

Plans for a big franco-swiss hydroelectric project

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BROWN BOVERI ACHIEVEMENTS CAPTURED IN 290 PAGES

A richly illustrated book has been sent to us by British Brown Boveri Ltd. It was published to commemorate the Swiss Company's 75th anniversary last autumn. The book (English version) reviews the historic development and achievements of the Company and tells a fascinating story of the rapid and spectacular growth of the small engineering works opened at Baden in 1891.

The story of Brown Boveri was told in detail in issue 1515 (13th January 1967). The book recalls in word and picture how the first 25 years stood under the influence of the erection of the first power stations and the electrification of the railways, period harshly terminated by the first world war.

The second part tells the story of the arduous road of rebuilding after the war and of carrying the company through the crisis of the 'thirties.

The third period, as Dr. Walter E. Boveri, Hon. President of the Board since 1966, says in his preface to the book, started with the war. It brought its own serious difficulties, but after cessation of hostilities, the situation gradually improved, turnover began to rise and the company spread to many more parts of the world.

Today, BBC is the largest engineering company in Switzerland and the second biggest industrial undertaking, Nestle being first. Its reputation in the thermal and electrical fields is world-wide. The book is not only a review of the past and present, but gives a pointer to the future. The text which was translated from Dr. Peter Rinderknecht's original (German) by Kenneth M. Evans, is supplemented with excellent photographs, in colour and black and white, with graphs and reproductions and with drawings by the well-known Swiss artist Hans Erni. The author of the historic chapter is Dr. Otto Mittler. It is beautifully produced and testifies to the high standards the company has set itself in all fields.

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THE RÜTI ENGINEERING WORKS CELEBRATE THEIR 125th ANNIVERSARY

The Rüti Engineering Works Co. Ltd., successors to Gaspard Honegger, of Swiss textile machinery, and in particular the world-famous Rüti looms, recently celebrated the 125th anniversary of their foundation. At the anniversary celebrations, which were attended by many representatives of the local government and vocational training schools, as well as the firm's clients and friends, the Chairman of the Board of Directors recalled the evolution of the textile industry, which used to require a large labour force but whose main feature today is its highly developed automation. The Rüti factory has continually contributed to the evolution of the textile industry; its machines, with a high output and great adaptability, fully answer current needs. During the last ten years, Rüti has spent a sum of 30 million Swiss francs on research alone and invested 70 million in buildings, machinery and plant, as well as for rationalising manufacture. The personnel's welfare has not been neglected and complies with modern requirements. Workers and employees number 2,800, including some 900 foreigners; in 1965 Rüti, manufactured 8,000 weaving looms and its turnover rose from 50 to 100 million Swiss francs in ten years. Its products are exported all over the world.

[O.S.E.C.]

PLANS FOR A BIG FRANCO-SWISS HYDRO- ELECTRIC PROJECT

The Emosson Hydro-Electric Works Co. Ltd. have decided to build a big reservoir at Emosson, on the Franco-Swiss border, to the East of the Mont Blanc range. The project, comprising a reservoir with two consecutive falls and a total capacity of 8,950 million cubic feet, 1,240 million of which will be reserved for the Swiss Federal Railways, will have an installed power through its turbines of 400,000 kW and produce, in an average year, 634 million KWh. of which 565 million kWh will be stored power, adapted to consumption and almost entirely concentrated for the winter. This plant, which will be able to make good use of the night power of nuclear power stations thanks to its storage pumps and convert it into power for the day, will represent an invaluable addition to the nuclear power stations, in view of the fact that it will be used exclusively to produce power for peak use. The reservoir will take six years to build and the total cost is estimated at approximately 520 million Swiss francs. Emosson is a company in which Motor-Columbus Electrical Management Co. Ltd. at Baden and Aar & Tessin Electricity Company at Olten each have a quarter share, while the French Electricity Company of Paris has the other 50%. The planning and supervision of the works are the responsibility of the engineering offices of Motor-Columbus and the French Electricity Company.

[O.S.E.C.]

ITMA 67 IN BASLE

The fifth International Textile Machinery Exhibition ITMA 67, is to take place in Basle from 27th September to 6th October, 1967. The Exhibition is held at four-yearly intervals, the previous venues having been Lille, Brussels, Milan and Hanover. It is one of the largest international exhibitions and will occupy a net display area of 18 acres in Basle. A provisional list of exhibitors containing the addresses of more than 800 firms from eighteen European and overseas countries has already been published. This list may be ordered from the Visitor's Office of the ITMA 67 in Basle.

The products on show are divided into fourteen display groups embracing the following branches of industry: spinning and twisting machines; cotton-wool, felting and hat-making machines; non-woven fabrics machines; rope-making machines; winding and reeling machines; weaving and knitting machines, textile finishing machines, other textile machines, accessories for textile machines, sewing machines (except domestic machines) and other machines for the clothing industry, including accessories, textile testing and measuring instruments, laboratory and electrical equipment, driving units, regulating and control devices, air-conditioning plants and other machines, apparatus and equipment for the textile and clothing industry, technical literature.