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BUSINESS NEWS

JAPAN AT THE LAUSANNE FAIR

Although the Lausanne Autumn Fair or Swiss Comptoir, as it is known locally, is a strictly national event, each year it places a special pavilion at the disposal of a different foreign country, which thus has an opportunity of making its economy better known to the Swiss people and the many foreign visitors to the Fair. From 7th to 22nd September 1963, Japan will be the guest of honour of the 44th Lausanne Fair. Its presence will be organized by the Japanese government through its ministries of trade and industry, represented by "Jetro", Japan's official trade promotion organization; the exhibition as a whole will be placed under the auspices of the Japanese Ambassador in Switzerland. 9th September will be set aside as a special Japanese Day within the programme of events organized by the Lausanne Fair. [O.S.E.C.]

SELF-SERVICE IN SWITZERLAND

Today Switzerland possesses 21,000 food stores: 46% of their total turnover is accounted for by completely self-service stores. If to these are added stores with partial self-service facilities, the figure for the turnover of the retail food trade accounted for by this type of sale rises as high as two-thirds. This high percentage places Switzerland ahead of other European countries. These facts are revealed as the result of a survey carried out in Switzerland by a cash register company. The upward trend in the change-over to self-service experienced in Switzerland last year is due not only to the growth of the big chain stores but also to the modernization of the independent retail trade, 6.7% of whose stores have so far adopted complete self-service methods. [O.S.E.C.]

NEW SWISS ACCESSORY AT THE SERVICE OF THE RAILWAYS

A metallurgical firm in Geneva has invented a new system of mixed bimetallic bearings, which are fitted to most locomotives with crank power transmission on the Swiss Federal Railways network and are meeting with growing success among Italian, German, Austrian, Belgian, Swedish and French companies. The bearing consists of a bimetallic bush composed of a central steel sleeve covered both inside and out with a fine layer of bronze with a high lead content. This loose bush rotates round the crank-pin and inside a steel sleeve situated on the crank-head. The advantage of this loose assembly over the old fixed and rigid types is that the shocks received by the crank at each turn of the wheel no longer all bear on the same point but are spread over the whole circumference of the loose bush. The wear on this new bush is thus reduced to a tenth of the normal wear. Another of its advantages is the elimination of the risk of seizure and the minimum oil consumption it affords. [O.S.E.C.]

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF REINFORCED CONCRETE IN LAUSANNE

On the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, the Lime and Cement Company of Western Switzerland recently donated Swiss francs 250,000 to the Lausanne Institute of Technology in order to enable the latter to acquire the necessary plant for carrying out research on big reinforced concrete constructions. This gift will be administered by a Centre for the Study of Reinforced Concrete, which will be set up in Lausanne within the framework of the Institute of Technology, and in collaboration with this Institute's Material Testing Laboratory. [O.S.E.C.]

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING FAIR IN LONDON

From 23rd April to 2nd May an International Engineering Fair will take place in London in Great Britain's largest exhibition halls, Olympia and Earls Court. For the first time large groups from other countries will take part, amongst them the Swiss firms Brown Boveri & Co., Ateliers Sécheron Geneva, Escher Wyss Zurich, Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon, Schlatter A. G. Zollikon, Emile Egger Cressier. [A.T.S.]

SCOTTISH OILS ORDER SLM PUMP

Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd. have received an order from Scottish Oils Ltd. for an SLM vacuum pump to provide additional butane storage and bulk loading facilities at their Grangemouth Refinery. The pump, manufactured by the Swiss Locomotive and Machine Works Ltd. (SLM) at Winterthur, will be a rotary vacuum pump model V40 which has a theoretical suction volume of 464 m³/h. at 980 r.p.m., and will handle butane and propane gases at a maximum of 95% vacuum.

SLM is now a member of the Sulzer group of companies, and consequently the marketing of the great majority of their products is handled by Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd.

TURBAIR BLOWERS FOR RUMANIA

Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd. are to supply Turbair Vacuum blowers to serve three Black-Clawson International 190" wire Fourdrinier paper machines being supplied by Lyddon & Company to Rumania. The plant will form part of an integrated pulp and paper mill at Calarasi, producing some 66,000 tons of writing, printing and wrapping paper per year. The mill is due for operation in August 1963.

The blowers, four in all, were built at the Sulzer works, Winterthur. Three will serve one machine each, the fourth being on standby duty to any machine.