Commercial news

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COMMERCIAL NEWS

Swiss industry in the wine-growing field.

The Swiss machine works, Bucher-Guyer Inc. of Niederwangen near Zurich, which is noted for its agricultural machines, and especially for its fruit and grape presses, has brought out a hydraulic horizontal press, which is completely automatic, and loosens up the pressed grapes by means of nylon ropes.

Two of these new grape presses which were installed last autumn, in a big firm in Valais, are handling 552,000 pounds of grapes per day, giving about 46,300 gallons of wine. They are serviced by one operative.

Two great traditional Swiss displays this Spring.

For some years now, the International Automobile Salon in Geneva has been highly successful. It will be held this year from 12th to 22nd March, and will be bigger than ever. The area of the exhibition grounds given over to passenger cars in 1958 was 93,000 square feet, and this year it will be 101,750 square feet.

From 11th to 21st April 1959, the 43rd Swiss Trade Fair, which is one of the biggest spring fairs in Europe, will be held in Basle. A total of about 2,300 exhibitors will take part. They will be divided into 17 different speciality groups, and will occupy a total area of 1,376,000 square feet.

An exhibition of Swiss maps in Berlin.

Switzerland is renowned for her highly developed map technology, and Swiss cartography has long been recognized as leading, in other countries. An exhibition has been opened, in Berlin, showing a series of maps made by the Federal Map Department of the Cartographic Institute of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich. The exhibition in the former German capital has been organized by the Technical University of the City of Berlin and by the Swiss delegation to Berlin.

A seventy-year-old Swiss motor.

The cable car on the Bürgenstock, the well-known resort on Lake Luzern in Switzerland, has been in operation for seventy years. In itself this jubilee is nothing unusual, but it is worthy of note that the motor which drives the cable has never been changed since it was first put into operation in the year 1888. It was installed at that time by the Oerlikon Machine Works of Zürich, and has proved excellent, despite the fact that the demands on it have been disproportionately great. The Bürgenstock Cable Car has a transport capacity of around 630 persons per hour in both directions, and a speed of 8.85 feet per second. It operates on a stretch of 3,100 feet and has a maximum grade of 58 per cent.

New equipment for experimental Forestry.

In Birmensdorf near Zürich the new Federal Institute for Experimental Forestry has been opened. It is attached to the Federal Institute of Technology. This research station, which has numerous laboratories, hot-houses, and experimental fields, will offer opportunities for observation and experiments of many kinds to Swiss forestry.

SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR, BASLE, 1959.

The 43rd Swiss Industries Fair takes place in Basle from 11th to 21st April 1959.

This important exhibition of Swiss Industries was founded in 1916 and has taken place annually in the spring of each year since 1917. It is one of the oldest industries fairs in Europe. Its reputation is based particularly on the tasteful presentation of the wide range of exhibits displayed by seventeen different trade groups in twenty-one halls:

Arts, crafts and ceramics; office furniture and requisites; paper, printing, canvassing; textiles, clothing, fashions, with the special exhibits "Création" and "Madame — Monsieur"; footwear and leather goods; watch fair; furniture; sports goods, camping equipment, toys and musical instruments; chemical and cosmetic products; domestic appliances; electricity, with the subsidiary groups generation and distribution of current, motors, electrical apparatus, lighting equipment, low tension equipment and electronics; gas, water, heating; engineering, a 1959 feature being heavy machinery, general engineering, boilers, wood-working machinery, machinery for the foodstuffs industries, hotels and institutes; industrial requisites with the subsidiary groups welding equipment, air-conditioning, foundry products, aluminium and non-ferrous metals, plastics, medicinal and dental equipment; transport, with a special exhibit in 1959 showing equipment for rational mechanical handling; building fair; foodstuffs and sundry restaurants.

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