, that the firm in question has been able to solve the problem, which had become very real, of the manufacture of watches of which the automatic winding-up system did not tend to make the watch-case thicker.

SWITZERLAND'S HIGHEST ELECTRICITY CABLE

The highest electricity supply line in Switzerland has just been put into operation. This new high-voltage line with a power of 220 kv is one of the finest achievements in the Swiss long distance electricity network. The Grandunagia line, as it is called, carries the electricity produced by the Maggia and Blenio power stations across two chains of mountains 8960 feet and 8200 feet high. It cost 7½ million Swiss francs to build this 13½ mile long line.

ZURICH-KLOTEN AIRPORT EXTENSION

In order not to become out-of-date, the airport of Zurich-Kloten has already got to be thinking about lengthening its principal runway. According to the plans made for the extension of this runway, its length had been fixed at 11,450 feet; however, before even the construction work has been finished, new international norms, based on experiments made with heavy load carrying jet aircraft, prescribe a minimum length of 11,800 feet in respect of conditions, such as are to be found at Kloten. In order that it may not be deprived of international jet aircraft traffic, the airport at Zurich-Kloten has now decided to extend its principal runway for taking-off to a length of 12,130 feet.

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