

Facts and figures

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FACTS AND FIGURES.

By RYLER.

The Federal Statistical Office has just published some provisional figures on Swiss tourist traffic during 1958. The total figure for nights spent by guests in hotels and pensions, which from 1956 to 1957 had increased by more than a million, suffered a slight decline in comparison with the previous year, and amounted to approximately 25 millions. About 13 millions, or 53 per cent of such lodgings for the night, were in respect of visitors from abroad. The number of visitors from France and from the Benelux countries was considerably smaller than in the previous year. There was also a slight decline in the number of British tourists. On the other hand, German visitors were considerably more numerous, and once more occupied the foremost place among the foreigners, including those from overseas. Visitors from France and from the United States followed next on the list, but at an appreciable distance.

In January 1959 the Swiss Federal Railways carried some 20 million passengers, about half a million more than in the corresponding month of the previous year.

The British Petroleum Company is issuing a loan, at the present time, in Switzerland, to the value of 60 million francs. The obligations are being issued at par, with an interest of 4½%, for a term of fifteen years, although the loan can be repaid, entirely or partially, after ten years' time. The loan is being launched with a view to the extension of the Company's activities in Europe.

Brown, Boveri and Company's machine works in Baden, which are the biggest private works in Switzerland, have received an order from the Municipal Administration of Los Angeles, for the delivery of two generator units with a capacity of 200,000 kilowatts each. The purchase price for these two units amounts to more than nine million dollars. The Swiss firm made the most favourable bid, among several other non-American companies.

The "Fabrique suisse des Wagons et d'Ascenseurs S.A.", of Schlieren, near Zurich, has been commissioned to deliver and to install five main lifts for the Hotel Royal, which is now being built in

Copenhagen. The hotel will be the most modern in Scandinavia and is to be opened in the Spring of 1960. Its management is to be undertaken by the Swiss hotel-keeper, Mr. Alfredo Kappenberger. The lifts ordered from the Swiss industrial undertaking will be of the most up-to-date type, with accommodation for six persons, and will travel at a speed of three meters per second.

A Swiss firm has just designed and produced a pocket-meter — the so-called Memopark — which will show owners of motor cars when the parking time for their cars has elapsed. The Memopark is made in the form of a key-ring, with a disc the size of a Swiss 5-franc piece, made of an unbreakable plastic substance, possessing a dial with minute-graduations on the rim, on one side of it. When the arrow is put opposite the desired figure showing the time, the Memopark will automatically set off an alarm signal as soon as the time has elapsed. This instrument costs considerably less than a watch and can render valuable services also to technicians, housewives and commercial travellers.

The Swiss architect, Mr. Thévenas, has been commissioned to draw up plans for a sports stadium in Addis Ababa. Mr. Thévenas is the creator of the Olympia Stadium in Lausanne, which was erected for the World Football Championships in 1954. A picture of this stadium, which appeared in an architectural Review was seen by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, who thereupon commissioned the Swiss architect to draw up plans for a similar lay-out in the Ethiopian capital. The grand-stands are to be provided with a sensational novelty, in that they will have a pillarless overhanging roof 18.5 metres in breadth. The stadium will be able to accommodate 35,000 spectators.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to announce the passing away, on 16th April, at Nice (France), of Mr. E. A. Grau, of 76, Troy Court, Kensington W.8, Chairman of the European Grain and Shipping Agency Ltd. An Obituary will appear in our next issue.

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