

# Swiss Cathedrals

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need only 2 hours 25 minutes to do the same job. The construction of the road tunnel—on which some 500 men are employed—together with its safety gallery, its 65 lay-bys and emergency exits, and its ventilating shafts will require the removal of about 1.6 million cu.m. of rock. Among the already existing road tunnels, the Great St. Bernard, opened in 1964, is handling more and more traffic. 1971 recorded the all-time high of 434,491 vehicles; in 1965, the first complete year the tunnel was open, the figure was 306,991 vehicles.

### Big improvement in precision optics

Visitors to the European Machine Tools Fair, held in Milan a few months ago, were able to admire the new centring projector presented by a Swiss firm from Bienne (Berne), specialising in the manufacture of precision optical instruments. Its performances enable this centring projector to compare favourably with the classical centring microscope used on many precision machine tools (pointing machine, co-ordinate measuring machine, milling machine, etc.). This machine with its compact, handy screen is fitted with an episcopic element, working at a low voltage. The image projected shows remarkable brilliance and perfectly sharp outlines. This projector makes it simple to carry out all operations of edge alignment, hole centring, etc., without any need for painstaking setting of the angle of view and work distance. In addition, the screen, which is inclined at 70° to the horizontal, is well protected against incident light, making it possible to work for a long time without tiring the operator's eyes.

*(Swiss Office for the Development of Trade)*

# SWISS CATHEDRALS

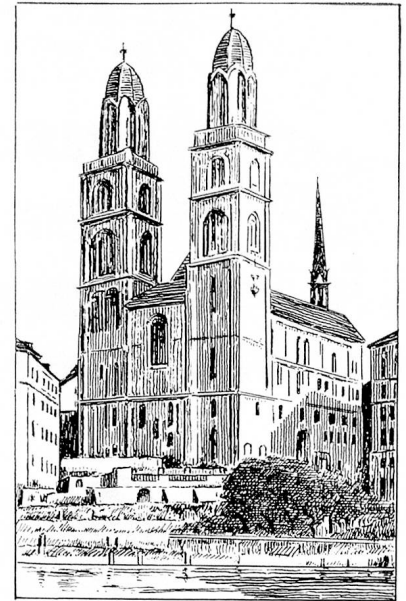
## ZURICH—THE GROSSMUNSTER

The Grossmünster, on the right bank of the river Limmat, with its two majestic towers, dominates the panorama of the old town. This imposing edifice, in spite of numerous and drastic restorations, remains endeared to the past. It is the church of the ancient canonry where Ulrich Zwingli deployed his activity from 1519 to 1531. Built in Roman style, it was started in 1078 and was erected on the site of a more ancient church of the French Carolingian period (8th and 9th century) dedicated to the memory of Saint-Felix and Sainte Regula and destroyed by fire.

The actual cathedral, built during the 11th and 13th centuries, has replaced, so it is said, a collegiate church founded by Charlemagne.

The facade is framed between two high towers in three tiers surmounted by two cupolas. The southern tower is adorned with a gigantic stone statue—the original is in the Crypt—representing Charlemagne crowned and seated, holding a sword. The left side porch, whose square pillars have been restored, is adorned with sculptures and capitals. The nave is vaulted with ogives; the raised chancel is completed by a flat chevet, whereas a gallery runs above the side aisles. The modern stain glass windows, in which the real and ideal seem to blend, are by Augusto Giacomelli (1932).

During those years of struggle for freedom and independence, the Church wasn't strong enough to alleviate the hardship and misery suffered by the people. It was then that Zwingli appeared, initiating the Reformation of Zurich as early as 1591, and succeeding by his preaching in transforming Zurich from the treble point of view—moral, political and religious. With the establishment of the Reformation, the mercenary service was forbidden. The town, under the influence



of Zwingli, became an intellectual centre. His defeat and death on the second battlefield of Kappel (10th October, 1531) did not succeed in disturbing the great work which he had started.

The Grossmünster is a monument to his living memory.

*Pierre Savoie*

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