

Switzerland, the land of inventors

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SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR JUBILEE

On 16th April, the Swiss Industries Fair will open its doors for the Golden Jubilee exhibition. To mark the fifty years of its existence, the management has issued a book "50 Jahre Schweizer Mustermesse, Basle" (the same book has also been published in French). The attractive volume in colour deals with various aspects of the Fair, its history and development as well as its aims and objects. It opens with messages by Federal President Schaffner and the head of the Basle Government *Regierungsratspräsident* ab Egg. Next comes an introduction by President and Director of the Fair, Messrs. A. Schaller and H. Hauswirth. From the page of history can be seen that Basle has been a fair centre for five centuries, for it was in 1459, about eleven years after the ending of the Grand Council, that the Basle citizens took the initiative to found a university and a fair.

The jubilee book contains many excellent photographs taken during the years of expansion, and an aerial picture shows that today's MUBA is a city within a city, still growing in size and importance. The volume carries reproductions of all the Fair posters over the years, an Honours List of the seventeen firms which have exhibited at every Fair since the beginning. The book ends with various statistics.

A special coin has been minted to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Swiss Industries Fair. It has been designed by the Basle sculptor Willy Hege and is available in gold (at Fr.200.—) and in silver (at Fr.6.—). One side shows a design symbolising the interdependence of supply and demand, and the reverse side of the coin with its wreath of stars represents the close relationship between the Fair and all the Cantons.

SWITZERLAND, THE LAND OF INVENTORS

An article appearing in the journal of the Christian Federation of Metal Workers shows that, taking into account the number of inhabitants of the country, Switzerland comes first for the number of patents applied for under the terms of the Paris Convention. With regard to patents or inventions registered, Switzerland was first in 1961 of the twenty-three biggest countries adhering to the Convention. These figures naturally apply to patents of Swiss origin and not foreign inventions for which legal protection has been claimed in Switzerland. Switzerland is therefore in the lead with 0.87 patents per 1,000 inhabitants, followed by Germany (0.63), Sweden (0.50) and Great Britain (0.42); in the United States, the figure is 0.43 patents per 1,000 inhabitants.

[O.S.E.C.]

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