

# Economic news

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## Economic News

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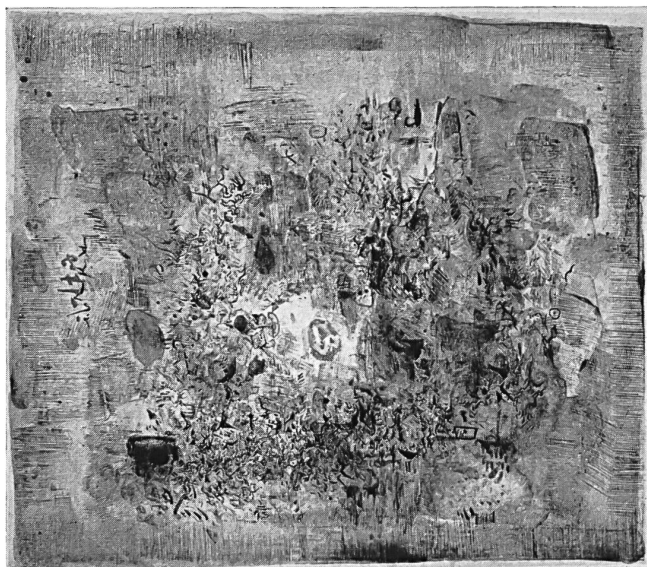
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### *Concerning chemical fibres*

From September 29th to October 1st, the Association of Swiss Artificial Silk Manufacturers presented, at the Congress Hall in Zurich, an itinerant international exhibition organised by the International Rayon and Synthetic Fibres Committee with the role of chemical fibres in technology and industry as its theme. This display of some 800 exhibits from Europe, the United States and Canada shows some of the uses of chemical fibres in the following fields: agriculture, fishing, transport, textiles, food products, machinery, mining, metallurgy, building, fire-fighting, domestic science, gardening, medicine and surgery, sport, travel and camping, etc.

In view of its international scope, this exhibition is of particular importance within the framework of European economic integration.

### *Artists cooperate in fabric designing*



Today new processes allow fabrics to be printed according to the most highly perfected techniques used in the graphic industry, thus achieving effects which were hitherto quite impossible. A number of painters who became interested in this new means of expression now collaborate enthusiastically with Mettler & Co. Ltd., St-Gall, in the creation of fabrics for its « Artists' series ». This series consists of top quality novelties for the summer of 1961, printed on a very lovely cotton satin « Soraya », reproducing works of Zao-Wou-Ki (China), Roger-Edgar Gillet (France), Kaiko Moti (India), Antonio Music (Dalmatia), Krishna Reddy (India) and Imre Reiner (Hungary). In order to present this new collection to the public, Mettler & Co. Ltd. published a small brochure with a frontispiece showing a lithograph by Zao-Wou-Ki, « Landscape » (see above).

### *Anniversaries*

#### **Burgauer & Co. Ltd., St. Gall : 100 years**

It was in 1860 that Adolf Burgauer-David established this firm, which began by manufacturing the article known as « Swiss curtaining ». From its modest beginning this firm rapidly grew and soon started to export its products to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Great Britain and Finland. During the seventies it took up the manufacture of embroidery and ten years later it was exporting its wares to North and South America. The invention of the Schiffler shuttle machine gave an enormous boost to the manufacture of embroidery. When this product went out of fashion, after the first world war, the firm went back to the manufacture of curtaining fabrics, that is to say the article with which it had started and to which it has remained faithful to the present day.

In order to commemorate its centenary, which it celebrated during the month of December this year, Burgauer Ltd. published a very attractive brochure in which it recalled the principal stages in the firm's first hundred years and described the personality of its founder as well as of his successors. « Textiles Suisses » extends its congratulations and best wishes to Burgauer Ltd. on the threshold of the second century of its existence.

#### **Jakob Laib & Co., Amriswil : 75 years**

The hosiery and knitwear industry was first established in the Thurgovian village of Amriswil about the middle of the last century. 75 years ago, the two Laib Brothers, employed in a hosiery and knitwear factory of the region, launched out on their own by opening a small knitting workshop in the neighbouring village of R uchlisberg. Production started on three circular looms, which the brothers worked themselves by hand. The underwear for men, women and children, cut out by the wife of one of the partners, was made up into the finished article by local women working in their own homes. The production programme later included knitted shirts, followed by women's blouses knitted in wool and cotton. The two brothers then decided to separate and Jakob Laib transferred his part of the concern to Amriswil. Production became mechanised in 1904; in 1911 the workshop was transferred to new premises built specially for the purpose, which were subsequently several times refitted and enlarged. The appearance of rayon marked the beginning of a new era for the knitwear industry. The firm of Jakob Laib was the first to manufacture blouses and dresses of artificial silk; rayon lingerie also dates from this period. In spite of the difficulty of obtaining raw materials, the first world war did not interrupt the firm's growth. In 1922 the first warp looms for the manufacture of charmeuse were installed and the trade mark « Yala » was created. The great slump of 1929, then the second world war naturally created great difficulties for the firm, which nevertheless succeeded in overcoming them. In 1948 it took up the manufacture of nylon tricot lingerie. Finally, let us mention that in addition to lingerie it has also made a name for itself as a leading Swiss producer of knitted garments. In order to commemorate its three-quarters of a century of existence, the firm of Jakob Laib & Co. published an attractive illustrated booklet giving a vivid account of the stages in the development of this important firm, to which our editors wish many more years of successful activity.

## Two commercial creations in Zurich

### Legler Textiles Ltd.

The «S.A. Cotonificio Legler» of Ponte San Pietro (Bergamo, Italy), well known for its production of novelty cotton fabrics, together with the parent firm from which it sprang — Legler & Co. of Diesbach (Glaris, Switzerland), known especially on the household linen market — recently created the company of Legler Textiles Ltd. with its registered office in Zurich, for the purpose of coordinating their services to customers in Switzerland and various other countries. Very early on, the Legler family, natives of Diesbach, specialised in the cotton industry, a branch which expanded rapidly in the canton of Glaris, to such an extent in fact that some seventy years ago everyone was talking of the «Glaris economic miracle». Nearly a century ago, in order to overcome the economic difficulties caused by high customs tariffs, the industries of Glaris began to open up branches in Italy; among them was the Legler concern. Although it soon left the parent firm far behind in size, the Italian concern did not forget its origins. In 1958, the Bergamo branch of the Legler family took over the Diesbach firm. Today, the new firm combines two concerns fired with the same desire for cooperation, one of which belongs to a common market country and the other to a country of EFTA. Above the economic quarrels of today, this is an attempt at rapprochement and an act of faith in the future.

### Tretex Ltd.

In the present state of technics, the major progress in textiles may henceforth be expected to take place mainly in the field of finishing. In order to pool their research and experience in the sphere of textile finishing, three firms, Textilwerke F.M. Haemmerle of Dornbirn (Austria), Cotonificio Legler S.A. of Ponte San Pietro (Italy) and Stoffel & Co. of St. Gall (Switzerland), recently set up Tretex Ltd. in Zurich. The newly constituted industrial group, which represents a total manpower of some 8,000 workers, will ensure for each of its members increased power in the field of scientific research and technical development. At a time when the question of European integration is in everyone's mind, private enterprise is setting the example by proceeding to actual deeds.

## Publications

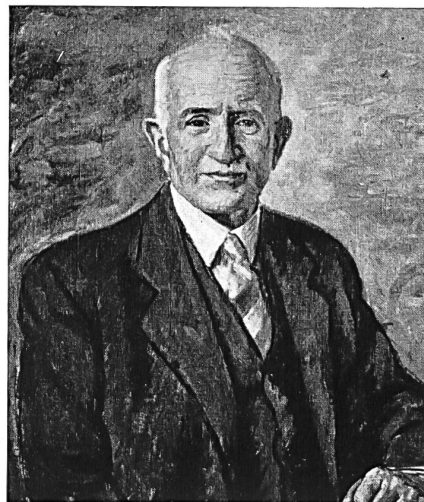
### Textile Recorder Annual

We have before us the 1960-61 edition of the *Textile Recorder Annual and Machinery Review* published by Harlequin Press Ltd., Manchester. The editorial section proper, followed by a statistics section consisting of tables of British imports and exports of textile products over a period of several years, contains a series of articles describing business trends in the different branches of textile production during 1959 as well as the most outstanding progress achieved during that year in the

various branches of textile production, the whole considered — naturally — from the British point of view. Well produced, with its 170 richly illustrated pages, this annual constitutes an invaluable reference book for all those desirous of studying the part played by Great Britain in the textile world.

## Obituaries

### † Willi Burgauer-Uhlmann, St. Gall



Son of the founder of the firm of Burgauer & Co. in St. Gall (see page 88), Willi Burgauer, born in 1875, took over the management of the firm as long ago as 1901, in collaboration with his brother Otto and his brother-in-law J. Porges-Burgauer, since deceased. The late Willi Burgauer, who was highly thought of by his subordinates and very popular with his colleagues in the commercial and industrial circles of St. Gall as well as the firm's many clients, did everything in his power to promote the growth of this firm, right up till a very ripe old age. He died at the age of 85 without having had the pleasure of taking part in the firm's centenary celebrations. We extend our most heartfelt sympathy to his family.



### † Fritz Aebi, Herisau

Mr. Fritz Aebi died recently at Herisau at the early age of 59. In 1946, the deceased, together with two partners, had founded the knitting factory of Aebi & Co. Ltd., whose products bear the well-known trade mark «Herisa». We here extend to the associates and family of the deceased the most sincere condolences of «Textiles Suisses».

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