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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Swiss steel-works exports throughout the world

It would be interesting to know how many people are aware of the fact that a great many manufacturers of hydraulic turbines, throughout the world, have recourse to a Swiss steel-works for the casting of turbine wheels, as well as other castings and articles made of cast steel, of every dimension and weighing up to 40 metric tons. The Fischer Steel Works of Schaffhausen, which were established nearly 160 years ago, are able to cast parts of machines which possess complicated shapes, having at one and the same time great thicknesses and very fine mouldings, achieving this within very narrow limits and with every guarantee. The carrying out of very fine castings is done by specialists. A battery of four big electric furnaces performs the casting of steel in various alloys, which are very carefully proportioned in each particular case in order to achieve the exact quality desired by the customer and corresponding to the requirements of the use to which it will be put, from the point-of-view of its mechanical resistance, its resistance to erosion and to corrosion and its weldability. The composition of the steel is controlled both before and after the casting — within the space of a few minutes — in a magnificently equipped laboratory. After being cast and taken from the mould, these castings are once more subjected to a most careful examination, with the help of ultrasonic technique and of radiography. This is a characteristic trait of Swiss industry, that it is thus able to deliver articles of a minutely controlled quality, even when their dimensions are unusually large, to countries which possess a more highly developed metallurgical industry than that in Switzerland.

Swiss inventors

Fifty Swiss inventors are to take part in the Tenth International Exhibition of Inventions, which is to be held in Brussels, from 10th to 19th March. The novelties which will be shown relate to all the various domains, including that of the household arts, clothing, industry, and items for personal use.

New Swiss ocean-going vessel

The launching took place recently, at the naval shipyards of Flensburg, of a new sea-going vessel, the M.S. "Castagnola", which will sail under the Swiss flag. This ship, which is 492 feet in length, 62 feet in width, and capable of carrying a dead-weight of 12,150 tons, is equipped with a Sulzer marine engine of a capacity of 5,400 h.p., enabling it to sail at a speed of 15 knots. This new ship has been made for the St. Gotthard Shipping Company Ltd., at Coire, and has been entrusted to the management of the "Société genevoise Suisse — Outre mer, S.A.".

Switzerland encourages higher technical education

The Swiss Government is considering the granting of a credit of 36.66 million Swiss francs for the extension of the Federal Polytechnical School, at Zurich. The programme for the said extension provides for the building of a power station, of a laboratory for nuclear physics, and of an institute for technical physics, with a special section for industrial research. Moreover, the Confederation intends to participate, to the amount of 3.7 million Swiss francs, in the expenditure of 11.1 million earmarked by the Government of the Canton of Vaud for the enlargement of the Polytechnical School attached to the University of Lausanne.

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