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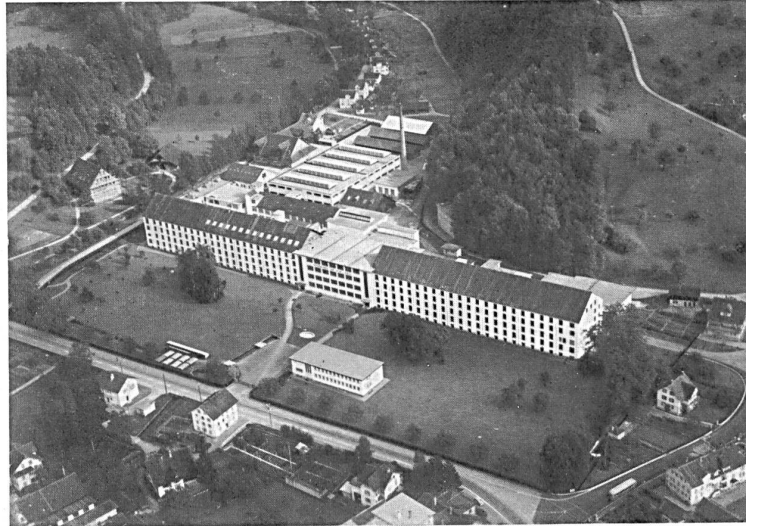
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The centenary of the Lorze Spinning Mills

As we announced in our number 3/1954 (page 147), the Lorze Spinning Mills at Baar (Canton of Zug, Switzerland) last year celebrated the hundredth anniversary of their foundation. To commemorate the occasion, this important Swiss cotton concern published a fine illustrated book in which the author, Dr Werner Ammann, a member of one of the founding families, tells the history of the firm. The founder of this firm was Wolfgang Henggeler, a very remarkable industrialist who had founded his first spinning mill at the early age of twenty. His ability and the success of his earlier ventures enabled him to find the commercial and financial backing necessary for the formation at Baar in 1853 of « The Lorze Spinning Mills », a private company possessing more than 60,000 spindles, a figure unequalled by any other firm in Switzerland at the time. This firm, later transformed into a limited liability company, developed in a highly satisfactory manner in spite of many crises, the most serious of which were caused by the American War of Secession (a rise followed by a fall in the price of cotton) and by the first world war. Under a capable and far-seeing management, kept in the hands of the descendants of the founding families, the concern however succeeded in surviving these difficult periods — while others found themselves faced with ruin — without ever having to resort to measures to the detriment of the capital shares or creditors. Manufacturing methods have continually been rationalised and brought up to date as shown by the following example: although the average wage of the workers in 1948 was 120 % of that of 1928, the effective



Aerial photograph
of the Lorze Spinning Mills at Baar.

wage per kilogramme of yarn produced was 4 % lower in 1948 than in 1928. In the course of a century the annual output has risen from 700,000 kg to 2.25 million kg.

The commemorative book of the Lorze Spinning Mills must also be mentioned as a model of its kind. The author has made very effective use of the vast and complete sources of information at his disposal, so that while giving us the history of a firm, he has at the same time written a remarkably informative account of Swiss industrial and economic development during the past hundred years.

One of the firm's holiday homes for the staff,
at Beckenried, near Lucerne.

