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31st January of next year. The family firm Authier was taken over in 1969 by the American Olin Corporation. The new firm had planned to market high-quality and medium to low priced skis. These plans proved unpractical when the majority of the firm's turnover was accounted for by the lower-priced range, thus leaving insufficient profit margins. Some 120 workers will be made redundant.

Switzerland by Italian Television. The Swiss authorities complained of the film's "tendencious character".

The young members of the Swiss Radical Democratic (*Freisinnig*) Party rejected the idea of worker participation in management. Meeting for their Annual Congress in Solothurn, they passed a resolution stating that the maintenance of a "hierarchical structure" in which the responsibilities of every one were clearly defined was the only way to ensure a prosperous economy.

The Great Council of Valais deplored at the end of its last session new federal regulations prohibiting the sale of property to foreigners. They claimed that these measures were unrealistic and did not take into account the particular situation of the Valais peasant.

A strange man living at Coeuve, near Porrentruy, known as the "*Solitaire*", who kept up correspondance with Pope John XXIII, several bishops, the Federal Council, the Federal Assembly and many Ambassadors, set fire to his house and mysteriously dissapeared, causing turmoil in the area.

The West-Switzerland Electricity Board has received authorisation to erect an 800-Megawatt Nuclear Power Station at Verbois, near Geneva. Cost of the project is estimated at 1.2 billion

francs. Conservationist interests will need placating before construction gets under way.

Moving resolutely against the present trend for merging communes, the Commune of Schmitten (Fribourg) celebrated during three days of festivities the 50 Anniversary of its separation from the neighbouring commune of Dudingin.

Professor Hans Deutsch, an Austro-Israeli lawyer and Honorary Citizen of Belmont, near Lausanne, went on trial in Germany on charges of having fraudulently obtained, as the lawyer of despoiled Jewish families, 17.5 million francs of war-loss compensation for Baron Ferenc Havatny, whose art collection in Budapest had been stolen. The Germans alleged that the works had been stolen not by the Nazis, but by the Russians.

Switzerland was last in Group A at the Skopje Chess Olympics.

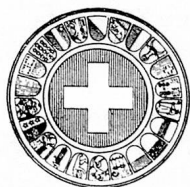
A new watchmaking and fine arts museum has been opened in Geneva in a villa on Malagnou Road.

The Great Council of Neuchatel ended its October Session by voting in favour of two motions concerning foreign residents. One resolution calls on cantonal authorities to seek the means of integrating aliens in the life of the host country through increased

LATER EVENTS

Having been approached by the British Government, the Federal Council has decided to offer refuge to 200 Ugandan Asians. In a communique, the Department of Justice and Police explained that the move was in keeping with traditional Swiss humanitarian principles. The operation will cost an estimated 1,300,000 francs.

The Political Department and the Swiss Embassy in Rome have protested to the Italian Government for the viewing of a film on Italian workers in



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ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ITEMS

participation in civic life. The second resolution, which went yet further, asked that foreigners, who already enjoy the right of voting on communal issues, be given the right to vote on cantonal matters. Neuchatel is the only canton which allows its alien residents to vote on communal issues.

There was some excitement at Fribourg University, as Professor Pfuertner, the Dominican Priest who had been banned from teaching for a year because of his sexual views, planned to re-occupy his theological chair and open a course on sexual morals at the beginning of the new university year.

Roland Pièce, the engineer who created Radio Lausanne, the fourth oldest radio transmitter in Europe, died in Sottens, aged 75, where he had retired following the removal to that village of Lausanne-Geneva's joint radio transmitter.

The Initiative Committee which had organised the arms-ban initiative rejected by the Swiss people last September, was to hold a plenary assembly on 21st October to decide whether to continue the fight and launch a new initiative to counter the federal proposals which eventually won the assent of the voters.

The Swiss Engineering and Equipment Industry in 1971

For 1971 the value of the annual production of the Swiss engineering and equipment industry may be estimated at between 11,000 and 12,000 million francs (US \$2.9-3.15 billion). Exports of machinery and equipment—which account for about 75% of production—came to 8,500 million francs (US \$2.237 billion) while exports by the metallurgical industry reached 1,300 million francs (US \$340 million) thus, between them these two branches achieved exports totalling nearly 10,000 million francs (US \$2,632 billion).

In 1971 the share of machinery and equipment in total Swiss exports rose from 35.2 to 35.9%, the growth rate for exports of machinery reaching 8.9%. This latter figure, however, is of only limited significance since it includes the price rises which resulted from the general increase in price levels. When allowance is made for this increase, the growth rate drops to 2%. The results achieved are the fruit of the efforts of a very large

number of people, since nearly 400,000 persons earn their livelihood in the engineering and metallurgical industries, i.e. 45% of the economically active population of Switzerland engaged in industry. At the end of 1971 this branch had a reserve of 8.1 months' work, as compared with 9.6 months at the end of the preceding year. While a certain reduction in the volume of orders in reserve was anticipated, such a sharp fall due to changes in the overall economic situation was not, however, expected.

During the year the principal foreign market for the Swiss engineering and equipment industry was the Federal Republic of Germany, followed by France, the United States, Great Britain and Italy. At 80% and 20%, respectively, the shares of the development and the developing countries in the exports by this branch remained unchanged. The electrical engineering sector heads the exports list, with a total of 1,787 million francs (US \$470 million); textile machines account for 1,455 million francs (US \$383 million), followed by the machine tool sector with 965 million francs (US \$253 million).

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The Swiss Love Chocolate

Since Swiss chocolate has long since won a world-wide reputation, it is not surprising that the Swiss themselves are so fond of chocolate that they are among the greatest consumers. In Switzerland last year consumption per head of population was 9.3 kgs, as compared with 7 kgs in Belgium and 6.2 kgs in Sweden, the countries immediately following the Confederation in an international comparison.

In 1971 the total sales of the Swiss chocolate industry rose quantitatively by 4.7% and came to over 63,000 tons, representing a value well in excess of 600 million francs (US \$157 million). Retail prices increased considerably and endeavours to offset this were made by seeking to rationalise production, with great efforts being made to overcome the manpower shortage. The industry continues to give proof of great adaptability and, despite severe competition, the manufacturing firms are maintaining a remarkably sound position.