

The 35th Swiss National Fair, September 11th-26th, 1954

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **18 (1954)**

Heft [9]

PDF erstellt am: **29.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942645>

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THE 35th SWISS NATIONAL FAIR,

September 11th-26th, 1954

A particularly striking object-lesson is the one given each year by the Lausanne National Fair which, for a certain period, assembles in one place all the main products of Swiss economy. Agriculture, industry, trade and craftwork are the constituent parts of this economy; but although imports of raw materials from abroad ensure the functioning of home concerns, exports of manufactured or semi-manufactured products govern the equilibrium of a market deeply engaged in the world market. These necessities, vital to the Swiss people, are reflected in the 20 halls of the Lausanne Fair; this fair and that of Basle share the honour of being the two principal official economic events of the country.

1920-1954. Thirty-five years of fruitful activity and persevering effort have combined to enable the Lausanne Fair to present a very complete picture of Swiss production to the people of Switzerland as well as to visitors from abroad. Agriculture occupies an important place, is divided into many different branches and even organises cattle shows and market of small and large live-stock including horses. Craftwork, and particularly specialised craftwork, so characteristic of Swiss workmanship, displays there its main products in many different fields, while industry participates on a large scale with products ranging from agricultural machinery to machinery tools, from wood- and metal-working machinery to the products of the building trade and those of watchmaking and precision mechanics. The Fair covers a total area of 1,160,000 square feet; it is strong in the individual or collective participation of some 2,300 exhibitors from the whole of the territory of the Confederation.

The next Lausanne Fair will be taking place from September 11th to 26th, 1954. In addition to its traditional exhibition of Swiss products, and while remaining fundamentally national in character, it will be presenting a pavilion of modern India; in fact, one of the characteristics of this fair is that it invites a single foreign country to participate each year. This is a gesture of international good will, and at the same time an opportunity to strengthen the ties already linking Switzerland and other countries with complementary economics and to cement even more firmly the close relations existing between them. Under the auspices of the Indian Trade Department in New Delhi and the Indian Ambassador at Berne, India will therefore be displaying its economic resources in a pavilion specially set aside for the purpose at the main entrance of the Fair.

THE SWISS TRADE UNIONS AND MR. EISENHOWER'S DECISION

Mr. Eisenhower's decision to increase the Customs duties on watches has aroused an agitation in Switzerland which is still a long way off from calming down. In trade union circles, there has also been a vigorous reaction and the Trade Union of Watchmakers more particularly, has published a declaration in which it states that President Eisenhower's decision has caused great consternation among Swiss workers, who had hoped right up to the last minute, that the partisans of liberalism would triumph over the wave of protectionism sweeping over the United States. "The increase in customs tariff rates on Swiss watches," this declaration goes on to say, "will have a disastrous effect on the families of 60,000 workers and employees. This is a very hard blow to our economy"

This Trade Union deplores the contradiction which exists between the theory and the practice of the commercial policy of the United States and regrets that President Eisenhower should have given way to internal political pressure, "in defiance of his previous declarations regarding the necessity of stimulating international trade, in the interests of Western democracies and of world peace."

In the same circles, homage is paid to the big American Trade Unions, which took a categorical stand against the increase in Customs duties and in favour of liberty of trade.

OUR FATHERLAND

Continuation.

GRAUBUNDEN (third part). Many a "blessed wind" may blow you to the Grisons, whether it be to one of the well-known resorts like St. Moritz, or Klosters or Arosa, clustered besides its two small lakes and with superb skiing terrain all around, or maybe to some quite small place like Fetan, which looks down on the spa at Scuol-Tarasp from its perch across the valley. At Zillis which lies on the road from Thusis to Splügen you will find, in the small very simply built village church, a whole series of one hundred and fifty-three 12th century ceiling paintings, the oldest and most complete series of its kind in the world. Another striking feature may be found in the large number of beautifully adorned carved altars from late Gothic times in the valley churches along the Rhine and Albula rivers. The dwelling houses found in the upper Albula and in the Engadine are peculiar to the districts. As a protection against the cold the windows are very small and narrowed like loopholes towards the interior. The back of the houses have high