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NOTES AND NEWS



† Willy Brand

Willy Brand, head of the Langenthal Cloth Mills Co. Ltd., Langenthal, died suddenly in his 64th year at Zurich where he had gone on business and where, among other things, he was to have attended a meeting of the editorial committee of our periodical.

Mr. Brand, in the course of studies culminating in the award of the diploma of Textile Engineer, had acquired, both in Switzerland and abroad, the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary for the practising of his profession. Under his leadership, the firm founded by his father developed considerably and he contributed much with his taste and his artistic feeling to the reputation it now possesses, in particular by the creation of original articles of perfect quality and outstanding elegance. His gifts extended also to the field of production and he brought about considerable improvements in his firm.

Apart from his professional ability, the deceased was also possessed of great human qualities. What particularly struck those who came in contact with him was his conciliatory spirit and great affability which made him a respected and well-loved head, one whose advice was listened to, a kind man, easy to get on with and extremely interesting to meet. Our periodical has lost in him a sincere and devoted friend, whose charm and competence we shall never forget.

The St. Gall Commercial University recently conferred the title of Honorary Doctor of Economic Sciences on Mr. Friedrich Hug, president of the St. Gall Commercial Directory (chamber of commerce), in recognition of services rendered in the cause of the economy of eastern Switzerland and the constant support he has given to scientific research carried on in the Commercial University and its institutes.

It should be pointed out that Mr. Hug, a native of St. Gall, has spent the whole of his commercial career in the firm of Union Co. Ltd. of which he is now the head, a firm well-known to readers of «Textiles Suisses» and that he has spent long periods abroad in Paris and New

York. It is not only to the embroidery industry that he has given the benefit of his knowledge and experience, but also the numerous economic institutions on whose boards he has sat. The periodical «Textiles Suisses», of which he has always been one of the most faithful supporters, still benefits from his invaluable advice. And so we should like to join his many friends in congratulating Mr. Hug on the well-deserved honour he has just received, by expressing the wish to see him continue for many years to come the good work of spreading the fame of St. Gall embroidery throughout the world, and particularly through the medium of our periodical.

Mr. Ernest Widmer celebrated his 70th birthday at St. Gall this summer and we should like, on this occasion, to tender our congratulations and best wishes for many happy years of continued activity.

Mr. Widmer has had a long career in the field of textiles. He was a partner in an important firm in St. Gall and is at the moment the head of Honegger Co. Ltd. in the same town. He is also president of a private bank in Zurich and a member of the board of directors of various concerns and societies for the benefit of the public, such as, for example, the Association for the Promotion of the Institute for the Study of International Relations at the Commercial University of St. Gall. An indefatigable globe trotter, he has visited all parts of the world where he has not only established business connections but also made many friends. Being particularly well acquainted with Latin America, he was asked to give a series of lectures about this continent at the Commercial University of St. Gall.

In conclusion let us add that Mr. Widmer has taken part in the activities of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, which he represented abroad among other things, and that he is, in a personal capacity, a member of the advisory committee of our periodical.



Ernst Widmer

The manufacture of tulle in Switzerland

The Swiss Net Company Ltd. at Münchwilen, the only factory in Switzerland making tulle, celebrated its fortieth anniversary this year. This firm was founded by Emmanuel Cavigelli, a Swiss who came from Milan where he had learnt all about the manufacture of tulle. Production began on July 1st, 1913 but had to be interrupted for several months the following year at the outbreak of the first World War. Since then, production has developed steadily and the number of machines in use has doubled. At first this firm made cotton tulle for the embroidery factories of eastern Switzerland and the Vorarlberg; when these concerns reduced their production

it exported to fill the gap. Ten years or so after its foundation, it took up the manufacture of rayon tulle which became very much sought after not only in the clothing industry but also for furnishings. Production subsequently spread to include different kinds of fancy tulle, elastic tulle and, recently, nylon tulle. There is hardly a country in the world to which the Münchwilen factory has not exported during these first forty years of its existence, and there is no doubt that it will maintain and extend its importance in the future thanks to a manufacturing programme that is always adapted to new circumstances.

TEXTILES SUISSES.

Index des annonceurs et des maisons mentionnées dans la partie rédactionnelle

Index of Advertisers and Firms contributing to the Editorial Features of this Number

Indice de los anunciantes y de las casas mencionadas en las páginas de texto

Verzeichnis der Inserenten und der im redaktionellen Teil erwähnten Firmen

BRODERIES ET DENTELLES — EMBROIDERIES AND LACES — BORDADOS Y ENCAJES — STICKEREIEN UND SPITZEN

Jacob Baenziger S. A., St-Gall	177
Eisenhut & Co., Gais	168
Eugster & Huber, St-Gall	168
Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	20
Filtex S. A., St-Gall	26
Forster Willi & Cie, St-Gall	3, 33, 36, 37, 38, 41, 58, 59, 67, 68
H. Frei & Cie, Diepoldsau	27
Hausamann & Cie, Winterthur	26
Honegger & Cie S. A., St-Gall	26
Hufenus & Cie, St-Gall	56, 59, 61, 169
Leumann, Boesch & Co. S. A., Kronbühl	22
Theodor Locher, St-Gall	16
E. Mettler-Müller S. A., Rorschach	173
A. Naef & Cie, Flawil	34, 39, 60
Neuburger & Cie S. A., St-Gall	175
Rau S. A., St-Gall	17
Reichenbach & Cie, St-Gall	19
Jacob Rohner S. A., Rebstein	11, 66
E. Roelli & Cie S. A., St-Gall	26
Sailer & Schoensleben, St-Gall	166
Max Sandherr, Berneck	172
Jakob Schläpfer, St-Gall	169
Waler Schrank & Co., St-Gall	34, 41, 57, 154, 165
Ed. Sturzenegger S. A., St-Gall	169
Sturzenegger & Tanner & Co. S. A., St-Gall	27, 173
Union S. A., St-Gall	16, 35, 41, 60, 61
Wetter & Cie, Herisau	165

CHAPEAUX — HATS — SOMBREROS — HÜTE

E. Baehler Bern A.-G., Bern	162
-----------------------------	-----

CHAUSURES — SHOES — CALZADOS — SCHUHE

Chaussures Bally S. A., Schoenenwerd	73
--------------------------------------	----

COLORANTS — DYESTUFFS — COLORANTES — FARBSTOFFE

Ciba Société Anonyme, Bâle	IV
----------------------------	----

CONFECTION ET LINGERIE EN TISSU — WOVEN READY- MADE WEAR AND UNDERGARMENTS — ROPAS HECHAS Y ROPA INTERIOR DE TEJIDO — KONFEKTION UND WÄSCHE AUS STOFF

Emil Anderegg S. A., Weinfelden	24, 26
Baerlocher & Co., Rheineck	27
Ed. Engeli & Co., Coire	176
Kneubühler & Cie, Zofingue	171
Leumann, Boesch & Co., S. A., Kronbühl	22, 163
Mylady, E. Rohner S. A., Rheineck	177
Sanco S. A., Zurich	176
Yvel S. A., Zurich	156

Semaine suisse d'exportation — Swiss Export Week — Schweizer Exportwoche, Zürich

Exportverband der Schweiz. Bekleidungsindustrie, Zürich	
Syndicat suisse des exportateurs de l'industrie de l'habillement, Zurich	76
S. A. W. Achtnich & Co., Winterthur	116 b
Aebi & Co. S. A., Herisau	120
Emil Anderegg S. A., Weinfelden	100, 101
R. Andres S. A., St-Gall	93, 111, 126
Paul Annen Fils, René Waegeli succ., Genève	118
Beblo S. A., Bâle	99
S. Berlowitz & Co. S. A., Zurich	124, 139
Bischoff Textil S. A., St-Gall	102, 135
Maison Samuel Blum, Zurich	98, 129
Brüllmann & Co., Zurich	88, 131
R. Cafader & Co., Zurich	81, 128
Canzani & Co., Zurich	95, 124
Devaud, Kunstlé & Cie S. A., Genève	112
E. & H. Dreyfuss S. A., St-Gall	92
El-Ei S. A., Zurich	79
Humbert Entress S. A., Aadorf	116 d
Felwa S. A., Herisau	100, 101, 116 c
Maison Gack, Zurich	80, 83, 85, 140
H. u. A. Heim S. A., Zurich	86, 87
His & Co. S. A., Murgenthal	103, 116 c, 138
Jaro S. A., Zurich	89, 127
Kaltenmark & Co., Zurich	88, 126
Knechtli & Co. S. A., ci-dev. Swiss Knitting Co., Zollikofen-Berne	113
Krähenbühl & Co., Clarens-Montreux	110
Lahco S. A., Baden	116 a
Jakob Laib & Co., Amriswil	114, 132
Joh. Laib & Co. S. A., Amriswil	121, 134
La Maille, Lausanne	114, 128
Nabholz S. A., Schönenwerd	117
D. Neuburger & Cie, St-Gall	137
Lucien Nordmann, Berne	91
Otto S. A., Zurich	95, 97, 130
Boris Oumansky & Co., Genève	106, 107, 122, 123

Alfred Preisig & Cie, St-Gall	109, 116 c, 136
Respolco S. A., Zurich	103, 140
Otto Rohrer S. A., Romanshorn	134
Ruepp & Co. S. A., Sarmenstorf	115
Jos. Sallmann & Co., Amriswil	109, 140
Schellenberg, Sax & Co., Trübbach	138
Käte Schenkel-Eckert, Horn	90, 93, 136
S. A. Jacob Scherrer, Romanshorn	90, 108, 133
Arthur Schibli S. A., Genève	94, 96, 125
Victor Tanner S. A., St-Gall	104, 105
Vollmoeller, Wirkwarenfabrik, Uster	111, 132
E. Weber & Co., Zurich	82, 131
Weko/Jakob Weil Co., Diessenhofen	84
Pius Wieler Söhne, Kreuzlingen	116
Tricotage Zimmerli & Co. S. A., Aarbourg	119

CRAVATES — NECKTIES — CORBATAS — KRAWATTEN

Charles Malignon, Genève	27
--------------------------	----

DIVERS — MISCELLANEOUS — DIVERSOS — VERSCHIEDENES

Feldmühle S. A., Dépt Cellux, Rorschach	181
Grossmann & Co. (épaulettes, Achselpolster), Thalwil	178

ÉCHARPES ET CARRÉS — SQUARES AND SCARVES — CUADRADOS Y ECHARPES — SCHÄRPE UND VIERECK- TÜCHER

Emil Anderegg S. A. Weinfelden	24
F. Blumer & Cie, Schwanden	14, 153
C. L. Burgauer & Cie, Zurich	152
Hans Fierz, Zurich	177
Filtex S. A., St-Gall	27
Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	151
Honegger & Cie S. A., St-Gall	26
Siber & Wehrli S. A., Zurich	6
Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	68, 69
Arthur Vetter & Cie, Zollikon	176

FILES ET RETORS — YARN AND TWISTS — HILADOS Y TORCIDOS — GARNE UND ZWIRNE

Bäumlin, Ernst & Co., St-Gall	171
Max Billeter & Cie, Küssnacht-Zurich	27
Salzmann & Cie, St-Gall	27
Spinnerei an der Lorze, Baar	1
E. Mettler-Müller S. A., Rorschach	27
Textil-Export S. A., St-Gall	178
Emil Wild & Co., St-Gall	178
Zwicky & Cie, Wallisellen	175

FILS A COUDRE — SEWING THREADS — HILOS DE COSER — NÄHFADEN

E. Mettler-Müller S. A., Rorschach	27, 167
Zwicky & Cie, Wallisellen	175

FILS, RUBANS ET TISSUS ÉLASTIQUES — ELASTIC YARNS, RIBBONS AND FABRICS — HILOS, CINTAS Y TEJIDOS ELASTICOS — ELASTISCHE FÄDEN, BÄNDER UND GEWEBE

Ganzoni & Cie S. A., Winterthur	27
---------------------------------	----

LAINE — WOOL — LANA — WOLLE

Tissages Bleiche S. A., Zofingue	176
Gattiker & Steinmann, Richterswil	13
Hefti & Co. S. A., Hätzingen	179
Tuchfabrik Lotzwil A.-G., Lotzwil	182
Schild S. A., Berne/Liestal	7
Vereinigte Kammgarnspinnereien Schaffhausen und Derendingen, Derendingen	155, 182

MONTRES — WATCHES — RELOJES — UHREN

Manufacture des Montres Doxa S. A., Le Locle	12, 147
--	---------

MOUCHOIRS — HANDKERCHIEFS — PAÑUELOS — TASCHENTÜCHER

Jacob Baenziger S. A., St-Gall	177
Albin Breitenmoser S. A., Appenzell	150
Filtex S. A., St-Gall	26
Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	20, 151
Honegger & Cie S. A., St-Gall	26
Marvir, Zurich	180
Jakob Rohner S. A., Rebstein	11
Sailer & Schoensleben, St-Gall	166
Walter Schrank & Co., St-Gall	165
Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	68, 69
Ed. Sturzenegger S. A., St-Gall	169
Union S. A., St-Gall	16

OUATE ET OUATINE — WADDING AND COTTON-WOOL LINING — HUATA Y HUATINA — WATTE UND WATTIELINE

Grossmann & Cie S. A., Thalwil	178
--------------------------------	-----

RUBANS — RIBBONS — CINTAS — BÄNDER

Sager & Cie, Durrenaesch	170
--------------------------	-----

Seiler & Cie S. A., Bâle	167	A.-G. A. & R. Moos, Weisslingen	II, 155
Senn & Cie S. A., Bâle	171	Edwin Naef S. A., Zurich	173
TEINTURIERS, IMPRIMEURS, FINISSEURS — DYERS, PRIN-			
TERS, FINISHERS — TINTOREROS, ESTAMPADORES,			
APRESTADORES — FÄRBER, DRUCKER, APPRETEURE			
Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	68, 69	J. G. Nef & Cie, Herisau	17, 40, 64, 158
Zwicky & Cie, Wallisellen	175	Palma & Cie, S. A., Zurich	170
TISSUS DE COTON, SOIE, LIN, RAYONNE, NYLON ET			
FIBRANNE — COTTON, SILK, LINEN, RAYON, NYLON AND			
STAPLE-FIBRE FABRICS — TEJIDOS DE ALGODON, SEDA,			
LINO, RAYON, NYLON Y FIBRANA — STOFFE AUS BAUM-			
WOLLE, LEINEN, SEIDE, KUNSTSEIDE, ZELLWOLLE, NYLON			
Albrecht Morgen S. A., St-Gall	174	Reichenbach & Cie, St-Gall	19, 159
Abegg Frères, Horgen	26	E. Roelli & Cie S. A., St-Gall	26
L. Abraham & Cie, Solerles S. A., Zurich 28, 43, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 71	24, 26	Max Sandherr, Berneck	172
Emil Anderegg S. A., Weinfelden	24, 26	Paul Schafheitle & Co., Zurich	177
Jakob Baenziger S. A., St-Gall	177	Schneidinger Frères, Zurich	152, 168
Baerlocher & Co., Rheineck	27	Karl Schoch & Co., Zurich	27, 154
Adolphe Bloch Söhne, Zurich	9	Ernst Schurpf & Cie S. A., St-Gall	172
Bosshard-Bühler & Cie S. A., Wetzikon-Zurich	45, 47, 71, 72	Setarti S. A., Zurich	160
Rudolf Brauchbar & Cie, Zurich	15, 26	Siber & Wehrli S. A., Zurich	6
Burgauer & Co. S. A., St-Gall	26	Weberel Sirmach, Sirmach	27
Elsaesser & Cie S. A., Kirchberg/Be	42, 51	Stehli & Cie, Zurich	23, 156
Emar S. A., Zurich	168	Stoffel & Cie, St-Gall	68, 69, 148, 149
Eugster & Huber, St-Gall	161	S. A. Stünzi Fils, Horgen	4, 44, 46
Export S. A., St-Gall	177	Sturzenegger & Tanner & Co. S. A., St-Gall	27
Hans Fierz, Zurich	27	Etabl. A. Uehlinger, Bâle	27
Filtex S. A., St-Gall	20, 65	Union S. A., St-Gall	16, 55
Christian Fischbacher Co., St-Gall	26	Tissage Wallenstadt, Wallenstadt	167
A. Gardiol, Genève	25	Wetter & Cie, Herisau	165
Berthold Guggenheim Sohn & Co., Zurich	170	TRICOT ET JERSEY (VÊTEMENTS ET LINGERIE — KNITTED	
Les Fils de Guggenheim-Einstein, Zurich	21	AND JERSEY GOODS (APPAREL AND UNDERWEAR) —	
H. Gut & Cie S. A., Zurich	26	ARTICULOS DE PUNTO (VESTIDOS Y ROPAS INTERIOR) —	
Hausamann & Cie, Winterthur	18, 71	TRIKOT UND JERSEY (KONFEKTION UND WÄSCHE)	
Heer & Cie S. A., Thalwil	26	Aspor S. A., Porrentruy	27
Honegger & Co. S. A., St-Gall	111	Egger, Eisenhut & Co., Aarwangen	26
Max Kirchheimer, Zurich	166	Hochuli & Cie, Safenwil	164, 180
Leemann & Schellenberg S. A., Zurich	22	Jakob Laib & Cie, Amriswil	26, 114, 130
Leumann, Boesch & Co. S. A., Kronbühl	27	Johann Muller S. A., Strengelbach	163, 164, 181
Charles Malignon, Genève	180	A. Naegeli, Trikotfabriken Berlingen und Winterthur,	
Mavir, Zurich	8, 26, 157	Winterthur	26, 166
Mettler & Cie S. A., St-Gall		Mylady, E. Rohner S. A., Rheineck	26
		J. F. Rohrer-Bolliger S. A., Romanshorn	163, 180
		A. Ruckstuhl, Wil	26
		Ruegger & Cie, Zofingue	164, 181
		Ruepp & Cie S. A., Sarmenstorf	26, 115
		Ryff & Cie S. A., Berne	180
		Alwin Wild, St. Margrethen	27
		TULL — NET — TUL — TÜLL	
		Société suisse de l'industrie tullière S. A., Munchwilen	5, 70

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