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The Gotthard Pass in Switzerland is the shortest connection between central Germany and Italy. But the Schöllenen Gorge near Andermatt in the canton of Uri was impassable until a blacksmith of the Goeschenen village built the "Twärrenbrücke", a suspended bridge along a steep rockface in the 13th century. This opened the new pass route and the economic growth coming from traffic circulation lead to a new political status of the adjacent districts: it was the birth of Switzerland as a confederation of states.

158	1	The commission's report
161	2	Reaction by engineers of steel structures
162	3	Critiques of the topographical integration
165	4	Hans Hilfiker
166	5	Heinz Hossdorf
167	6	Results
168	7	Annex