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DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

. . . a Swiss publication on the complete graphic works by Picasso was published by Kornfeld und Klipstein, Berne?

. . . Friedrich Duerrenmatt's "Abendstunde im Spätherbst" has been translated into Thai, and that his "Romulus der Grosse" was performed in Budapest and his "Wiedertäufer" in Prague?

. . . that the Borromini exhibition which was shown in Zurich and Lugano (assisted by "Pro Helvetia" like many other cultural events at home and abroad), has been opened in Milan?

. . . that the Swiss Embassy in Israel has organised a competition on Switzerland amongst Israeli school children?

. . . that a Swiss exhibition on architecture was opened in Moscow on 13th May?

. . . that "Das Bild der Landschaft" is a new film "Pro Helvetia" has had made on the work of the Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler (1853-1918) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death?

. . . that Max Frisch's "Biographie" was performed in Sarajévo?

. . . that 1,500 people in national costumes went to Rome where they were received by the Pope, made processions through the town and witnessed the swearing in of the Swiss Papal Guard?

. . . that various Swiss singers took part in two Bach concerts in Russia during Easter Week (St. John's Passion and Mass in H minor performed by Munich Bach Choir and Orchestra)?

. . . that Swiss girl guide officers left for the Ivory Coast to help with guide work there (for 2 years)?

. . . that the International Scout Movement has transferred its headquarters from Ottawa to Geneva?

. . . that red Sahara dust settled in the Mendrisiotto?

. . . that when "The Times" was put on sale in Moscow, the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" had already been on sale there for a week?

. . . that 130 families have won free holidays in the annual draw of the "Schweizer Reisekasse"?

. . . that the Institute of Economics and Social Sciences in St. Gall has awarded an honorary doctorate to Prof. Peter Duerrenmatt, National Councillor, historian and Editor of the "Basler Nachrichten", and to former Director of the Federal Office of Social Insurance, Dr. Arnold Saxer?

. . . that Prof. Karl Barth has been greatly honoured by being made a "Membre Associé de l'Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques de l'Institut de France"?

. . . that a school for parachutists has been founded in Sion?

. . . that the Swiss sociologist Dr. Rudolf Braun at the Free University in Berlin has been awarded the Silas Marcus MacVane Prize of Harvard University?

. . . that Miss Genevière Bonvin, daughter of Federal Councillor Roger Bonvin, was appointed children's nurse at the Court of the Shah of Persia?

. . . that Charles Apotheloz, Director of the "Centre Dramatique Romand", has been given the Hans Reinhart-Ring?

. . . that four Swiss banks combined in installing the "bancomat" in several Swiss towns where customers can draw out one to five 100-franc-notes from an automaton day and night?

(By courtesy Agence Télégraphique Suisse and "Pro Helvetia".)

THE FIRST SWISS PUMPING POWER STORAGE PLANT WITH REVERSIBLE MACHINES

Maggia Power Company Ltd. in Locarno recently put the Robiei power plant into operation, with a total installed power of 160,000 kW. The interesting thing about this plant is that it is the first pumping power storage station in Switzerland, operating by means of reversible machines. That is to say that, producing electricity by means of turbines and generators at peak consumption hours, it uses the excess power during the slack periods to pump water and store it in the upper storage reservoir — thus increasing the reserves of power — by means of the same machines operating in reverse; the Sécheron generator then acts as a motor, while the Sulzer turbine acts as a pump.

[O.S.E.C.]

A BIG PAKISTANI ORDER FOR SWITZERLAND

In connection with a large grain storage project in East Pakistan, the Minister of Agriculture of that country recently awarded a contract to the engineering firm of Bühler Bros. Co. Ltd., at Uzwil, for the supply and erection of all ship loading and unloading plant required. This plant will comprise six pneumatic unloading towers, or gantries, each equipped with two suction lines, with a total unloading capacity of 1,200 metric tons of grain per hour. Three of these unloading towers are scheduled for the port of Chittagong, where a 100,000 ton grain silo will be built. The three remaining unloading towers are for the ports of Narayanganj and Ashuganj; each of these two ports will be provided with a 50,000 ton silo, while a fourth silo with a capacity of 25,000 tons is to be built inland at Santahar. Bühler will also supply chain conveyors for these silos, with a total length of over 6,000 feet.

[O.S.E.C.]

HIGH-FREQUENCY EARTH-RESISTANCE MEASURING EQUIPMENT

Brown Boveri have developed a new measuring instrument, now widely used on the continent, for determining the earth resistance of transmission-line towers whilst in service, which avoids the hazardous and time consuming work previously involved with this measurement.

Contrary to standard methods used at present which necessitate disconnection of the earth wire, equivalent values are now obtained by using a high frequency device with the earth wire still connected.

The earth resistance is measured by means of an auxiliary earth rod inserted into the ground at a distance of 40 metres from the tower and a probe inserted at a distance of 75 metres. The rod and probe are connected to the instrument and a third connection is made to the base of the tower. The influence of neighbouring towers is eliminated, and the frequency characteristic of the H.F. resistance of the tower is compensated, within the instrument. By tuning L.C. elements with the instrument dials and actual earth resistance of the tower can be directly obtained.

The instrument is fully transistorized and equipped with an N.C. battery which allows 150 measurements without recharging. It weighs approximately 12 kg. and can be easily transported.